

## Birchwood PTO Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2016

### Present:

JoMarie Ethier, PTO CO-president

Jan Brown, PTO co-president

Debra Berndt, Principal

Sonya Ward, parent

Maureen Younkin, parent

Catherine Cowley-Cooper, parent

Kathleen Vermilyea, teacher

Amy Santandrea, teacher

Brenda Leto, treasurer

Suzanne Brooksby, VP Programs and Services

Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, District Business and Finance Director

Cosimo Tangorra, Superintendent

Call to order at 6:35.

April meeting minutes reviewed. Motion to approve Brenda Leto, seconded Sonya Ward, all in favor, no decline. Motioned Approved.

Co President Report: JoMarie Ethier and Jan Brown

-Of the \$1000 budgeted for Teacher Mini-Grants approx \$500 spent to date, more applications received.

-Visiting Author, Jason Chin, was incredible. Children reported at home that they were impressed.

Nature Park Classroom--install was completed over break and it looks great. Kudos to Tim Cook, Birchwood alum as he completed his Eagle Scout project.

-ACES day was a great success. The fifth graders did a great job leading the exercise in each of the other grades. The weather didn't fully cooperate, some classes remained in side, others did run outside. The bananas and water provided by the PTO were welcomed snacks.

-Assembly Flame the Band is scheduled for May 18th at 1pm.

-Jan and JoMarie attended the PTO Council meeting earlier this week. The district is using a Live calendar for next year. Things may be added or changed as the year goes on. Council Treasurer is recommending each PTO obtain a Debit card to use for all tax exempt purchases. Jan has suggested we set up for two members of PTO board receive notification each time the card is used. The District PTO calendar meeting is June 9.

VP Programs and Services--JoMarie for Suzanne (who arrived later)

-Tulips from Red Ribbon Day are up and are beautiful reminding the children of the promise they made in the fall to make good choices for their bodies.

-Niska day is the 21st. We'll have candy for the children to toss. To support the Fiesta theme we will have paper flowers for the girls to wear in their hair and sunglasses for the boys to wear. Also we will have a few maracas that can be passed around and a wagon with water bottles. Parents will be asked to meet their marchers at the high school.

-Events coming up in June--Ice Cream Social and BOGO book fair.

-The Sign Up Genius is up for next year. There are lots of very involved parents who will be leaving Birchwood for Iroquois after next year. Suzanne is looking to recruit heavily from the K-3 families so they are able to pair with seasoned parents over the next year to prepare to take over programs.

VP Fundraising reported by JoMarie for Jill Appert who could not attend:

-5th grade legacy fundraiser is scheduled for June 12, 8-10 am pancake breakfast.

-Will set up another restaurant fundraiser for June

-The Ashley Brown Fundraiser has not met the minimum for the session. The minimum is 15 but 9 signed up. There is rain in the forecast for Friday. Considering rescheduling.

Treasurer report, Brenda Leto

Hard copy of monthly finances presented, motion to accept made by Catherine Cowley-Cooper, seconded by Sonya Ward, all were in favor. Motioned Approved.

Principal, Deb Berndt, updated the group of the Professional Learning Community sub-group progress. She read the commitments as they are a work in progress.

Teacher Liason Report:

Amy Santandrea:

3rd grade--butterfly larvae have arrived, starting Country suitcase project, Field test for NYSCC test in June,

4th grade--entrepreneur and humanitarian project underway. Children creating a product that they will sell at an event at the high school on June 7th, 5:30-7:30, and profits will go to charity chosen--Jack's House. Children making road maps to the Revolution.

5th grade--Special Field Trip to Mi Sch for a Simulated Space Mission. Grant allows Birchwood and Hillside 5th graders to attend. Kicking off Robotics unit today. Junior Achievement is winding down.

Kathleen Vermilyea:

Kindergarten--celebrated Mother's Day Tea

1st grade--Chicks project started, incubators in the classrooms.

2nd grade--Immersed in Mealworms. Making mazes to discover which food mealworm prefers. Working on non-fiction writing.

Dr. Tangorra presented the District Budget for the next school year. (Please refer to District Website for slides) Also discussed Strategic Plan for the district. Discussion included the increase in the percentage of Nisky students living at poverty level increasing from 5% to 12%. Budget is \$80 million with an increase of 3%, tax levy increase of .41%. 64% of the budget supports student learning.

Slate of officers for 2016-2017 presented--Erin Cassady-Dorion for Co-President, Maureen Younkin for Treasurer. Motion to approve made by Catherine Cowley-Cooper, seconded by Sonya Ward, all were in favor. Motioned Approved.

Budget for 2016-2017 presented and reviewed by all. Motion to approve made by Sonya Ward, seconded by Catherine Cowley-Cooper, all were in favor. Motioned Approved.

JoMarie and Jan asked that all please get out and vote next Tuesday for the District Budget and Board of Ed elections.

8:00pm motion to adjourn made by Catherine Cowley-Cooper, seconded by Sonya Ward, all approved and meeting was adjourned.

