

Birchwood PTO Meeting
Wednesday March 8, 2017
6:30PM
Birchwood Conference Room.

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Members Present: Anne Burger (Secretary and parent); Deb Berndt (principal), Jan Brown (co president and parent), Suzanne Brooksby (VP Programs and Services and parent), Brian Meservey (parent), Rosemarie Perez Jaquith-BOE president, Alicia Galimore (Parent), Bill Anders (Craig principal), Amy Santandrea (teacher), Maureen Younkin (treasurer), Laura Salinetti (parent)

I. Call to Order:
By Jan at 6:30PM

II. President's Report: (Jan Brown)
- 2 New items in new business to discuss later in meeting.

III. Approval of February minutes: Suzanne made recommendation, Brian Seconded. Minor corrections to be made.

- IV. Officer Reports:
- A. VP Fundraising (report):
- Mixed bags and gift cards will be sent home on 3/24.
 - Researching a Mothers Day Sale. Suzanne said they were looking into using the same vendor as the Mums.
- B. Treasurer Report:
- Financials were reviewed.
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report. Brian made the motion. Suzanne Seconded.
- C. VP Programs & Services (Suzanne Brooksby):
- ASEP went well.
 - Staff luncheon was a huge success-Mexican Flair
 - Friday is Fun Fair. If there aren't enough volunteers, Face painting may not be able to occur. It's Awesone 80's Theme!!
 - Niska Day is May 20th. Birchwood is doing the float. John Calabrese and Charlie will build it. Need to contact Jeff Dutcher. Will look to have an afterschool painting session at the end of April. Need slogan ideas for the float. No kids will be on the float.
 - Discussed putting out a flyer as to why we fundraise as well as call for volunteers.

V. Principal's Report:

- NYS ELA tests are coming up (Tues/Wed/Thurs). Math Tests will be on (Tues/Wed/Thurs) in May. Early June will be the 4th grade Science Tests (5/24 & 6/5).
- Bike ride for missing children will use Birchwood as a stop for the 4th year. Will need help with Breakfast sandwiches in September.

VI. Teacher's Liaison Report :(Amy Santandrea)

- Thank you for the wonderful luncheon.
- 3rd grade-Country study
- 4th grade-Biographies and Entrepreneurial project on 6/7
- 5th grade- States Fair and will design a T shirt
- 5th graders will help out with PAL program.

VII: Growing up in the Digital/Social Media Age (Bill Anders, Principal Craig School):

- Mr. Anders discussed doing another survey to compare to the survey done 5 years ago. What are some benefits to doing the survey? What more do we as parents want to know. Suzanne brought up having no devices in bedrooms and computers in common areas of house. Brian brought up Norton Family protection which puts restrictions on devices and will list browsing history. What do we know about the dangers to young children and how do we know about "ghost apps"? Perhaps a forum could be helpful and put a link on the website. Any more ideas can be forwarded to Bill Anders : wanders@niskyschools.org (518-377-0156).

VIII: Old Business:

- Nominating Committee:discussed that someone was possibly interested in a position. Anne, Suzanne, Jill and Jan terms are up this year.

IX:. New Business:

A: Nutrition on Weekends (NOW). Jan brought up NOW which would help out some families on the weekend with nutritional foods. The presentation was originally asking for a \$250. Kids helping kids and would volunteer for the program. Nothing can be done over the summer. Perhaps add another restaurant fundraiser and the proceeds could go towards this program.

B: PTO Council 501 ©(3) status and future of Birchwood tax exempt status. District PTO treasurer, Lisa, does the inputting of treasurers reports. Many things are very inconsistent and it takes upwards of 20 hours to sort things out. IRS requires uniformity. There are 3 options:

- (a) District hire an accountant every month.
- (b) PTO file own 501 © 3 paperwork (our own tax returns)
- (c) Become affiliated with the National PTA
- (d) Perhaps not be tax exempt

Discussed having a meeting with the treasurer with all the treasurers to discuss what is needed.

VIII: Concluding comments:

Adjournment: Jan motioned to adjourn, Suzanne seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM
Submitted by Anne Burger. Next meeting: Wednesday 4/12/17 at 6:30PM.



