



MINUTES

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

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2024

Start time: 7:02 pm

President's Welcome: Jenn Chang

Welcome everyone and thank you for being here. It's been a busy and impactful month with assemblies, fall festivities, Dine and Donate and Scholastic book fair. The Dine and Donate was very successful at Delicious heights, they ended up donating the entire day's sales which was very generous and we appreciate them.

Elementary Principal's Report: Corby Swan

Since we last met, we are now in Marking Period 2 and students are making progress. For those of you who were able to attend parent-teacher conferences, we thank you for providing and receiving feedback to and from our staff. It was nice to see many families at the Bedminster Charities Fall Fest. Big shout out to the PTO who had a very engaging booth. We are also thankful for the PTO supporting the Scholastic Book Fair! We held our annual Halloween Parade, so thank you to all who were able to attend. Special thank you to the homeroom parents who helped our students with their costumes. Also, a big shout out to the teachers for coming up with our

animal theme, as well as Mr. Lefurge and our students for doing a great job with the parade band. Our Odyssey of the Mind Team which consists of students in grades 4 and 5 is progressing and gearing up for a competition that is months away with a lot of work to be done before that. Next week, our 3rd Grade Drama Club with the assistance of 4th grade students will perform a production of "The Wizard of Oz" under the leadership of Mrs. Rosnell and Mrs. Alfieri, so we are looking forward to that. Please come out next month to support our music department at our Winter Concert Series beginning with Orchestra and Strings on December 4th, followed by Band and Jazz Band on December 11th, and finally Chorus and Handbells on December 18th. Please remember that school is closed on Thursday, November 28th and 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Finally, Mrs. Hershkowitz is teaching a unit on painting to 6th-grade students. Students learn about a painting and the numerous parodies recreated on TV, posters, and many other avenues. The students are asked to create their parody of the scene, so Mrs. Hershkowitz thought that our students and staff would find it humorous to use a famous painting to get students to understand parodies. Mrs. Hershkowitz involved Principal Swan and Principal Zugale while using the painting American Gothic by Grant Wood. She also incorporated things that both Principals were thankful for in the project and asked students the same. Great job Mrs. H!!!! Thank you to the PTO for all that you do!

Middle Principal's Report: Lauren Zugale

- Marking Period 1 has ended; grades published to portal today; will continue practice of notifying students and parents of the mid-marking period point
- Continue supporting positive attendance and timeliness- doors close at 8:55 for morning drop off
- Winter Sports have begun- boys and girls basketball
- Student and staff reflection for Marking Period 1; taking action on items as needed and possible

- MS Students of the Month nominated by staff for demonstrating pillars of character- Caring/Kindness, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Trustworthiness; announcement made and parents are notified; see bulletin board in the hallway
- SCVTS visit this week for 8th grade students
- Student Council:
 - Successful Halloween costume contest with winners across grades 5-8; the students loved it!
 - will sponsor a community-themed event each month; this month they organized a Food Drive to support the Somerset County Food Bank; winning MS homeroom will have access to a pizza party
- Upcoming Holiday Workshop organized by 8th grade parent committee during the first week of December; MS students will have the opportunity to visit and shop during an assigned PE/Instructional Center period
- We are also looking forward to the upcoming band, orchestra and choir concerts in December
- Wishing everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving with families and loved ones!

Teacher Representative: Beth Rosnell

Just a couple of things for tonight. Pictures are being passed around. First grade has been busy over the last month. They had a homeroom parent come in and do a cute thanksgiving craft in Ms. Reba's class. First grade is doing creepy carrots and practicing for their Thanksgiving Readers Theatre show next Tuesday. From fifth grade, Ms. Mancini, they are studying the adaptation of Sleepy hollow and the headless horseman. The class worked on analyzing the plot and characters, focusing on three sixth grade characters and they had fun as they engaged in conversations as they compared and contrasted the story. Fourth grade classes have started a buddy program. The goal is to increase social and emotional learning skills. Once a month the fourth grade helps the first grade and they play an

addition game and tomorrow they will help them practice their lines for the play. Thank you to the book fair and the successful event and all the books that the teachers that we got in the classroom.

