**BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**

**Parent Teacher Organization**

**Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2017**

**Start time:** 7:05 pm

**Welcome and Comments** – Anna Spitaleri, President

               We have many wonderful volunteers that have offered to chair PTO events during the ‘17-’18 school year. We would like to encourage everyone to join a committee/event to assist those that have already agreed to chair or co-chair.  It would be great to have some new faces that could learn what the events entail.  Volunteering your time at just one event is a great help and extremely rewarding.

**Principal’s Report** – Corby Swan

* Thank you PTO working together with our teachers and students this year
* April - the 4th grade won an award at this year’s statewide academic competition offered through Celebrate NJ. They were honored on 4/30/17 at a Lakewood Blue Claws game.
* Busy 2 months: Peter Pan Jr, Spring Fling, Teacher’s Appreciation Lunch, International Heritage Night, 8th grade award ceremony, PE Days, 5th grade Dare Assy. and multiple music concerts.
* Jazz Band – scored an excellent rating for their performance at the Music in the Parks Festival on 5/12/17.
* Administration and teachers are already planning for ’17-’18 school year
* Reminders: June 19-Regular day, June 20-1:30 pm dismissal, June 21-1:30 pm dismissal
* 8th grade Promotion Ceremony- Tuesday, June 20 @ 6 pm

**Teacher Representative** – Chuck Hogan

* Thank you PTO for supporting our programs, grants, bussing, luncheons.

Joshua Copeland

* Thank you to Lis Loeb and the PTO for helping us get the 7th graders to Broadway. Phantom of the Opera was a great 1st show for those children that have never been.
* I received compliments from the theater staff on how well behaved and polite our BTS students were.
* We would love to make this a yearly trip.

Keith Schoch

* Thank you PTO for helping complete our collection of *Okay for Now* novels. Complex narratives, that each student tackled and were greatly affected by in the end.
* Thank you for covering our travel cost to attend the Genocide Prevention through Education Program at RVCC. Students were spellbound for 3 hours straight. They also had the opportunity to tour the campus and learn good work habits that can then be transformed into a 4 year college program with RVCC’s help.

**Board of Education repor**t – Jennifer Johansson / Howard Wolkow

* Meeting Thursday, 6/22/17 7:30 pm in Teacher’s Lounge
* Three member’s terms will be ending, therefore 3 open position will be available come September.
* Petitions available at Somerville town hall and must be submitted by July.

**SHEF** - Anna Spitaleri

* Joining as co-chair next year will be Marisa Austenberg

**Correspondence and Minutes** – Cindy Melendez, Secretary

* Thank you notes from Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Infante and Ms. Mancini for Teacher’s Appreciation Lunch
* Mrs. Davies thank you for ball chairs
* Mrs. Hofman and Mrs. Lovejoy – thank you for our annual penguin visit
* Mr. Hogan – thank you for bussing to Fairview Farms

**Treasurer’s Report** – MarieElena Brown, Treasurer

* Inflows: $46,987.61
* Outflows: $19, 915.92 (pending $2,116.71)
* Balance $43,041.37 as of 6/12/17

**New Business**

 **New Board –** the following were elected, unanimously, for Bedminster Twp. School PTO Executive Board for the school year 2017 - 2018:

* Anna Spitaleri – President
* Jen Calpin – Vice President
* MarieElena Brown – Treasure
* Cindy Melendez – Secretary

**2017 PTO Gifts –** The PTO Board is entertaining ideas for the following year end school gifts: gaga ball pit, LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention and John Spencer (staff development)

**Jacob Priestley birthday wish –** BTS students created birthday cards to send to Jacob Priestly, a young boy living in AZ, that suffers from mitochondrial disease. One of Jacob’s final wishes is to receive 100,000 cards before his 15th birthday in August. Thank you to our teachers and to Gowri Gopal for initiating. Hopefully we were able to bring a little sunshine to a child that has an uphill battle before him.

 **Book Fair** –Suzie Stevinson, week of 10/2/17

**Barnes & Noble** – Natalie Zieger and Mr. Schoch, possibly spring ’18, more info to follow

 **Color Run** – Cindy Melendez, Jen Calpin & Danielle Fradella– a possibly replacement for Spring Fling. More info to follow at a later date.

**SEL group** *(Social Emotional Learning)*– Anna Spitaleri & Jen Calpin

* PSA with Somerset County Prosecutor, Mike Robertson
* Dr. Bradley Presentations for 2018 – BTS PTO contributed $500 to this event. It is a combined effort with our surrounding school communities.

