



MINUTES

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

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024

Start time: 7:16pm

President's Welcome: Jenn Chang

Welcome everyone and thank you for being here tonight and being patient in the room. Please sign in and enter into the raffle as we have some prizes in the back. Brief overview as I see some new faces. The purpose of this meeting is to grow a face to face connection with each other. The PTO is a group of parents and teachers working alongside the administration and the school community to provide the best school experience for our kids. This monthly meeting is a great way to get a download on what's going on and ask questions. In introducing the new board and transitioning into the new role, we have taken on some new initiatives that are some great ways to reach out to the community. The second half of this meeting Mrs. Zugale will be giving a middle school presentation.

Elementary Principal's Report: Corby Swan

The school year is off to a great start. Big thanks to the PTO for sponsoring the Ice Cream Social for Kindergarten and new families. We also want to thank the PTO for providing breakfast for our Staff Development. Currently,

our teachers are building what we call our classroom communities. This is where our teachers create a space in which students feel safe, are willing to share, and work with their peers, which leads to students and teachers working together toward common goals, and celebrating both collective and individual wins. This year, our programs of study will include Sound Start for K - 4 in ELA (English Language Arts), Ready Mathematics for Grades K - 3, along with the i-ready diagnostic assessment and instruction. 4th Grade this year will be using the Big Ideas Math program, which aligns with what our middle school students use. We will also be using IXL, which is a personalized digital learning space that generates personalized skills recommendations in real-time. We will use this for students in grades 3 and 4 for ELA. To practice math fact fluency, our students will use Reflex Math in grades 2 - 4 and FRAX in grades 3 & 4. FRAX is an adaptive, game-based tool to help students learn fractions. Next week, we have PreK - 4th grade Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 25th from 6:30 - 8:15 pm. The doors will open at 6:15, you will hear from a few speakers, and then you will have the opportunity to hear from the teachers of your children, gain insight into our instructional programs, and understand a day in the life of an elementary student here at BTS. Some of you may also be familiar with the Principal's Character Award Program that I implemented many years ago and is still running. The program is based on the six pillars of character and recognizes students who display these pillars: Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Trustworthiness, Caring, and Citizenship. I know this is something that the students look forward to. I have lunch with the student being recognized, we read over the intercom during morning announcements some of the examples of how they demonstrated the pillars of character, they are awarded a certificate, a Principal Award's pin, and we take some photos to remember the occasion. We will begin this program in November as this will allow teachers to observe students for a few months and then nominate who they feel is deserving. Lastly, I want to publicly congratulate Mrs. Zugale on her new role and say that I have enjoyed working with Mrs. Zugale thus far in this role. She and I worked hard this summer on making the opening of the school the best that it can be and I believe that we did that. Please

remember that school is closed on Thursday, October 3rd in observance of Rosh Hashanah.

Teacher Representative: Beth Rosnell

Hi everyone, I'll keep this short because I know there is a lot to cover tonight. I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Mrs. Rosnell. I will be sharing all the great stuff that is happening in school. We really appreciate this new board helping us and supporting us and asking what we need to make the school year better. Next month, I'll be able to share more about what is going on in the classrooms but we are all getting the year started and have lots to do. Thank you for being here and having me.

Superintendent: Not present

Board of Education Report: Gaby Gomez and Gabe Wickizer.

School year - off to a smooth and positive start
New Supervisor of Student Services, Ms. Peck
Contact Mrs. Zugale if you have any special or student services questions (until Oct)
Chain of command begins with child's teachers then school principal then superintendent
For safety reasons, no large bags to be used between classes
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee SHSD/BTS
SHSD - alignment between districts
ROD grant- upgrade roof chillers, at no additional cost to the community
State monitoring Feb 2025 NJ QSAC - NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum
5 key factors in effective districts: Instruction & Program, Fiscal Responsibility, Governance, Operations, Personnel
October BoE meeting - annual standardized assessment presentation
BTS is recognized as a Digital Star School
Received our silver recognition as a certified Sustainable Jersey for Schools school

[Please see the Board of Education website for more information](#)

Vice President Report - Kim Neuss

We are looking to start Dine and donate this year. Basically we pick a date with a local restaurant and pick a time, we show up and they give a percentage back to the PTO which in turn goes back to our kids. The restaurants we were looking to do this with are DIG, Bedminster Pizza, Pancheros, Jersey Mikes and Delicious Heights. Also trying to coordinate around games. Another big thing which as we get this type of turn out is to go over to delicious heights and grab some apps after the meeting and the restaurant will give a portion of the proceeds back to the PTO.

Also Spooktacular is Oct 25, Friday night. We have the kids come out and dress up, play games, we provide pizza, it's a fun night. We are looking for volunteers, so if you are interested I'll be passing around a sign up sheet.. More info to come.

Secretary's Report– Lauren DiMeo

No correspondence to report

Anne and myself have been working on social media and trying to gain some presence and bridge the gap between community and PTO events. We are trying to elevate the PTO brand, visually and connect everyone in a group setting and make it a community platform that everyone can go to for information. Making sure we get relevant information out there about and keep the consistency. Please visit: www.bedminsterpto.org Like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Treasurer's Report – Paulina Lorenz

Report is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org

Inflows: **\$2,322.90**

Outflows: \$9,296.08

Main Account Balance: \$80,130.78

50/50 Raffle Balance: \$300

Total Cash Available: \$80,430.78

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

New Business

PTO Membership: Executive Board

Fee: \$15 per family \$10 per teacher/staff/admin.

