

Bedminster Township School Parent Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes-January 10, 2017

Start Time – 9:32 am

Welcome and Comments – Anna Spitaleri, President

- Thank you all for coming – next meeting will be Tuesday, 2/7/17 @ 7 pm in room 315
- Spring Fling (SF) is coming up on 4/28/17 @ Trump National Golf Club. Please try to put aside any political feelings and help us raise money for our school. “It’s for the kids”

Principal’s Report – Corby Swan

- Check out Twitter – @CorbySwan
 - We want to ‘Get our school out there!’ It’s hard to get daily information from kids. So we are trying to get more teachers and parents to join the social media site Twitter to help connect home and school. This will help parents find out what is going on at school and more specifically in their children’s classroom.
 - Check with your child’s teacher to see if they have a Twitter account you could follow.
- Governor’s Educator of the Year Award
 - Congratulations to Mr. Tom Notte for being this year’s recipient! There was a school assembly on 1/6/17 to present him with the award.
 - Mr. Notte and I will now be working on his application to move towards the Somerset County Teacher of the Year competition. Good luck Mr. Notte!
- Future City Competition @ Rutgers University
 - Mr. Hazen – will be accompanying students to this competition
 - Students will be developing their own urban environment and writing an essay. This was made possible by a generous grant from Clean Communities.
- “Shadow a Student Challenge” – I will be shadowing a student from the moment they arrive at school in the morning until they are dismissed in the afternoon. I am so excited for this opportunity and to be with the kids all day and experience our school thru their eyes.
- Junior Woman’s Club of Somerset Hills Spelling Bee Contest
 - Will be held at BTS on Wednesday, 1/18/17
 - Open to any 4th or 5th grade student in the surrounding area
 - Winners from this completion will move on to the NJ Competition
- Second marking period ends on Friday, 1/27/17. Grades will be available thru Genesis. Remember to talk to your kids and their teachers throughout the entire marking period so that there are no surprises when grades come out. Genesis is a great resource for this too.
- National Geography Contest – Bedminster School will hold their Geography Bee in the month of January with Social Studies teacher Mr. Philips as the host.
- MLK Jr. Day – Monday, 1/16/17 – school will be closed

Teacher Representative – Chuck Hogan (not present) info relayed to Anna

- Thank you for the teacher grants the PTO has been approving

Board of Education – Howard Wolkow

- Annual Reorganization Meeting was held on Monday, 1/3/17
 - Swearing in of newly elected board member Suzie Stevinson
 - Re-elected board members: Monica Burch & Judy Creelman
 - Jeff Reaves was confirmed as new BOE President
 - Lou Casella was confirmed as BOE Vice President
- Next BOE meeting – Thursday, 1/19/17, 7:30 pm @ BTS Faculty Lounge
- Joint meeting with Somerset Hills School District BOE – Wednesday, 1/25/17, 7:30 pm @ 25 Olcott Ave, Bernardsville
- Possible meeting added to calendar as we continue to go over the next year’s budget
 - If you have any thoughts or concerns, now is the time to voice them. There is a 2% cap on the budget and we will be going thru it line by line.

SHEF – Anna Spitaleri – next meeting will be tonight, Tuesday, 1/10/17. Minutes and any other information will be posted on the BTS PTO website. www.bedminsterpto.org

Correspondence and Minutes – Ramsey Melendez, Secretary

- Thank you's:
 - Ms. Mitchell and Mrs. Alfieri for the Scholastic Dollars
 - Mrs. Tarulli's 4th grade – individual letters from her students for their Scholastic Dollars
 - Bernardsville HS – for being a sponsor for the class of 2016's Project Graduation

Treasurer's Report – Mimi Brown, Treasurer

All specific line items may be requested at any time. marieelena_brown@yahoo.com

Total Inflows: \$257.08 (membership dues and spirit wear)

Total Outflows: \$2,335.22 (Grant-Bruce Blitz, Teacher Conf. Hospitality, Grant-PE Speakers, SF solicitations, pop up tents)

Bank Balance: As of 1/9/17 **\$27,209.18**

- Check with your employer to see if they offer a match program or payroll deduction to charities.
- Bedminster School PTO is a 501c

BHS HSA – President, Karen Mlynarski – mlynarskifamily@comcast.net

- Karen will attend our 2/7/17 PTO meeting to help bridge the Bedminster community with the Bernardsville community.
- Next meetings: 3/14/17 – 7:30pm and 5/16/17 – noon

New Business

Screen Agers – HAS from BES, BMS & BHS will host this movie event on 1/11/17, 7-9 pm @ BHS PAC

Budget Committee – Jen Calpin

- Jen will be the liaison between the PTO and the BOE. The time to voice your thoughts and concerns is now. Dialog will be ongoing with the BOE, Ms. Giordano and Mrs. Schauer. Please send any concerns, thoughts or correspondence to: jennifer.calpin@effem.com

Books & Buddies Café – Mrs. Barbara Alfieri (not present, info relayed to Anna)

- *FREE and fun event for students PK thru 3rd grade. Flyers were sent home with information
- Tuesday, 1/24/17, 6-7:30 pm, in the Cafetorium
- Please consider bringing gently used stuffed animals as a donation to Joshua's Closet
 - <http://http://joshuascloset.webs.com/> to support the Cancer Institute of NJ
 - Donation boxes are set up in the front hallway at school

