



BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL



Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes

www.bedminsterpto.org
pto@bedminsterschool.org

January 12, 2021

Start time: 7:04pm

Welcome and Comments – Danielle Fredella, President

- Welcome everyone and thank you for coming. Happy New Year. Welcome Dr. Omega!

Principal's Report: Corby Swan

The first thing that we want to do is thank everyone for your flexibility this year with all of the challenges that we have faced together. Our school community has been great at adapting to any and all changes and for that we thank you.

Our teachers are really doing some excellent work under these circumstances, so kudos to them. Two of those teachers, Dr. Puglia and Ms. Skiba are presenting Ways to Maximize Digital and Virtual Learning so I want to thank them for taking the time to put this presentation together.

We want to thank all of you for assisting us with the Pie the Principal Food Drive. It was a spirited competition in which Mrs. Carlin's 4th grade class ended up donating the most items, slightly edging out Mrs. Lovejoy's class. All in all we were able to donate 982 items to the Somerset County Food Bank for those in need. Special thanks to Mrs. Zugale for organizing this and to Mrs. Carlin's class for having some fun with me. If you happen to follow me on Twitter you probably saw some of the photos. It was lots of fun!

Please remember that beginning Wednesday, February 3, 2021 and each Wednesday that follows (excluding Wednesday, February 10, 2021) during Marking Period 3, we will increase the in-person days of our Cohort A and Cohort B students. Students will attend in person Wednesdays using an alternating schedule for cohorts A and B. On those days, the opposite Cohort will have virtual instruction. School will continue to run on an Early Dismissal Schedule on Wednesdays from 8:50 am - 1:20 pm.

Congratulations to our grades PreK - 4 School Counselor Mrs. Infante who was named an Exemplary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education. Mrs. Infante was one of 93 educators selected for this prestigious honor. This award differs from the Governor's Educator of the Year, and we will announce that honoree at a later date. The goal of the Exemplary Recognition Program is to identify educators who are valued by their school community and have exhibited strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for learning. So a big congratulations to Mrs. Infante!

This year our Parent Teacher Conferences will be virtual and the dates for conferences will be February 10th and 11th between the hours of 6 - 8pm, and February 12th from 8:45 - 10:45am. More information will be communicated to you soon regarding conferences.

I would like to welcome our new Middle School Principal Dr. Elizabeth Omegna. Dr. Omegna comes to us with an extensive background in both Middle and High School. She received her doctorate from Seton Hall University in 2020. Her dissertation topic was Teacher Perceptions on the Digital Gaming Experience in Middle School Classrooms to promote 21st Century Skills. She is a delight to work with each day.

School is closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Principal's Report: Elizabeth Omegna

Thank you so very much to our PTO for the amazing sign to welcome me!

The BTS Community has been amazingly patient and supportive as I transition! My team has been fantastic and I am already right at home getting to know our amazing teachers, students and staff and families.

I plan on a mid-month Newsletter for students and families to flush out more details in one place, but for now, here are some updates from the Middle School World:

8th Grade Mural is in the works! Students should pick up/drop off canvases as they work.

8th Grade Yearbooks (purchasing online, buying a nameplate and uploading photos all sent)

8th Grade Community Service: An online form is going out to 8th graders to track log time. We are setting a goal of 10 hours for 8th graders between now and June and have opened up virtual options and onsite options within BTS; students can email or ask Dr. O for more information.

Pilots of: Go Guardian and Block by Block attendance in the MS is very informative and we are collecting information to give parents a good indicator of student time. (i.e. GG will show us how kids use their device even out of school and BbB attendance is letting us to establish patterns with students who may be struggling so we can better target assistance)

February Conferences are forthcoming; we hope to get a video to parents next week about how to log into the Parent Portal in Genesis to sign up for time slots (still working on it!!!)

Recess is coming in MP 3 thanks to the PTO: KanJam and CornHole, socially distanced, masked and sanitized will be an outdoor option for sunshine, fresh air and mask breaks as needed.

Teacher Representative – Chuck Hogan

- Thank you PTO for your continued support and for assigning Homeroom Parents
- Thank you for the recess activities.

Board of Education Report – Suzie Stevinson- not present.

Reported by Giovanna Lamiera

- BOE Meeting scheduled for January 21
- BOE had a reorganization meeting.
- One new BOE member was sworn in, Steven Calulo.
- All renewed terms were sworn in.
- No other new business to report.

