MINUTES

BEDMINSTER TWP PTO • 234 SOMERVILLE RD • BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921 • PHONE: 908-234-0768

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

Start time: 7:06 pm

President's Welcome: Jenn Chang

Welcome thanks for joining us for the last meeting of the year. We might be nearing summer, but it's a busy month with an assembly with Mobile Ed's Skydome - a mobile planetarium. We have the Kona Ice Truck coming in for PE days this next week. The board also met to go through our annual financial review and put together a budget proposal for 2025-26 that we'll be sharing later tonight.

Elementary Principal's Report: Corby Swan

Benchmark Advance

Big thanks to our Grades 2 and 4 students and teachers who have been piloting the Benchmark Advance ELA program since January with much success. Approximately two weeks ago on May 29th, we were able to also train our Kindergarten, 1st, and 3rd grade teachers in preparation for all of elementary to begin using this program in September. We are very excited!!!

We are also in the final stages of agreeing to use a literacy assessment tool through Benchmark called Assess 360 which evaluates letter knowledge, phonics, word recognition, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—to screen and diagnose student needs. The detailed

reports will support targeted instruction that align with Benchmark Advance, the ELA program that we will be using. i-Ready and IXL

3rd Grade Poetry Picnic

Last week we had the annual Third Grade Poetry Picnic, a family oriented culmination of 3rd grade poetry reading and writing units. For approximately a month and a half students read, explore and write different elements of poetry, including, but not limited to : stanzas, white space, sensory and figurative language, layout of poems, word choice and repetition. For the writing piece, students use those elements to publish seven poems each with a different focus. They are: mood, similes, metaphors, sensory language, personification, alliteration and onomatopoeia. Each poem is published and illustrated then bound into a book with an identifying cover sheet for each one. On the day of the picnic, families bring lunch for themselves and their child and during this time, students share their poems and each family writes a haiku together. The 3rd grade team did an outstanding job with this event and I want to give them major kudos!!!

PE Field Day

Our annual tradition of Field Day is today, Friday, June 13th (weather permitting). The PE Department proposed to me that this year they wanted to try each elementary homeroom being an animal of their choice as opposed to the standard blue team versus gray team. Big thanks to Mrs. Hershkowitz who worked with the PE Department and homeroom teachers to have pictures of the team animals on sticks so that each homeroom can represent their team animal in grand fashion. Thank you to all involved in the planning! It shapes up to be a great day!

Pastries, Parents, and Performances

The Kindergarten Team planned a very well organized and thoughtful event this week called Pastries, Parents, and Performances. Within each class, groups were formed to perform a fairy tale reader's theater. Each group decoded, read, and practiced their fluency skills to learn their lines. They added acting to their parts along with their amazing personalities.

Kindergarten as a whole learned a song to the version of New York, New York, but changed the lyrics to sing First Grade, First Grade! The classes performed their reader's theater in front of their families this morning and they did an incredible job!

Enrichment presentations

Our 3rd & 4th grade Enrichment students gave some wonderful presentations under the leadership of Mrs. Ragoza. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend.

Thank you to the PTO for a great year and for all that you do!!!

Middle Principal's Report: Lauren Zugale

It has been a wonderfully busy school year. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who helped in any way that they could- donating items, volunteering time on site or from home, attending meetings, etc.

- Thank you to the PTO for supporting field trips this year. 6th grade's trip to Stokes State Park and 7th grade's trip to Grounds for Sculpture were fun and educational. 5th grade will attend Liberty Science Center on Thursday. Upcoming field days run by the PE Department have been planned, as well as a visit by the Kona Ice Truck courtesy of the generosity of the PTO.

- 8th grade promotion is just around the corner! Students attended BHS 9th grade orientation on June 2nd. Upcoming trip to Hershey Park and Camp Bernie are scheduled. Representatives from Clarence Dillon Library regarding required HS summer reading will be in the building this week. Promotion practice, an 8th grade breakfast, issuing of student awards, and our traditional clap out are all in the works. Promotion is on June 24th at 5:30pm. A letter outlining details of the event was shared last week with families.

- The Student Council has planned its first ever talent show to be held during the school day for MS students. We are proud of all of our anticipated participants!

- Shout out to our BTS softball team which made it to the championship game in our region. Although it was not the final result the girls wanted,

they showed grit and determination, making BTS very proud. Also a shout out to our award winners from the Literacy Club who participated in debate and prose competition. We are proud of their growth with writing, reading and presenting.

- We held two informative 5th grade orientation meetings. First, I presented during the evening to current parents and guardians of 4th grade students, highlighting key changes upon starting 5th grade. Secondly, our school counselors with the help of some current 5th grade student volunteers presented to our current 4th graders in an assembly with a question and answer session. Our 4th graders are ready for the transition to middle school!

- Please review end of the year eblasts and emails. They will include important information from the Health Office, technology department, and preparation for next school year.

- Thank you again for a fabulous school year and wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer!