World Wear Project – Anna Spitaleri www.worldwearproject.com

- We will be collecting wearable shoes in designated boxes in the Main Lobby.
- Our proceeds will be donated to Heartworks www.njheartworks.org Here is the mission statement of this wonderful organization. 'Heartworks is a grassroots movement of women committed to replicating and sustaining the palpable kindness witnessed in the wake of September 11, 2001. Inspired by the healing that takes place through receiving and giving, we offer hope to people experiencing acute illness, injury or grief'.
- 63 lbs. and up per box = \$0.55 per pound
40-59 lbs. per box = \$0.45 per pound
0-39 lbs. per box = \$0.00 per pound

Spring Fling - Anna Spitaleri – Friday, 4/28/17 @ Trump National Golf Club

- Solicitations - Jen Calpin jennifer.calpin@effem.com
 - Thank you to all that volunteered to help
 - If you have any connections with a local business that could donate a gift certificate or a raffle basket, please contact Jen to see if they are on our master list
 - If you know of a company that would like to sponsor or advertise in our program, please contact Laura Govan laurajgovan@gmail.com
- Baskets – Jodi Coleman joma2422@aol.com & Suzie Stevinson slstevinson@yahoo.com
 - Please remember to include all necessary information when you drop off a donation to the main office. There will be forms there for your use.
 - Please feel free to contact us with any questions or ideas you may have

- Silent Auction – Susan Corbett sucorbett@gmail.com & Nicole Calicchio nicole5618@aol.com
 - We are looking for ideas and offers of ‘family friendly’ experiences i.e. hotel points, weekend getaways, day at an amusement/water park, winter cabin weekend, etc...
 - Please feel free to contact us with any questions or ideas you may have
- Admissions – Liza Pizarro-White liza.pizarro@verizon.net & Lis Loeb lis.loeb@yahoo.com
 - If you cannot attend SF, please make a monetary donation to the PTO instead of purchasing a ticket to the event.
 - Save the Date postcards will be going out shortly
 - Invitation will be emailed to all families in March. If you feel we don’t have your correct email address, please contact Anna anna_spitaleri@yahoo.com
 - Friends outside of the school community are always welcome. Municipal employees, relatives, friends.
- Class Baskets - Jessica Jasilli jmbjasilli@gmail.com & Danielle Fredella deefredella@yahoo.com
 - Basket themes should be emailed asap. All theme ideas are first come first serve, to avoid duplicates
 - Actual baskets should be dropped off at either Jessica or Danielle’s house before Friday, 4/16/17. Please make sure to call/email them prior to drop off to make sure they are home.

Old Business

Fall Fest – Marisa Austenberg (not present) info relayed to Anna

- BTS will be receiving approximately \$5,000
- This year’s date is Saturday, 10/14/17. Yes, October - not September this year ☺

Spirit Wear – Meryl Bender & Kim Rich (not present) information from Ramsey Melendez

- We are looking into a new supplier for next year (or possibly even sooner)
- Looking to broaden our purchasing options and wanting year-round availability. Information will be relayed once finalized

Water filling Station – Mimi Brown

- Looking for installation quotes from a plumber. If any of our BTS families have a plumber in the family, we would love to get in touch with them.

Ongoing Committees

Homeroom Parents – Ramsey Melendez

- Thank you for organizing our holiday class parties/activities/breakfasts. The teachers and children were extremely appreciative.

Box Tops – Ramsey Melendez & Stephanie Zultanky

- We had a TIE for the Silly String Mr. Swan Contest. Mr. Oliveri’s 3rd grade class and Miss Mancini’s 5th grade homeroom were the winners! Their classes each brought in 322 Tops. We sprayed Mr. Swan on 12/13/16, and it was a BLAST!! Thank you Mr. Swan for keeping our kids motivated!
- This contest alone brought in \$450. Thank you and keep collecting.
- Top earning classes: Lovejoy & Griffith-304 each, Godfrey-262, Rosnell-256, McFarland-254, Valentine-248, Hogan-237, McNamara-228 and Davies-204.
- Next contest will run February 1 – 16. The class with the highest amount of non-expired or ripped Tops will receive a \$50 gift certificate for their teacher.

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

- No Shakespeare assembly this year
- Assemblies scheduled, as of today:
 - 1/31 Brain Wash Game Show (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)
 - 2/6 Kit’s Interactive Theater: Colonial Life (K-4) and Civil War (5-8)
 - March (1st, 6th or 7th TBD) author Wendy Maas
 - April/May no programs due to schoolwide testing
 - 6/8 Theatreworks- Charlotte’s Web (K-4)

Helping Hands – Linda Fragassi

8th Grade – Suzie Stevinson and Tina Costello

- The 50/50 raffle drawing was held this evening. Thank you to all who purchased and congratulations to our winners!
- A total of \$2,637 was raised
 - 25% winner – Preeti Guglani
 - 15% winner – Connelly family
 - 10% winner – Scott Bonar

Extra Notes – Next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, 2/7/17, @ 7 pm in room 315

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Respectfully submitted by: Ramsey Melendez – BTS PTO Secretary melendez.family07@yahoo.com

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.