

Beechwood Knoll Elementary PTO December 2021 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, Location: Monday, December 6th, 2021 Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting called to order by: Co-Chair Kristin Campbell at 6:33 pm

Secretary's report: Given by Erin Geoghegan, Secretary. Motion to approve October meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Principal's Report: Given by Principal Janet Loftus (JL) and Assistant Principal Marisa Forrester (MF)

- Thanksgiving food drive a success.
- 230 pounds of candy collected for troops.
- In November, dealt with COVID numbers. Kindergarten class sent home as classes unfolded. Thanks to test and stay program, able to quickly identify positive cases.
- K-2 students performing beyond expectations, adjusting better than expected.
- Term one has closed. Contact school to meet with parents. Report cards going home on Tuesday, December 7th. Will also be accessible on ASPEN.
- Shifting to School Messenger instead of Instant Alert. Ms. Loftus receives a record of everyone who receives a notification and those who don't. School Messenger will be used more because of this feature.
- Pajama Day on December 23rd, last full day before Winter Break.
- Reach program for 5th graders, meet every Monday, will be holding a virtual showcase to show what they've been doing throughout the school year. School District looking to incorporate 4th graders to this program. Will invite 10-12 students per school to meet for about 90 minutes on Wednesdays to broaden the scope of who gets to see the programs.
- Holidays: learning together from Diwali to Hannukah to Christmas to Kwanzaa. JL received an email that a child questioned another child's beliefs about Christmas. Serves as a reminder that we may have different beliefs, but to respect each other's beliefs. JL encouraged parents to discuss their family's beliefs with their children and to respect other's beliefs.
- MF wanted to provide an overview of some things happening in January. Winter rounds of testing will begin. K-2 students tested via amplify. Testing method for grades 3-5 is known as Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). English Learner students will be taking Access. Middle through end of January. MAP measures progress from start of school year to January.
- MF before and afterschool clubs are concluding next week. Session II will begin in February.
- BOKS will be continuing, but will end after the Tuesday before school vacation starts.
- Not holding a Holiday Concert this year, due to COVID cases. Plan to hold a Spring concert instead.

Laura Riofrio (LR), President of ELPAC.

- Presentation from LR about the ELPAC program. Group consists of Parents and guardians of former and current English Learners in Quincy Public Schools. Advocates

for English Learners in Quincy Public Schools. Encourages more activity of parents and guardians.

- JL asked if LR would like a flyer or poster that could be handed out during report card conferences. LR offered to send information to JL for flyer.
- Looking for a representative from each school. Looking for a BKS representative.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Co-Treasurers Cori Shiner (CS) and Justine Corte (JS)

- KS advised that currently there is a balance of \$12,636.50
- JS stated that there is one (1) outstanding scholarship check from September.
- \$3000 should be moved back to BKS account.
- Apparel money that transferred via Venmo has been deposited. KC is working with Robin Franceschini to track all apparel sales and will report to JS and CS when report is complete.
- Last year, Scholastic Bucks were used to purchase new rugs for every teacher that needed one. We don't get cash and magazines aren't covered, but JL is staying mindful of what is needing in the building and what Scholastic Bucks can be used for.
- JS asked Katie Sampson about an invoice form Scholastic. Katie Sampson stated that previously, PTO would ask for one invoice and would pay from that, rather than separate invoices.
- KS asked for motion to approve paying of Scholastic invoice. Motion approved.
- In chat, question about ice skate program at Quincy Youth Arena on Wednesdays. KS responded that PTO will refrain for now due to COVID cases increasing, but will revisit at a later date.

City-wide Report: Given by City-wide Representative Katelyn Guimareas (KG)

- Social Media support for teachers as they go through their contract negotiations.
- Gina Favata posted on our PTO page about the ELPAC program.
- December 8th is next meeting and will be televised.
- December 13th at 7pm is next Citywide PTO meeting. Superintendents will be attending, sitting on a panel, answering questions, discussing racial issues happening in QPS with parents.
- KG will be attending next meeting.

President's Report: Given by Co-Presidents Kristin Campbell (KC) and Katie Sampson (KS)

- Fundraiser with Babycakes coming up. Google form to order cupcake kits. In addition to this cupcake kit fundraiser, it will be considered BKS day at Babycakes. BKS PTO receives 25% of the proceeds that day, December 17th. Flyer will be sent out shortly.
- Cocoa and Craft Night will be held after the holidays.
- Rustic Marlin signs are still available. KC would like to sell those, before ordering more. Sales were high on Election Night (over \$400). KC will contact Rustic Marlins about ordering more signs.
- Fun Run: KC stated this is moving towards being a major fundraiser. KC has consulted with other PTOs and how successful their Fun Runs are. Has contacted several companies that manage Fun Runs, but KC is leaning towards 99 Pledges.

- KC asked what scholarship amounts were awarded last year. Response was three (3) scholarships of \$500 each for each high school, for a total of six (6) \$500 scholarships.
- KC wants to bring back Fall Festival next year. Will be seeking volunteers starting this Spring.
- KS asked JL if an alternative to Cocoa and Craft Night would be for PTO to sponsor craft materials for each grade and the students create the craft during school hours. JL suggested possibly doing this for Chinese New Year.
- KC will look into an alternative payment method for Babycakes Fundraiser so that someone's Venmo account isn't tied up taking fundraiser orders.
- Cori Shiner asked about what's going on in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee. Grace and Gina are representatives for the sub-committee and stated that the committee has grown quickly. Representatives from all of the schools. Going forward, Gina will report back to the PTO on EDI Committee updates. KC will add to agenda for next meeting that we will have a report from Gina and Grace about the EDI Committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 pm

Meeting notes compiled by: Erin Geoghegan, PTO secretary