 1/31 – Parents of HS students at Ridge HS PAC

 2/1 – Parents of MS students at Bernards HS PAC

**Spirit Wear** – Cindy Melendez

* Natalie Zieger has volunteered to co-chairing next school year
* Spring sale with new online company was very well received. Items to be distribute Friday, 6/16/17
* Next sale will be fall, with more to follow in winter and spring.

**Budget Committee** – Jennifer Calpin

**Transportation costs** – PTO will continue to cover bussing costs for fieldtrips

**Spring Fling** **Report** – MarieElena Brown

* $28,000 profit (10k from silent auction)
* The Board brought up the topic of possibly holding a school wide Color Run instead of Spring Fling next year. There were many supporters of the idea, and a few members with hesitation. All suggestions, thoughts and ideas will be taken into consideration and the Board will continue to discuss with a final decision by the end of the summer.

Article in Bernardsville news – thanking all of our SF sponsors

 Thank you letters – will be going out shortly

 **Summer Digital Flyer via email** – no ‘summer mailer’ this August, communication will be electronic.

**Old Business**

**Sensitivity Training – “Include Me”** - Jen Calpin

* An amazing experience for our 3rd grade students. The program is geared towards showing kids that diversity amongst their peers is inspiring. This hands on program helps them have a better understand of others with social, emotional, physical and cognitive disabilities.
* We are hoping this program will be shared with multiple grade levels next year.

**Green Team –** Anna Spitaleri,Jen Calpin, Kori Edwards, Renee Hachey,

Veronica Ucko

 **Display My Art –** Anna Spitaleri & Alyson Hershkowitz

**Events –**

 **Teacher / Staff Appreciation Day –** Tuesday, May 2nd 2017 – Jessica Pascale

* Thank you to Starbucks Riverwalk, Basking Ridge and Edible Arrangements, Far Hills
* Thank you to all volunteers and food/drink donations
* Raffle winners: $25 Target-Mrs. Hershkowitz, $25 Amazon-Mr. Puglia, $25 AMC-Mrs. Valentine and $25 Starbucks-Mr. Ayers

**Bedminster’s 2nd Annual Field of Honor** –

* Sunday, July 2nd, 1-4pm - The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House –
* 100% profits donated to VetREST
* PTO to sponsor a flag this year

**Scholastic Book Fair –** Suzie Stevinson – Week of 10/2/17

**Ongoing Committees**

 **PR & Social Media** – Thank you Martin Johansson

* Next year’s co-chairs: Anna Spitaleri & Cindy Melendez
* You can find the PTO here:

 Twitter - @BedminsterPTO

Insta - bedminsterpto

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/BedminsterPTO/

Website: http://www.bedminsterpto.org/index.html

**Homeroom Parents** – Cindy Melendez

* Thank you to all HR Parents, it was an amazing year because of you
* If you would like to volunteer again next year, please let me know

**Box Tops** – Cindy Melendez & Stephanie Zultanky

* $750.30 raised this year. Thank you to all that participated
* Next year co-chairs will be Stephanie Zultanky and Natalie Zieger

**Programs/Assemblies/Author Visits** – Faith Costabile & Lis Loeb

* Already planning next school year
* New co-chair for next year: Angela Gatto
* We are looking to recruit another new volunteer as Faith and Lis will be graduating out of the school within the next 1-2 years. Please join now and we will pass all our knowledge on to you.

 **Bulletin Board** – Faith Costabile & Jodi Coleman

 Wellness Theme for September board

**Helping Hands** – Linda Fragassi We have a family in need. Please contact Linda if you would like to contribute in helping another Bedminster family. LFragassi@gmail.com

**Spring Fling** – Anna Spitaleri

**Fall Fest** – 10/14/17 - Marisa Austenberg & Paul Spitaleri

There will be a meeting next week, more information will follow.

**8Th Grade** – Suzie Stevinson and Tina Costello

* Next year co-chairs: MarieElena Brown, Lis Loeb and Faith Costabile
* 8th grade ‘vs faculty softball game scheduled for 6/19/17
* Fundraising paid for approximately half of the Washington, DC trip, thank you to all.

**Misc. notes discussed, but not on the agenda:**

PTO Directory – options being considered

If you would like to volunteer a few hours of your day or have any ideas, suggestions or recommendations for next year, please reach out to any Executive Board member, we would love to speak with you.

Middle School (5-8 grades) summer reading suggestions/resources:

<https://www.bedminsterschool.org/site/Default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=86&PageID=942&ViewID=eb7e2801-43b3-4938-b9c0-f347ce332820&FlexDataID=2489>

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Cindy Melendez – BTS PTO Secretary

**NEXT PTO MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 12th @ 7 pm in room 315**

*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 may be recorded for the sole purpose of writing the minutes.*