



Birch Meadow Elementary School PTO
General PTO Meeting Minutes
Library, 6:00 pm
Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018

Attendance: Julia Hendrix, Dita Doherty, Mariola Jenkins, Ashley Quinn, Danielle Slater, Melissa Henri, Amy Field, Brandi Torchia, and approximately 42 additional parents.

Meeting information can be found in slides using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sGG_hoO5EB2KFFq4juhmj0IKJ_rtTeIoTieClcOUY4w/edit?usp=sharing

Additional Meeting Information

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by Dita Doherty.

Dita Doherty

Welcome, Introductions, Presentation of PTO Mission Statement and Slides

Julia Hendrix - Principal's Report

- Discussion of performance residencies with Melissa Henri - Kimberly Robertson from Creative Arts is working on the responsible core value with 5th graders
- Workshop for Paula Falvey to increase her skill set
- Principal's wishlist - Book storage for classrooms and shared spaces to support the volume of books needed for Reader's Workshop

Katerina Papp - Fundraising Chair - Organizing an Adult Social (non-fundraiser)

Treasurer's Report – Amy Field

- Presentation of 2018-2019 budget for approval, direct donation
- Amy makes motion to approve presented budget for the 2018-2019 school year. Unanimous YES vote.

Danielle Slater - Communications

- PTO Survey results - 99 total responses. Survey will be sent to parents annually.

Heidi Murray - 2nd Grade Classroom Teacher

- Heidi attended the meeting to share the benefits of the enrichment activities and how they enhance classroom lessons and curriculum. "Enrichment is awesome!"

Jarra Carney

- Welcome Committee based on survey feedback. Incorporate a sensory friendly portion to Spooky Fun Fair.
- Welcome for new families and others looking to meet new families at the Birch Meadow playground. Sunday October 21, 2018, 12:00 pm.

Ashley Quinn - Vice President

- Spooky Fun Fair - over 100 volunteers needed, 20 high schoolers and 20 middle schoolers

New Board Position -

- Dita Doherty makes motion to add Enrichment Position to the PTO Executive Board. Motion is seconded. Unanimous YES vote to add Enrichment position.

Parent Questions:

1. Why was 5th grade overnight cancelled? Too big of a group and trouble with accommodations/space. New plan is for students to be divided into groups according to MS assignment for a day long activity.
2. Is there going to be a chorus? Currently, not at this time. Mrs. Steiger is going to do recorder group again.
3. Where can parents send ideas for fundraising? birchmeadowpto@gmail.com
4. Have we purchased all of our school Technology needs? What has happened with the smart boards mentioned last year? We have purchased the new iPads for the library, as voted for last year, and Principal Hendrix is requesting smart board replacements from the district this year, as there will be others end of life soon (they were all bought at same time).

Next General PTO Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2018

- Julia will present MCAS information
- Speaker from Understanding Disabilities
- Health and Wellness speaking - Chairs Lisa McCusker and Stephanie Robinson
- Setting dates for winter fundraisers like LaserCraze, Family Ice Skating, and non fundraisers Intercultural Potluck and Adult Social Trivia night - Fundraising chair Katerina Papp
- Fundraiser highlight: Boxtops and Shutterfly storefront - Chairs Katy LaPlant and Katie Crocker

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Prepared by: Brandi Torchia, 10/03/18