**BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**

**Parent Teacher Organization**

Meeting Minutes ~September 12, 2017

**Start time: 7:05 pm**

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

* Welcome everyone – excited for a great year
* Introduction of Board members (Jen Calpin, Mimi Brown & Ramsey Melendez)
* Spring Fling will be **4/20/18**. Let us know if you’re interested in helping
* PTO is continuing to ‘Go Green’ again this year
* Online Directory coming soon ($10 PTO membership or $20 membership and directory)
* We will continue our strong push on community outreach projects

**Superintendent’s Report** – Jennifer Giordano

* We have jumped in and are ready to go.
* Thank you to the PTO for all you do
* Asking teachers/staff to bring mugs from home to cut back on waste and possibly replacing foam trays in cafetorium
* Three goals this year: 1) Student Performance 2) Overall Wellness 3) Sustainability
* Barker bussing – not enough drivers/state making the testing more difficult/they are doing the best that they can. All bussing questions should be directed to: Alicia Schauer ext: 200 or aschauer@bedminsterschool.org
* Proactive in 2 areas
  + School was tested for air quality-2 rooms on the first floor required further attention (Guidance & library) Both rooms have been closed off and are being treated. We should have them open within the week.
  + Bats have been seen in the evening within the building. We brought in a bat expert that is looking into remedying the situation by creating ‘exit tunnels’ and repairs to the building. A recommendation was brought up asking if a student project could be started to make bat homes that then can be put up outside. Ms. G and Mr. Hogan will discuss that possibility.
* Brown Bag Lunch with Administration
  + Tue. **9/19** for PK-4 parents from 11-11:45 am
  + Tue. **9/26** for 5-8 grade parents from 11 – 11:45 am
* Looking into many fundraisers this year (volleyball and softball)
* PARCC & NJ ASK testing-results are just coming in. In regards to Bedminster vs. other schools in NJ, we outperformed the state average in grades 3-8. Reports will be sent home to parents shortly.

**Principal’s Report** – Corby Swan

* Welcome back and a warm welcome to Mr. Todd St. Laurent-Vice Principal/Curriculum Supervisor
* Thank you PTO for Kindergarten bussing help, ice-cream social and teacher’s Welcome Back Luncheon
* We had a fantastic assembly: “Think Kindness” with Miguel Rodrigues
  + Kids will work on completing/logging 5,000 Acts of Kindness over the next month
  + Mr. Rodrigues also worked with eight middle school students as our “Kindness Crew” to help spread kindness throughout the school.
* Reminders:
  + Large Backpacks are not allowed in classrooms. However, smaller string type bags are allowed, as long as they can fit underneath the desks.
  + Thursday, **9/21** – No School (Rosh Hashanah)
  + Back to School Nights
    - Tue **9/26** @ 6:30 pm 5-8 grades (1:30 pm early dismissal)
    - Wed **9/27** @ 6:30 pm PK-4 grades (1:30 pm early dismissal)
* Kids are enjoying the Gaga Pit that was donated by our 2016-2017 PTO
* We are looking forward to a fun year!

**Vice Principal Report** – Todd St. Laurent

* Thank you for a warm welcome into the school
* PARCC letters will be sent home this coming week
* Striving to have balance within the classroom
* I have an open door policy
* What’s best for the kids – is best

**Teacher Representative** – Chuck Hogan

* Thank you for the Welcome Back Lunch, Ice-Cream Social, Gaga Pit, Kindness Assembly
* Teachers are extremely excited for the new year

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

* Spectacular start to the new school year
* BOE meeting **9/28** @ 7:30 pm
* Please consider attending to have your voice heard, give input, tell us what you want for your kids
* General Election this November – 3 open positions with 5 candidates running

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

* Thank you from Cindy Gattone – donation to Ronald McDonald House
* Thank you from Kathy Godfrey – Teacher’s Welcome Back Lunch
* Thank you from Jennifer Giordano – GaGa Pit and a Leveled Literacy Intervention System
* The PTO took out a half page advertising space for the MARS Essex Horse Trials (June ’17)
* June ’17 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote

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

* Budget 2017-18 went over new line items and was approved by unanimous vote
  + Added-Display My Art, Box Tops and Social & Emotional Learning (S.E.L.)
  + Changed ‘Spring Fling’ to ‘Spring Fundraiser’ and ‘Game Night’ to Family Night”
  + Moved $3,000 from Class Level to Programs & Assemblies
* Thank you – Martin Johansson for financially maintaining our web domain and our credit card machine
* Please join the PTO ($10 family membership or $20 family membership + directory)

**Bedminster Twp. Mayor** - Steven Parker

* Moth Night @ River Road Park on Friday, **9/22**, 7:30-10 pm
* Looking ahead to our Master Plan / Commercial Plan (10-15 years)
  + Please attend the 10/19 meeting to hear about the plan discussion
* Bedminster Charities Fall Fest will be Sat. **10/14**, 11-5 pm, $5/person

**New Business**

**Committees and Chairs**

**PTO on-line registration –** Martin Johansson

* Going live soon by a school wide ‘call out’
* Online PTO Membership Registration and Digital Directory
* All access (laptops, mobile, desktop)

**PTO Meeting Schedule:**

**Oct. 10** - 7pm Room 315, **Nov. 14** - 9:30am Faculty Lounge, **No** meeting in Dec

**Jan. 9** - 7pm Room 315, **Feb. 13** - 9:30am Faculty Lounge, **March 13** – 7pm Room 315

**April 17** – 7pm Room 315, **May 8** – 7pm Room 315, **June 12** 7pm Room 315

**Book Fair** - **10/2-10/6** – Suzie Stevinson & Danielle Fredella

* Scholastic "All for Books" program. They will match our donation to schools affected by Hurricanes Irma and Harvey
* Volunteers will be needed – 7/8 graders and parents
* Tue Oct **10/3** after school hours and Wed. **10/4** night hours