Outside of spring fling, it's the second biggest contributor that the PTO funds are being raised. We tried to digitize it this year. Scan the QR codes and there you can also check off ways you would like to get involved and share your interests and time with us. We already have a good sense of who has signed up and what their interests are to help out.

Gabby Gomez brought up a good point that if there is a way PTO communications can be translated.

Volunteers Needed for Fall: Spooktacular 10/25, Fall Fest 10/12,
Farmer's Market Nov. TBD

Sign up sheets tonight, through online PTO membership & volunteer form,
or contact pto@bedminsterschool.org

Meetings are listed on our website for the year. Please note the May mtg is on a tuesday due to a the spring concert

Ongoing Committees

Scholastic Book Fair: Danielle Fredella, Amanda Johnson

Favorite time of the year. Amanda sat with me. Anne will be doing a social media post. It will be held October 7th – 11th but on the website it says October 4th because that is when they drop the books off. I will try to call her tomorrow because I'm sure people are going to be confused. Tuesday, October 8 is parent shopping at 4:15pm - 8pm, held in the library. There is going to be an ewallet option which is highly recommended. K-4. Working with Mr Swan to get that info out through eblast so everyone knows. This benefits the teachers so whatever money we bring in, the PTO then buys books and puts them into the classroom and the libraries.

Spooktacular: Kim Neuss

I know Kim spoke about Spooktacular before but save the date, **Oct 25, 2024** . The way that we will be sending out communication is through the school because they have everyone's information. Please expect an online form that you will have to rsvp but you can pre pay online or pay cash at the door but you still have to RSVP online and we will be checking you in at the door.

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

There was a meeting held earlier tonight. More to come.

Spirit Wear: Jessica Pascale and Kelly Lynn Barry

We had a meeting today and we have a new vendor set up. In the process of picking out affordable wear. The date for the store might need to change because the turnaround time is about 4-5 weeks. Hoping to have

everything delivered to us and then set up 2 days that people can pick up their orders. We hope this eliminates the shipping cost for families. We will be focusing on the events that we will be at to sell what we have in stock and then next year we can start we can restock inventory. Hoping this vendor is better and the high school uses them and it's much better quality. Reminder there is inventory that will be sold at fall fest. Sale starts - Oct 14, Monday. Right after fall fest. The inventory that we have is while supplies last. That will lead us into the online store where you can find similar items.

8th Grade:

Committee: Tina, Shanda, Kathleen, Jess, Kelly and Luda. The 8th grade will be doing fundraising throughout the year. We spoke to Mrs. Zugale and we are going with Hershey Park and then decide on another trip. So more to come. The holiday workshop is going to be December 8th. Next month we will have more information.

Assemblies: Fareeha Rahim

Hi Everyone I am Fareeha, I've been working on assemblies for the last 2 years. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Swan and Mrs. Zugale to pick some unique shows and presentations for both elementary and middle school students. The first one is this Monday, Sept. 23. It is Mikey Fallon, a Motivational speaker for middle schoolers. He comes highly recommended. He really connects with the kids and encourages the audience to celebrate differences and recognize the power of small acts of kindness. As a community we can build strong bonds with each other, which is huge for middle schoolers as they face challenges at this age.

Additionally we will be having an Elementary assembly that is the Human board games in October. The kids like this one because they are literally pawns on a huge board game. Encourages them to work together as teams

and they are paired up differently. We will also have a Dance company come in to celebrate black history month. Talking about the civil movement and the principals of hip hop.

Skydome planetarium for elementary school. Bring in a giant dome and its very interacting

Spring Fling: Jenn Chang

We will have more information at the next meeting and meetings to come but for now please Save the Date, April 11, 2025. It's the 26th Anniversary.

Old Business

Kindergarten and new families Ice cream Social. This is an annual tradition that is a great way to welcome and meet new families. We have been happy to continue that tradition. The PTO also hosted a Staff Welcome back breakfast. This is the first time we have done a breakfast which worked out well with grab and go options that helped teachers and staff get off to a good start. Card my yard did a welcome back Bulldogs sign for the start of the school year that is funded by the PTO.

Bulletin Board: Danielle Fredella.

Thank you to Danielle. They look amazing.

Farmers Market: Mariana Wickizer

This is a new initiative that we are taking on. It's an intricate part of the town and they have 1200 people come every saturday. Colin Hickey and team are going there and plugging away. Thank you to the new board, Mr. Swan and Mrs. Zugale. The idea of the farmers market is that the PTO realizes

that parents are really busy and that this is a partnership. We are creating one more point of contact for families and another opportunity for them to ask questions to the PTO if they haven't been able to come to meetings. The other great opportunity we noticed is with Spring Fling, we are always looking for business partnerships, but what better way to do that than with local business. We were able to meet new families that are coming to school and sell some merch. We felt all this was very positive and to interact with the community outside of the school but still a part of our town. Putting our face out there is going to be very beneficial. The town council has given great feedback. Mariana Wickizer, Krissy and Sheryl Roman Picado are on this new committee that we are trying out so if anyone wants to volunteer please let us know. We will be there this Saturday. Cheryl will be sending out communication to get involved so stay on the lookout.

Mr. Swan. If your students do some outside sports or activities, please email me the schedules, I love to support them. Just please don't tell them in advance in case I can not attend at the last minute.

Middle School Presentation: Lauren Zugale

Presentation is available on PTO website www.bedminsterpto.org

Closing Notes: Jenn Chang

Thank you everyone so much for your support. Next meeting is October 9, 2024

Meeting Closed at 8:21 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.