

Birchwood PTO Meeting  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
6:30PM  
Birchwood Conference Room

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Members Present: Anne Burger( Recording secretary and parent); Jan Brown (co president and parent); JoMarie Ethier (Co President and parent); Debra Berndt (Principal); Jill Appert (VP Fundraising and Parent );Erin Cassady-Dorion (Parent); Kathleen Vermilyea (teacher and liaison); Katie Cowley- Cooper (parent, Nature park); Brian Meservey (parent); Millie Gnatek (parent and yearbook committee); Brenda Leto (treasurer); Maureen Younkin (parent); Jonathan Younkin

Call to Order:

By JoMarie Ethier at 6:35PM

Approval of March Minutes:

Motion to approve . Jan Brown made the motion, Brenda Leto seconded. Motion passed.

Co-President's Report ( JoMarie Ethier, Jan Brown):

- Staff luncheon went well. Pasta bar was nice. Suzanne Brooksby and Fran Hill cooked.
- Fun Fair was great with Sock Hop theme.

Officer Reports

VP Programs and Services (Suzanne Brooksby):

- Katie-ice cream social-donations are coming in. No baked goods this year. 2 sheet cake donations for Ice Cream social on June 3rd.
- Arts In Ed:Flame the Band is coming soon and Visiting author Jason Chin coming up.
- Garden starting this week. Story walk. Pine Bush coming back for grades 3-5 in June. Cannot do asparagus in the ground due to how far down it needs to go. Perhaps a raised bed. 16 kids signed up for Garden club. Tim Cook is supposed to be doing the Outdoor classroom next week during Spring break.

VP Fundraising (Jill Appert):

- Blaze Fundraiser raised \$170. Spring fundraiser to be returned today. Photography fund raiser- 5/13 & 5/20 rain date will be going out tomorrow.
- Will try to do a Panera, Chipolite, Sweet Frog or Smashburger fundraiser
- Ayelada Yogurt said they could do a possible fundraiser.

Treasurer (Brenda Leto):

- Fun Fair raised \$1700 and after spending \$769 for supplies, made about \$1000. Approval of report: Erin made the motion and Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary (Anne Burger):

The PTO minutes are now on the website.

Principal's Report (Deb Berndt):

- New York State testing is moving along nicely. There is no time limit this year
- 3rd graders will be doing the Reading Field Test in June in the computer lab.

- PLC Committee met last night
- April 20 is Kindergarten Parent night.

Teachers' Liaison Report ( Kathleen Vermilyea):

Mrs. Vermilyea:

- Thank you for the luncheon, it was very good.
- K-Doing their water unit
- 1-Scotia Museum visited for the Simple Machines. Information writing on Penguins.
- 2- Grew Pea Plants and Bean Plants.
- 3-Had Mexico and Italy Feast
- 4- Colonial Day with candle dipping and using quill
- 5- Designed their Tshirts. Working on their fundraiser and learning about different languages in middle school. The 4th and 5th grade play Wizard of Oz will be 4/21 at 7PM.

Board of Education Report (Kevin Laurilliard): No report.

PTO to Board of Ed Liaison's Report (Anne Burger): No report, did attend a couple of meetings. Several divisions did presentations. Budget was adopted.

Concluding comment:

- 2 more referrals for mini grants.
- Teachers are using grants-1st grade used one for math.
- Mrs. Berndt will be getting a Birchwood Twitter account.
- District is looking to redesign the web site to get push notifications and/or classroom messenger.
- ACES will be 5/4 at 10AM . Bananas and water are needed.
- Ride for Missing Children will be 9/30 breakfast stop
- Visiting author is 5/3
- Niska Day is 5/21 Let's have a Fiesta
- Slate of Officers:  
Maureen Younkin-Treasurer  
Erin Cassidy-Dorion- Co President  
Millie & Sonya proposed having an additional Chair next year for year book since they will be leaving in 2 years.
- Budget 2016-2017 is 5/17
- Brian Meservey wanted to know if families could have more than one packet due to the prizes involved. Verdoy Fire department did fundraisers at Pizzeria Uno and it was 20% of the bill and it was all weekend.
- Book Fair --Feeling Groovy--5/27
- Anne Burger will not be at 5/11 meeting---someone else needs to take notes.

Adjournment: Jan Brown motioned to adjourn. Brian Meservey seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM. Submitted by Anne Burger

Next Meeting Wednesday May 11, 2016 at 6:30PM

## Committee Reports:

Arts in Ed: The Birchwood PTO Arts in Education Committee is excited to welcome FLAME the Band to our school on Wednesday, May 18th from 1-2PM! To learn more about this awesome group, check out <http://www.flametheband.com/>  
(Cheryl Gerstler)

Pre-K program: The program ended last Thursday. Today, we're having a practice bus ride. We started the program with about a dozen of children. People from flex zone joined eventually and the number fluctuated. Our next step is to get together and discuss what we'll do on K-screening day. (Soyoung Mok)

Visiting author- Visiting author is going great. Soyoung and Laura have been working with Kate to complete bulletin boards, get book orders completed and set up the Visiting Author day, May 3.  
(Laura Mirkovic)

Junior achievement- all volunteers have been placed and have coordinated with teachers to complete their program. Katie Cooper is working with teachers to get pictures of parent volunteers where she can. (Laura Mirkovic)

PLC- Saša and Laura Mirković worked with Mrs. Berndt and the PLC steering committee to develop the parent piece of the "community values pie". Two parent sessions were well attended and value statements have been drafted. Next up, action commitments. (Laura Mirkovic)

Yearbook: ad sales for the yearbook: 41 at \$15 == \$615. yearbook sales -- 135 yearbooks -- \$3,024.25 Profits come from ads. (Millie Gnatek)

Ice Cream Social-Donations for ice cream, toppings, and bounce house have been confirmed. Solicited for coffee, popsicles, and whip cream. Have some volunteers to face paint. Will put out sign up for staff in main office the last week in April, first week in May. (Katie Cowley-Cooper)

## Nature Park:

- 1) Borrowing Miss Rumphius story walk from the Pine Bush for Earth week. Have contacted teachers to let them know and offered to assist taking classes on the trail that week. Will be helping Mrs. Leamy take her first graders on the trail.
- 2) Pine Bush staff will be doing our spring program this year, an ecology hike on June 6th and June 7th after school. The cost will be \$3 per student. Will use our budget to cover the cost.
- 3) Volunteers helped dig the new asparagus bed and extend existing butterfly garden bed.

4)Sixteen students are currently registered for the garden program. Concerned that lack of interest may be a result of not providing definitive dates for events. Plan is to send an email blast extending registration and letting parents know that we will try to have garden events Tuesdays or Fridays, but that is subject to change based on weather and my work schedule. We will also let parents know that their child does not have to attend every event if there are scheduling conflicts. (Katie Cowley-Cooper)