Correspondence and Minutes – Marissa Nolfi, Secretary

- Thank you letter from Dr. Omega for the card my yard welcome sign.
- Thank you note from Mrs. Mitchell for gift card and lottery at the beginning of the school year.
- More Social Media thank you's from teachers and staff!
- All PTO Meeting Minutes Reports can be found on our websites & social media

Treasurer's Report – Ramsey Melendez, Treasurer

- Report is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org
- Ramsey was kind and brave enough to step in as and take over the Treasurer role temporarily.
- Inflows: \$180.00 in PTO memberships, \$80.00 from Amazon Smile program, Profit from Spirit Wear sales of \$993.00. Thank you Melissa & Jessica
- Outflows: Bulletin Board Supplies, registration for 501C Charity to keep up to date, applied for License from township for Spring Fling 2021 Gambling license, Recess equipment for the students.
- 50/50 Raffle has separate account.
- So far everyone seems to really like using Paypal to purchase their memberships.
- PTO will be collecting memberships via **Paypal friends and family** at btsptotreasury@gmail.com Ramsey Melendez

New Business

CardMyYard:

- Contact Info: Marisa & Corey Hovanec (908) 336-2626 baskingridge@cardmyyard.com
- Facebook: @cardmyyardbaskingridge Instagram: @cardmyyard_baskingridge
- Most recent sign was a Welcome to Dr. Omega.
- We will continue to work with Marissa going forward as the signs are very fun and exciting and the company come highly recommended

Box Tops: Danielle Fredella

- \$71.30 check received for the last bunch of clippings that were sent in.
- Decided to stay open to continuing with Box Tops.

Spring Fling: Friday, April 30, 2021: Laura Kamrow

- **Volunteers needed for all commitment types**
- Basket Raffle license will carry over from last year.
- We have a meeting scheduled with Laura on January 27th regarding decisions on what we can and cannot do in the current environment.
- Hoping to send out a mailing regarding Spring Fling by mid-February
- Anyone interested in volunteering in any way, please email LauradeZutter@yahoo.com

Digital/Virtual Learning Presentation: Miss Skiba & Dr. Puglia

- Link to this presentation can be found on our websites and on our social media platforms.
- Link to Google Slideshow:
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vToW7Dygg14La2wMO1_KiC3Lo8c - HFjo7DP21qN-a-DNXMz7irYx7ZgYj4K-dVWt78bLCx_NDDRjAo/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.gabbc18e2d3_0_0](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vToW7Dygg14La2wMO1_KiC3Lo8c-HFjo7DP21qN-a-DNXMz7irYx7ZgYj4K-dVWt78bLCx_NDDRjAo/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.gabbc18e2d3_0_0)
- Please email Miss Skiba at mskiba@bedminsterschool.org or Dr. Puglia at jpulgia@bedminsterschopol.org with any questions or should you need any assistance with virtual learning.

Huge Thank you to Miss Skiba & Dr. Puglia for this amazing slideshow Presentation!

Public Questions & Comments:

This portion will be held to a 15-minute limit. We politely ask that each speaker limit his or her time to 5 minutes for comments and/or questions in regard to any Agenda point or any other topic related to the PTO. If any written documents are to be given to the PTO Executive Board, please email them to the Board Secretary, Marissa Nolfi, 2 days in advance of the meeting date. pto@bedminsterschool.org

Old Business

Winter Clothing Collection: Anna Spitaleri- not present. Reported by Danielle Fredella

- Collection is closed.

Reading Presentation: Mrs. Alfieri & Ms. Spero

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L5MZD6YloQz61iC1eTWOKmrYyySQe4F65Nv9E9DLdfY/edit>

Ongoing Committees

PTO Membership: Executive Board

- \$15 per Family
- Memberships fees will be collected virtually through Paypal friends & family using the email btsptotreasury@gmail.com
- Forms can also be found on website and all current Newsletters

PTO Meeting Schedule:

- February 9th, 7:00pm - link to follow
 - March 9th, 9:30am - link to follow
 - April 13th, 7:00pm - link to follow
 - May 11th, 7:00pm - link to follow
 - June 8th, 7:00pm - link to follow
- <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/meeting-dates.html>

****Please note: All meetings are subject to change at any time. All meetings until further notice will be held virtually through Google Meet.**

Assemblies: Sonia Marto

- Chair people needed (at least 2) reach out to any member of the Executive PTO Board to volunteer.
- We look forward to getting back on track and making the next school year one of the best with assemblies for our children as they have missed out on so much this year.
- No assemblies at this time due to COVID-19 state guidelines

Bulletin Boards: Faith Costabile & Danielle Fredella

- At a halt as there is no one allowed into the building due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/bulletin-boards.html>

Bedminster Charities Fall Fest (BCFF): Meriah Valente

- Chair People needed.
- Cancelled for 2020
- Seven local charities benefit from the proceeds and the PTO is one of them!

