

Agenda
Birchwood PTO Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 9:00 am
Birchwood Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Co-President's Report (JoMarie Ethier, Jan Brown)
3. Officer Reports
 - a. VP Programs and Services (Suzanne Brooksby)
 - b. VP Fundraisers (Jill Appert)
 - c. Treasurer (Brenda Leto)
 - d. Secretary (Anne Burger)
4. Principal's Report (Deb Berndt)
5. Teachers' Liaison Report (Amy Santandrea, Kathleen Vermilyea)
6. Committee Reports (See Attachment).
7. Board of Education Report (See Attachment) (Kevin Laurilliard)
8. PTO to Board of Ed Liaison's Report (Anne Burger)
9. Old Business
 - a. Monster Mash
 - b. Fall Fundraising
10. New Business
 - a. Red Ribbon Week
 - b. Future of eDirectory
 - c. School Enhancements
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting November 4, 2015 6:00pm

1. Committee Reports

- a. Yearbook. The Yearbook Committee has unanimously agreed on a cover for this year's Yearbook and it has been submitted to Lifetouch. The online pages are setup and page designers should have received an email for their login registration with Lifetouch to be able to upload and design their photos and pages.

The committee is still missing a designer for Mr. Parisi's class. The committee is also still looking for 5th grade page designers for the specialty section of Latin America and the States Fair. Sonya Ward will reach out this week to Homeroom parents as well as class room parents of those classes to see if a photographer/page designer can be found. There is a record for the 1st day of school photos with over 100+ photos submitted *in printable format*.

- b. 1000 Book Club. The Committee met and went through all the bags that are in the building.. More than half of the bags have yet to be returned. With the 1000 Book Kick-off event approaching, the Committee has sent out a request to all participants that if they have been holding bags for more than two weeks, to please return them as soon as possible.

- c. Arts in Ed committee. The Committee has scheduled the following events:

- Nov 23 @ 1pm - Kids in Cultures program of folktales from around the world
- May 18 @ 1pm - Flame the Band - A band made of youths with mental or physical challenges
- June 9 @ 9:30 - Birds of Prey for the 4th graders in classroom

The following event is pending final confirmation and will be held at the end of Feb: Opera Saratoga- Operation Superpower. This program will focus on showing kids how to find their own superpower

- d. Visiting Author. Laura Mirkovic and Soyoung Mok met with Kate Kirkpatrick about the visiting author program. They are waiting to hear about a date confirmation for this spring event. Kate met with the other librarians in the district and is working to have the author visit 3+ schools as a cost savings. Laura and Soyoung will provide Kate with the support she needs to make this event a success. Soyoung plans to be on site the day the author visits.

- e. Junior Achievement.. Laura Mirkovic is collecting parent contact information from teachers and currently has 5 responses. Laura will reach out to the remaining teachers this week to collect remaining information and coordinate with Junior Achievement.

- f. Media. The following news releases were issued:

- news release was done on the playground ribbon cutting. Pictures and story were in Gazette as well as the district web site.
- news release and pictures is in process regarding gardening project and recent donation to Regional Food Bank.

- g. Nature Park Update: The Nature Park Committee is working on the following projects:
- No changes have been made with the shed project.
 - The Nature Trail Story Walk is up.
 - The last of the carrots have been harvested and donated to the regional food bank.
 - A plan is in progress to cover the strawberries for the winter with the current first graders.
 - The Fall programs have been developed and permission slips have been distributed (K-2 art project on October 21 and 3-5 mapping the trail on October 28th).
 - The committee is collaborating and offering assistance to kindergarten teachers with their ideas for planting a "rainbow garden."

2. Board of Education Report- **Board of Education Meeting Summary - September 24, 2015**

The Board of Education held a special meeting on Thursday, September 24, to take action on three items:

- Middle school childcare*** - The Board approved TSL Adventures to provide before and afterschool childcare at Iroquois and Van Antwerp middle schools for families who choose to participate. The program is expected to begin in January. A survey conducted last year showed that parents were interested in the availability of the service. A committee reviewed the three proposals that were submitted using criteria that incorporated parent survey feedback, including cost and programming. TSL will lease the space from the district to run the program. Middle school families should look for more information from TSL in the weeks ahead.
- Energy efficient lighting*** - The Board awarded a bid to ERSI Energy Smart Lighting, Inc. to replace 452 halide and fluorescent fixtures at the 1301 Hillside Avenue transportation facility with 383 LED lighting fixtures. A National Grid energy efficiency program will provide \$120,000 of the cost of the project. The net cost to the district will be \$65,000. This will result in annual energy cost savings.
- Niskayuna Rowing trip*** - The Board approved a Niskayuna Rowing trip to the Head of the Riverfront Regatta in Hartford, Connecticut on October 4, with the costs to be covered by program fees. Best of luck to our students!

PTO Meeting

10/1/15

Suzanne Brooksby

Katherine Kirpatrick

Laura Miriani

Katie Cowley-Cooper

Deb Berndt

JoMarie Ethier

Jan Brown

Jill Appert

Anne Berger

LEARNING BY DOING