Teacher Representative: Beth Rosnell
Message from Ms. Ragoza who is retiring this year about the Environmental Club and school garden. “We are in need of parent volunteers to help water the garden and harvest this summer. I put together a watering schedule” Schedule link is in Bulldog Bulletin. Butternut Squash, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Green Peppers, Lettuce, Pumpkins, Zinnias and Zucchini, a growing Strawberry patch and an Herbal Sensory Garden!

BOE: Gaby Wickizer
Thank you for supporting our initiatives that help improve student outcomes for all of the students at BTS. We have begun to send reminders in the Friday Folder of when board of education meetings will take place, and we will also share a quick “at a glance” of policies and regulations as they are revised and approved. The agendas typically go live 48 hours in advance of the meeting, so, by Tuesday evenings the week of a board meeting be on the lookout for the agenda. June is a big month for our current 8th graders with promotion night on the 24th. The lead up involves many “lasts” at BTS.

It is an emotional time but we know they are prepared and will well represent BTS as they enter their high school years.

We are excited for our families that the summer is upon you and that you can spend quality time with your children. They worked to their best ability all year long and are so deserving of a nice break from their school routines.

We have one more board meeting this summer and it will be mid-July. By mid-August, be on the lookout for school correspondence about the upcoming school year. Everyone in the office, business office and technology department are available by email through the summer.

We look forward to a new and rewarding 2025-2026 school year. The summer is about recharging and preparing for the upcoming school year. Between scheduling students, scheduling staff, moving and cleaning classrooms, housing summer extended school year, summer rec department, summer projects to the facility that involves work on the roof and completion of our nearly ten year tiling project, interviewing, hiring, onboarding new staff including a new school law enforcement officer, closing out the 2024-2025 school year and so much more, we never lose sight of why we are here. Getting everything ready for your child in September is our first priority. Be well, enjoy your summer and we look forward to September!

Secretary's Report: Lauren DiMeo
Kindergarten sent in thank you's for their field trip to the farm.

March minutes approval: Chemagne and Nadine Gritths

Treasurer's Report: Paulina Lorenz

Report is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org

Inflows: **$1,397.81**

Outflows: **$3,860.27**

Main Account Balance: $101,364.25

50/50 Raffle Balance: $300

Total Cash Available: $101,664.25

PTO will be collecting memberships via square, apple pay and paypal this year.

New Business

Budget Proposal & Adoption for 2025-26: Executive Board
Details are on the slide and posted on our website. Our account balance is in strong shape, thanks to the hard work over the years from the PTO. There are a few more outflows and checks to be issued that should bring our balance to mid-80's. Something that our board honed in on this year was understanding and addressing the disconnect between budgeted outflows and expected inflows. You may recall in last year's budget meeting that a budget of -$30k was adopted, where expenses were proposed to exceed donations by roughly ⅓ of our bank balance. We took a double-sided approach to bring this more in line: we reduced costs where we could, adjusted expense budgets, and also focused on optimizing donations and proceeds from Spring Fling.

We are happy to present the budget proposal for next year -On a more detailed level, we allowed for increases in costs for busing, bulletin boards, and recent initiatives that we want to continue such as Kona Ice Truck and more interactive Family Nights. We reduced class grants and a few other items to be in line with actual spending that has been trending down. At a high level, we reduced the gap from $30k to $8k which gives our board a better roadmap for planning. We do need to keep $50k in our account for working capital, we tend to write chunky checks. The remaining balance is equivalent to 1 Spring Fling. Our goal is to create a sustainable budget that optimizes the types of programs and enrichment for our kids.

I'll open the floor for any questions related to the budget before we call for the vote to adopt this proposal.

Assemblies: Fareeha Rahim, Krista Hudak, Sheryl Roman-Picado
The skydome was a huge success. Everyone liked it, We are hoping to continue it for next year.

Spirit Wear: Samantha Grundstrom, Allison Opperman, Melina Bolanos, Beth Malinis
We met with the vendor and are picking items to gear up for the Farmer's Market, Kindergarten Social, Fall Fest and B2 school night. We will have a formal proposal to the board soon.

<u>Ongoing Committees</u>
Homeroom Parents: Danielle Fredella, Jenn Chang & Jen Tierney
8th Grade (non PTO): Jessica Pascale, Kelly Barry
PR / Social Media: Anne Van Druff and Lauren DiMeo
Bulletin Boards: Danielle Fredella
Spooktacular: Fareeha Rahim
Dine & Donates: Kim Neuss
Helping Hands: Christina Frescki
PTO Meeting Schedule - All In-Person Meetings will be held in Faculty Lounge
· New Schedule TBA
*Please note: ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME

Public Comments:

A parent asked about school communications and how to get more information on math updates. Principal acknowledged question and will look into what options are available within the website.

<u>Closing Notes:</u> Jenn Chang

Have a great summer!

Meeting Closed at 7:50 pm

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 recordings are deleted.