CIC, The HUB: Anna Spitalari - not present reported by Danielle Fredella

- Meaningful and educational volunteer opportunities for Middle School students are offered throughout the year at Community in Crisis, The Hub; for information please email: Info@communityincrisis.org. ● <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/cic-the-hub.html>

SH Municipal Alliance: Anna Spitaleri- not present

- nothing to report

Cub Scouts Pack #1749 : Steve Frantz

- Contact Cub Scout leader directly at: stevefranz@gmail.com
- Meeting monthly both in person and virtually for some of the younger scouts.
- Fundraiser earned \$8,895 with a commission to the pack of \$3,328 which made it possible to charge only \$25 for dues, which is a huge difference from last year.

Donations & Corporate Matching: Executive Board

- We are extremely fortunate to have a handful of families that consider us when their companies offer a corporate matching program.
- PTO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity
- Amazon Smile Program: Bedminster PTO can be chosen as your charity to receive 0.05% of qualified purchases

Helping Hands: Suzie Stevinson

- <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/helping-hands.html>

Homerom Parents: Ramsey Melendez

- Reach out to Ramsey to become a Homerom Parent
- HRP is up & running for the 20-21 school year! Class Lists have been received and HRP's notified.
- Teachers have sent out information on behalf of all HRP's to students' parents for gathering information.
- Thank you to all HR parents who have signed up and gathered the information as well as created class lists to communicate with one another.
- Still awaiting information from a few upper grade teachers, Mr. Swan will follow up.
- Main responsibility for this year, due to COVID circumstances and no parents being allowed into the building, is to collect parent information, generate a contact list and send it out to each parent in the class as well as share any PTO information as given by Danielle, the PTO President.
- HRP's will not be asking for donations at this point this year (again due to COVID circumstances) which is usually collected at B2SN. We will revisit this in January 2021. Donations will be used for Teacher Appreciation week and End of Year Gifts to teachers.
- Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to the teachers and children!
- <http://www.bedminsterpto.org/homerom-parent.html>

PR/Social Media/Website: Ramsey Melendez

- Please check all social media for updates within the district regarding schedule changes and to follow all the latest news.
- Check for parent teacher conference schedule which will be posted this month.
- Communication is always on Social Media. All platforms have been very busy to keep our Bulldogs/Bulldog Families well informed.
- www.bedminsterpto.org
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Dates & times and all information can be found on social media
- Facebook is our highest viewed platform
- Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Spirit Wear: Jessica Pasquale & Melissa Kircher

- A very great response this year with a profit of \$984.00
- Minor modifications and changes to our logo. Approved by Mr. Swan. The new design is similar to a Varsity "B" which ties in and leads onto Bernards High School.
- All purchases were shipped on November 6th.

8th Grade:

- TBA

Public Questions & Comments:

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PTO. If any written documents are to be given to the PTO Executive Board, please email them to the Board

Secretary, Marissa Nolfi, 2 days in advance of the meeting date.

pto@bedminsterschool.org

Closing Notes: Danielle Fredella

Danielle explained that there has not been a monthly PTO newsletter as we have had so much information coming from administration as we continue to adjust to a virtual and hybrid learning experience this school year.

There will be a newsletter coming out soon regarding Spring Fling and the information regarding that event which is still scheduled to happen on Friday, April 30th, 2021.

Be on the lookout for further information regarding our biggest Fundraiser of the school year!

Thank you to Miss Skiba and Dr. Puglia for a successful presentation this evening and for joining us during our meeting.

Thank you all for joining us tonight.

Next meeting on February 9th at 7pm virtually.

Subject to change. Link coming soon.

Meeting Closed at 8:32pm

COMMENTS – We welcome any comments from the floor. However, please direct any questions specifically pertaining to your child(ren) to the appropriate person after the meeting or to the appropriate administrator during school hours. This meeting is recorded for the purpose of writing minutes and to have a factual record of the meeting once minutes are submitted.