

Beechwood Knoll Elementary PTO October 2021 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, Location: Monday, October 4th, 2021 Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting called to order by: Co-Chair Kristin Campbell at 6:34 pm

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

- Principal Loftus quarantining due to son's exposure to COVID case. Not in school this week
- Grades 3 to 5 adapting well, no interruptions, active classrooms.
- K-2 students performing beyond expectations, adjusting better than expected
- Pooled testing each Wednesday, open enrollment. Families can join via open link on QPS website. Three (3) contracted nurses working with BKS nurse to conduct weekly tests. Test-and-stay has not occurred yet (pool testing results in a positive case and close contacts within building are notified). Antigen tests are conducted immediately and completed within 15 minutes, so minimal disruption to those in test-and-stay.
- Positive Behavior Incentive System (BPIS) modified for this year from last year. Some initiatives remain virtual this year. Two role models per month from each classroom, to make students feel they are being noticed positively.
- Working on bringing Beechwood Knoll Bedtime Stories back
- Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) initiatives: two adult book clubs last year. Sending homework for parents to find out what children do at home to celebrate their cultures, sending literature home with students focusing on DEI.
- MCAS and MAP season. Working with Ms. Forrest on school improvement plan to be presented in November. Looking at last year's data, this year's data, pre-pandemic data and draw from this information. 5th Graders last year did not take MCAS in 3rd grade due to shutdown of 2020. The 5th graders' first year taking MCAS was last year and half were hybrid, half were remote. Scores across the state are lower than previous MCAS results. In 2019 (pre-pandemic) BKS Science test result for 5th graders was 80% scoring in the exceeding to meeting categories. In 2021, results were 60% exceeding/meeting in science.
- MAP assessments break down exactly what children know. Can determine what students are ready for next with these assessments. JL will share analysis of data with BKS Community prior to sharing with School Committee.
- Lunches: Supply and demand is a struggle, as is delivery. Pizza day was swapped with Fishsticks today, for instance. Discussing with Superintendent's office how to notify families the morning of any menu changes for various reasons (religious restrictions, diabetics, picky eaters, allergies, etc.). Additionally, agenda books not coming in until November.
- Teacher grants through PTO to fund classroom supplies? Proposed amount of \$150 per teacher.
- Assistant Principal Forrester discussed DIBELS Testing for Kindergarten through 2nd graders. This testing method is now known as Amplify. Provides assessments in real-time. Is now digital, data/results received day after tests are given for each individual student.

- Illustrative Math new curriculum for students. Started in K, 1 and 2 this school year. Grades 3, 4 and 5 have one more year of Go! Math Curriculum before switching to Illustrative Math curriculum.
- Continuing with ELA initiatives. Quincy is recipient of GLEAM grant.
- Mrs. Hurst wrote in October newsletter about restorative justice initiatives. Culture of care, encouraging classmates to work together as a community.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Co-Treasurers Katie Sampson (KS) and Justine Corte (JS)

- KS advised that currently there is a balance of \$13, 569.75
- KS working with courts for payments received and still pending. Update in December at next PTO meeting.
- KS requested motion to approve Treasurer's Report, motion approved.

City-wide Report: Given by City-wide Representative Nate Sawtelle (NS)

- NS shared that National Guard is helping out with bussing.
- New School Committee elections coming up.
- EDI Subcommittee of Grace Young-Jae and Gina Favata representing BKS Community and QPS

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

- PTO meeting every other month, continuing with virtual platform to allow for greater turnout of families. Off months will host events for family engagement.
- Next meeting on December 6th
- Last meeting of the year, June 6th, will be changed due to conflict with NQHS graduation ceremony
- Outdoor Family Movie Night on Friday, October 8th. Busy-Bee providing projector, popcorn machine, attendant to assist with any technical issues. BKS gear on sale during event, but supply is limited. Popcorn and water offered. Bring beach chairs, bug spray, snacks, etc.
- Order forms for BKS gear will be sent to students in November.
- Collecting candy donations after Halloween from students to donate to Soldier's Angels. KC Proposes mailing candy to charitable organization and PTO covers cost of postage because drop-offs dates are not convenient.
- BKS Hockey on the half-day Wednesdays proposed, since Quincy Youth Arena is offering Learn to Skate lessons and the rink has been reopened.
- KC asked if Book Fair will be in-person or virtual this year. Asked JL for more information. JL will discuss with Superintendent, see if it can be organized during report card conferences, when people may be in the building anyway.
- KC asked if the school can be used for events (Bingo Night, Cocoa and Craft Night, etc.). JL responded that the School District is on the fence regarding these types of events. Approval/denial depends on COVID protocols and data at the time.
- KC asked about classroom pizza parties, funded by PTO. Asked JL if this was possible. JL responded that this could be tricky due to allergies, etc. Recommended instead a craft party.

- KC asked if the school would host a Trunk or Treat event for kids. Trunk decorations as a class project, competition, etc. PTOs of other school are funding cost of candy, KC proposed that BKS do the same.
- KC and KS have had discussions with other PTOs in Quincy about their fundraising events. KC learned about an opt-out from other QPS PTOs and proposed the same for BKS. With an opt-out, families can contribute to the school directly (volunteer, donate money) and incentive is a BKS magnet. This option is ideal for those who may not participate in programs such as Box Tops, AmazonSmiles and/or who may not be able to volunteer at events. This allows them to still feel as if they are contributing to the school.
- KC proposed a Brick and Beam Restaurant night as a fundraiser.
- KC proposed Babycakes cupcake fundraiser around the holidays.
- KC proposed a Fun-Run fundraiser in the Spring (suggested April).
- KC reminded meeting attendees of existing fundraising initiatives: AmazonSmiles (receive .5% of all purchase dollars), Stop & Stop A+ rewards has ended and has moved to a Food-Based Pantry. With the Food-Based Pantry, we would need volunteers and a storage base. Due to limited space at BKS, the Food-Based Pantry through Stop & Shop may not be feasible.
- KC asked JL to remind kids that Baystate Textile bin is for clothing, shoes, textiles, not tennis balls. Reports of tennis balls being placed in the textile donation bin. KC also reminded meeting attendees to bag donations for the bin.
- KC discussed Box Tops fundraiser.
- KC discussed GiveButter, a platform for receiving payments for fundraisers, as opposed to using a PTO members' personal Venmo account. Proposed using the Babycakes cupcake fundraiser as a trial for this platform.
- KC reminded PTO of TerraCycle and other recycling programs. KC turned floor to Grace Young-Jae (GYJ). GYJ discussed various programs utilized by BKS PTO for fundraising efforts.
- KC mentioned question in the chat from a parent asking if BKS will be having the turkey trot. JL confirmed BKS will have Turkey Trot.
- KC discussed funding candy for parents who bring their cars to Trunk or Treat. Cori Shiner suggested that PTO purchase candy and hand it to parents, rather than taking receipts from families for reimbursements. Motion agreed upon. Discussed hosting the Trunk or Treat on Friday or Saturday prior to Halloween. PTO agreed on Friday, October 29th at 6pm, end time of 7pm. Options for those with allergies (i.e. – teal buckets).
- JL discussed focusing fundraiser on a particular project/item, such as replacing the school projectors. KC proposed focusing the Fun Run event on raising money to replace the school's projectors.
- Question in chat asking if school was on election day. JL confirmed that there was.

Next Meeting: Monday December 6th, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:41 pm

Meeting notes compiled by: Erin Geoghegan, PTO secretary