Board of Education Report: Gaby Gomez

But the most important things were the two certifications that Bedminster School was awarded and recognized at the NJSBA- NJ Schools Board Association:

To reduce our carbon footprint, BTS has been awarded silver recertification by Sustainable Jersey for Schools. BTS was also recognized as a Digital Star School, one of 48 in NJ. In support of our digital responsive citizenship milestone, all student and staff activity is monitored by our Gaggle and Go Guardian filters.

And I forgot to mention but is good to add - That Bedminster Middle School ranked in the Top 100 schools in NJ for a 2nd year in a row. [Please see the Board of Education website for more information](#)

Vice President Report - Kim Neuss

Spooktacular Update. Kids had a great time, parents had fun as well. We made \$485 and a turnout of 260 people which was a huge success and a great turn out. A big thank you to the eighth graders who had a nice time and helped out. The next dine and donate will be Tuesday, Dec 3 at Shake Shack, they will give back 25%. Anne will be posting a code on social if you want to order ahead or do takeout.

Secretary's Report– Lauren DiMeo

We received a Top Dog donation from JanJua facial surgery center in Bedminster for Spring Fling. They are local business that has been

involved in the community for about 20 years and we are happy to have them a part of Spring Fling.

November Minutes Approval - Fareha and Danielle Fardella

Treasurer's Report – Paulina Lorenz

Report is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org

Inflows: \$8,015.75

Outflows: \$8,227.06

Main Account Balance: \$ \$78,406.96

50/50 Raffle Balance: \$300

Total Cash Available: \$78,706.96

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

New Business

PTO Membership: Jenn Chang

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

Assemblies: Fareeha

Next assembly will be Feb 28, it will be by Hip Hop dance company to commemorate Black History month for the Middle and Elementary School.

Closer to the end of the year, Skylar Planetarium for elementary. Planning a family night for the Spring, more details to come.

Spring Fling: Jenn Chang & Danielle Fardella

Spring Fling general mtg will be virtual for committee and volunteers in December. We have some great volunteers and reach out through the committee. There are over a dozen people volunteering for phone calls, pick ups, donations etc. There will be a mysignup, coming out at the beginning of December for families to donate. Baskets are always in need so if you know anyone that has some baskets please contact us so we can coordinate.

Ongoing Committees

Scholastic Book Fair: Danielle Fredella, Amanda Johnson

Another successful fundraiser. We raised over \$8,100. We were able to provide over \$5,000 to divide up to teachers and classrooms. Thank you for everyone that participated. We have a date for next year already so hoping to continuing the success

Home Room Parents: Jen Tierney, Jenn Chang, and Danielle Fredella

Meeting next month virtually on spring fling.

Spirit Wear: Jessica Pascale and Kelly Lynn Barry

\$2,800 in sales. \$500 in proceeds.

Farmers Market: Jenn Chang

Last one for this season is this Saturday November 23. We will be selling the rest of the spirit wear there and promoting and recognizing Spring Fling advertisers and bringing awareness to sponsorship and ticket sales information. Ticket sales are scheduled for the beginning of February.

Helping Hands: Chris Spretzky

Thank you for volunteering if a need does come up.

Home Room Parents: Jen Tierney, Jenn Chang, and Danielle Fredella

Homeroom parent meeting next month. Talking about Spring fling, general questions and educating the parents on Spring Fling. Class baskets are being decided, we use this for the advertisers and as soon as they are decided Im happy to take them off your plate and a tally of how much it was.

Closing Notes: Jenn Chang

Thank you everyone so much for your support. Next meeting is January 15, virtual.

Meeting Closed at 7:36 pm

Mrs. Zugale's Presentation. Raising a child in a digital world, helping families to develop healthy habits and behaviors in social media. Working with Commonsense.org. Please see presentation on the school website.

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.