

**Bedminster Township School
Parent teacher Organization**

**Meeting Minutes (unapproved)
September 16, 2014**

Welcome Comments – Suzie Stevinson, President

- Meeting called to order 7:09 pm.
- Introduction of board; thank you to membership for attending and to those volunteering to be homeroom parents. Thank you to administration for their support. We seek a SHEF (Somerset Hills Education Foundation) liaison.

HIB Presentation—Mrs. Infante, PK-4 & Miss Deckhut, 5-8 Guidance Counselors
Slide show information presented to membership. Q&A done at the end of presentation.

Principal’s Report – Mr. Corby Swan

Thank you to the PTO for their help with kindergarten and new student orientation, the Ice Cream Social, Welcome Back luncheon and for assisting with Kindergarten arrival and dismissal. Letter shared with the membership from a grandparent of former students. Request for any parents who are interested in running Field Day as it had been done in the past to let Mr. Swan know by October 3; in the absence of parent organizers it will be run by the PE department as a PE themed day. Sports tryouts are getting underway. Monday, September 22 is 5-8 Back to School Night; gymnasium first. MS parents must check in with their HP in the Tuesday, September 23 is PK-4 BTSN. Both days will be early dismissal. Thursday, September 25 there will be no school. Mr. Bolandi will be attending the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, October 14. School pictures will be on October 8. Question regarding the lighting in the parking lot to be looked into.

Director of Student Services—Mrs. Jessica Cohen

Reach out to me if you have any questions. We have a Parent Advisory Group at the school in coordination with SHSD made up of parents of students with special needs. Looking for someone in the PTO to collaborate in bringing back Game Night (done last year).

Teacher Representative -- Mr. Chuck Hogan

- Looking forward to a great year next year. Thank you for the WBTL. Looking forward to the book fair and thank you for all that you do for us.

Board of Education Representative--TBD

Correspondence and Approval of Minutes – Marisa Austenberg

June 2014 minutes approved.

Letter from BEA read—100% teacher membership and thanks for PTO support.

Letter of thanks from Miss Giordano read—thank you for support for proposal of STEM initiative.

Letters from Gustavo Cuoto and Luke Mase—thank you for graduation gifts.
Letter from Mrs. Burke—thanks for WBTL.
Letter from Mrs. Burke—thank you for large technology grant for STEM initiatives.
Letters from Mrs. Godfrey—thank you for luncheon and grant for classroom supplies.

Treasurer's Report – Laura Govan

- Inflows--\$1970 from membership, \$500 given back from 8th grade. Outflows-- \$ _____ from bank fees, SF venue deposit, busing, WBTL, printing for August mailing. Bank balance as of September 15 was \$44,120.02.

8th Grade Report—(Suzie Stevinson)—8th grade holds various fundraisers during the year to fund their trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Chairs are Lisa Cunningham and Alison Rosenzweig, not present; no report given.

New Business

- **Food Drive**—8th grade Community Service project run by Mrs. Arnowitz. PTO provides the incentive of a pizza or ice cream party to the winning elementary and MS homerooms.
- **PTO Membership contest**—homeroom with most PTO membership will win a party for their homeroom. Memberships due by October 15.
- **Fall Fest, Jenn McAdoo**—To be held Saturday, September 20, 12-5. Volunteers needed; please contact volunteers@bedminstercharities.com. The PTO is a recipient charity; last year we received \$5200.
- **Book Fair, Marisa Austenberg**—To be held Sept 29-Oct 3. Kids attend during scheduled library time. Info will be sent home in the backpack, on the website and in the Friday Folder. We are still looking for volunteers, contact Marisa. All profits go back to the elementary teachers and MS ELA teachers to build their classroom libraries. Books can be purchased through the online portion of the fair. There will be family events on Tuesday, 9/30, 3:45-6:00pm, Wednesday, 10/1, 6:00-8:00pm and Thursday, 10/2, 9-11:15am. MS students attend in am.
- **Back to School Nights, Donna Connelly**—Need volunteers to bring in baked goods for both Monday and Tuesday. Please see sign up sheet.
- **Halloween, Susan Corbett**—Date will be Saturday, October 25 time approximately 5-7pm. Planning is underway; volunteers are needed and may sign up to run games and trunk or treating. This an event to promote community involvement, not a fundraiser.
- **“Buddy Families”**—partnership with Mrs. Sandoval to connect ESL families with English speaking families within the school community. More info to come at next meeting.
- **Box Tops**—looking for a volunteer to coordinate the box tops program.
- **Spirit Wear, Anna Spitaleri**—looking for suggestions or ideas for new items. SW items will be on sale soon. We have school magnets with the Bedminster bulldog (from the gym floor) on sale beginning at Fall Fest, \$5 each; bulldog logo to be on some SW items too.

Old Business

Thank you to all of the many volunteers who helped out with these PTO events: KO, NSO, ICS, WBTL and kindergarten arrivals/dismissals.

Ongoing Committees

- Homeroom Parents, Kim Kennedy, Mary Kessler—Homeroom Parent meeting took place immediately preceding general meeting tonight. Thank you to all Homeroom parents for volunteering their time.
- Programs/Assemblies/Author Visit, Faith Costabile and Lis Clark—Our first program is Sept 29th “Bedminster All In” pep rally with a motivational speaker for all grades. Kits Interactive will be here in October with Spooky Hollow for PK-8. Shakespeare Theatre will be here in March. We are looking to do more programs with the grade levels; to be determined.
- Helping Hands, Ellen Reyda—No needs noted.
- Spring Fling, Marisa Austenberg & Gina Fernandez—To be held on Friday, April 17th at Trump National. We need many volunteers to make it a success. We need a person to do the program, who has a background in graphic design; Marisa needs help with updating the database.
- Addendum: NJ Devils game night out will be on Friday, February 6 vs. Toronto at 7pm. Tickets will be about \$50 and we will all be seated together in a section. Flyers will be coming soon. Please encourage families to join the PTO and volunteer for any upcoming events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.