**Spirit Wear** - **10/2-10/13** – Ramsey Melendez & Natalie Zieger

* This sale will have winter type merchandise
* Sharing info at B2SN, Book Fair and Fall Fest

**Display My Art** – **11/13 – 11/17** Anna Spitaleri & Alyson Hershkowitz

* Delivery will be before the December break

**Fall Fest** – Marisa Austenberg & Paul Spitaleri

* Saturday, **10/14**, 11-5 pm
* Seven Bedminster Charities will benefit (**BTS PTO**, Pottersville Volunteer Fire Company, The Center for Contemporary Art, Far Hills – Bedminster Fire Department, Far Hills – Bedminster First Aid Squad, Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House and Friends of the Clarence Dillon Public Library
* Food trucks, music, multiple bounce areas, silent auction, beer/wine tent and farm cider
* PTO will have a coloring contest for our younger students. Winner will receive Spirit Wear t-shirt
* Volunteers are needed to sit at the PTO table for 1 hour shift <http://signup.com/go/BgeDRbu>

**Back to School Nights** –Donna Connelly, Kim Rich & Natalie Zieger

* Food donations are needed and welcomed. Leave in front office either day, with note saying ‘B2SN’
* Back to School Nights
* Tue **9/26** @ 6:30 pm 5-8 grades
* Wed **9/27** @ 6:30 pm PK-4 grades

**Halloween- Friday October 27, 2017** –

* PK-4 Party 5-6:30pm – Danielle Fredella & Samantha D’Antuono
* Trunk or Treat 6:30-7pm– Natalie Zieger & Ramsey Melendez
* Grades 5-8 Dance 7:30-9pm – Student Council

**Old Business**

**Gaga Pit –** gift from the2016-17 PTO

* Thank you to all volunteer that help set up
  + Especially the Spitaleri Family and John Mantz of Bedminster Public Works
* Researching netting to go around the pit to help contain the ball

**Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon – 9/5 –** Linda Fragassi

* Thank you Linda for a fabulous lunch

**New Student Orientation / ICS – 9/6** - Sandy Ruzicka, Carolyn Richardson & Jen Calpin

* Thank you Marieellen Reeves of Hershey Ice-Cream/McCool’s in Madison (and BTS family) for donating the ice=cream
* Thank you to our 3 chair people for creating a welcoming event for our new students
* Thank you to our 7/8 grade volunteers

**Kindergarten Bussing Volunteers** – Anna Spitaleri

* Thank you to our volunteers Paul Spitaleri, Elizabeth Hidalgo, Howard Wolkow, Ramsey Melendez, Kathleen Gaspar & Samantha D’Antuono

**Ongoing Committees**

**Homeroom Parents** – Ramsey Melendez

* Thank you to all of our returning HR Parents and we are super excited to have so many new parents volunteer this year.
* Prep for Back to School Night
* Please share our website and social media with your classes
  + [www.bedminsterpto.org](http://www.bedminsterpto.org)
  + Facebook: Bedminster Twp School PTO
  + Instagram: Bedminster PTO
  + Twitter: @BedminsterPTO

**Spirit Wear** – Ramsey Melendez & Natalie Zieger

* Fall/Winter Sale **Oct. 2-13** (delivery early November)
* String back packs Mr. Swan talked about(allowed in the classrooms) will be available for sale

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

* As Lis and Faith will be ‘graduating’ out of the school in June, we are looking for a co-chair to assist Angela next school year
* Upcoming: Earth Dome, Author Workshops (in person/Skype), Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Shakespeare

**Helping Hands** – Linda Fragassi (no current needs)

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

* “Spread Kindness”
* Thank you to Jodi and Lis – you have outdone yourselves

**Box Tops** – Stephanie **Zultanky** & Natalie Zieger

* Keep collecting
* November contest will be announced soon……Silly String + Mr. Swan = FUN!!
* We will have a display at both B2SN

**PR / Social Media –** Ramsey and Izzy Melendez

* Thank you Ramsey & Izzy for taking this task on

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

* “Include Me” will be coming back this year
* Dr. Michael Bradley, “Crazy-Stressed: Saving Today’s Overwhelmed Teens with Love, Laughter and the Science of Resilience”, in conjunction with SHSD
  + **1/31/18** @ Ridge High School PAC-parents of high school students
  + **2/1/18** @ Bernardsville High School – parents of middle school students

**Spring Fling** – Carolyn Richardson & Sandy Ruzicka

* Friday, April 20, 2018
* More info to follow

**8Th Grade** – Mimi Brown, Faith Costabile & Lis Loeb

Upcoming Fundraisers

* Bucky’s Car Wash (Bedminster location) **9/17** from 8-2 pm
* Old Fashioned Family Picnic **9/23** 1-4 pm (rain date 9/24)
* Fall Fest – selling mums
* Holiday Pie Sale
* 50/50 Raffle – ongoing thru January
* Chair Person needed: Hunt Parking, Script, Basketball Game and Snowball Dance

**SHEF** – Anna Spitaleri

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by: Ramsey Melendez – BTS PTO Secretary**

**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.**

**NEXT PTO MEETING**

**Tuesday October 10th, @ 7 pm, Room 315**

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