

Abbey Lane PTA Minutes 10/21/2021

Call To Order: Suanne Gallina welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Approval of Minutes: Janette Ruddy asks if everyone had time to look over the minutes from our September meeting. She asks for a motion to approve the minutes. Jenn Lohmann and Diana O'Kane approve minutes. Minutes will be filed as written.

Treasurers' Report: Amy Hoffmann states that books were audited by Kerry Villaume and were found to be in good order. We had an opening balance of 31,525.19 activity of 7,142.37 and some expenses of 1,080.57 and closing balance of 37,586.89. Money market opening balance of 5,154.64.

1st VP Report: Jeanine Quigley

Apparel: Janette Ruddy mentions that apparel is still an ongoing sale, that sale orders can be found in virtual backpacks and on school pages. We have also gotten more stock on all sizes, and we will have a table at the Fall/Boo Festival.

Specialty Apparel: Jeanine Quigley mentions that all orders from our specialty apparel, i.e. blankets, tie-dye sweatshirts, etc have been put in. They were to be in this week but have been delayed. As soon as they are in, they will be given to children to bring home. Thank you to everyone who supported that fundraiser.

Gift Wrap: Nicole LoPinto could not be here but wanted to let everyone know that the fundraiser is going very well. Meadowfarms is not just gift wrap, it also home items and specialty items. This is not just for students. You can register your child and this will make the link shareable. Anyone can order. This is one of our well received fundraisers.

Picture Day: Beth Lyons mentions that picture day went very well. Pictures went into teachers' mailboxes today. They have gone home today, or tomorrow. Picture retake will be 11/17/2021. If you are going to be doing retakes, take out class pictures and return the rest of the picture packet.

Monthly Fundraiser: Electric Scooter Laura Hickey asks Dr. Maurer to pick a ticket for our first monthly fundraiser winner. Heather is our Winner.

Annual Fundraiser: Laura Hickey mentions that they will be reaching out to volunteers soon. They will be having a meeting soon, most likely after break. Theme is masquerade

Book Fair: Erica Kerr mentions that the book fair will be 11/3/21-11/5/21. It will be held outside weather permitting. It will be in the gym or APR if it can not be held outside. Erica is currently looking for volunteers for the fair.

Fall/Boo Festival: We will be having our first bake sale. If you want to donate it needs to be store bought, pre-packaged baked goods. They need to be brought to school that day. Thank You to Katie for chairing.

Cards for a Cause: Christine Kennedy mentions that it is a new fundraiser for this year. It is a box of 30 cards for \$30. You can get different occasion boxes. You can find information on virtual backpack. We will also have a table at the festival.

Pie Sale: Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale held through Entenmann's Bakery in East Meadow. We will use a google form, choose what you want. Pick up will be at Abbey Lane this year

Secret Store: We will be having a secret store this year in mid December, however we are using a new vendor this year. Looking for a new chair, and volunteers for this event

Poinsettia: We are still looking into having the sale, we have heard there may be a problem with the crops. We will keep you updated.

2nd VP Report: Laura Hickey

5th Grade: The banner has been ordered and has been posted on the page and on the remind app. Shirts will be ordered by the end of this week early next week. We are just waiting for a reply from the printer. Currently have 2 fundraisers going on now for 5th grade. Chocolate which ends 10/29/21 and Adventureland. If you want to go to Adventureland please fill out google form by 10/23/21. We need to have a head count to see if we need to cancel or reschedule. If anyone wants to sign up for the yearbook committee please see me or Kerry.

3rd VP Report: Beth Lyons

Elementary/Secondary: Holly Kennedy virtual meeting started off saying they are trying to get back to normal as much as possible. Field trips, dance/gymnastics programs, girl scouts, boy scouts are back in the building. Cultural Arts getting back into building as much as possible. Touch on virtual instruction if you are quarantined. Elementary students get 1 hour per day of virtual instruction. Parent teacher conference may be virtual or in person, will be decided next week. Lead Program will be a full year program, broken into 3 different sections: Prevention in fall, Mental health in winter and Health in spring. Need a rep contact Todd Winch. Mentions DEI and the focus in the district.

Food Service: Jeanine Quigley went to the first food service meeting. The first thing they wanted to stress is to please be patient with the last minute menu changes. They are having supply chain issues. Please expect the change, trying to keep as close to the menu as possible. They tried new Mozzarella cheese sticks and went well. At elementary level they will be trying baked ravioli option. Hoping as the year goes on they changes will be less and things go smoother. Free lunch menu is extended, however there are still ala carte options at snack bar that require you to send in money or add to school bucks.

Health/Safety: No report. If you do have any questions please bring them to Liz Guerrier or myself.

Septa: Amy Hoffmann is SEPTA president, they had their first meeting on 9/18/21 and went very well. They had 2 speakers from South Oaks who spoke about children with all different types of disabilities and what they can do to help. Next meeting is 1/24/2022.

Transportation: Alyssa is our rep and we had our first meeting. Updates to cameras are coming in Jan/Feb. Suffolk has already, Nassau county still working with vendors. Discussed sibling policy, siblings do not have to sit together on the bus unless parents request. School bus driver on our route. They held a job fair 2 weeks ago, the issue is the CDL license is required. The training takes a while. They are implementing a new system on ConnectED. IF the bus is going to be more than 5 minutes late you will get a call. Starting in the next week or two.

Reflections: Erica Kerr mentions that reflections is a nationwide PTA that promotes art and literature. This year's theme is "I will change the world by" . Erica will be working with teachers To get submissions. They can be anything, a story, movie song, it's an open ended project. I will need volunteers to help co-chair and also to help judge. Christine Kennedy adds that she brought her daughter Kayla who won last year.

Fall/Boo Festival: Beth Lyons thanks everyone for all their donations for the festival. If you still want to donate, we need for the bake sale. We are looking forward to a great festival. We have a lot of fun things set up.

Corresponding Secretary: Erica Kerr no report

Delegate Report: Rebecca Mccrea went to council meeting on 9/27/21 where PTA Council president Michelle Gartleman stepped down Vice President Mary Genga became President. The 2nd vp will remain vacant. She attended the BOE meeting on 10/13 where Dr. Toni McDonald put in her retirement effective 8/22/22. They are reviewing who will fill her seat. Students from the middle and high school thanked the BOE for all their hard work over the last 18 months. Dr. Carver made a presentation on social and emotional support. Insurance working on a comprehensive list of vendors for cultural arts to enter our buildings. Anyone who will be face to face with kids for more than 40 minutes will need to be vaccinated or a neg covid such as a class parent.

Holly Kennedy also attended a council meeting. Adopt a family is coming back this year. Honorary Life will be virtual, nominating letters will be sent in soon. NYS Annual Convention coming up.

Special Committee:

Bylaws: Our bylaws are set to expire at the end of this year and renew in January. Three years ago our bylaws were changed in the area of our nominating committee. They were changed from 3 executive board members and 2 general members to 2 executive and 3 general members. If you look at other units in the area we are not in alignment with them. With all that has gone on with pandemic the executive board has voted to go back to 3 executive and 2 general. You need to be a paid PTA member in order to vote. There are copies of the bylaws in the back, on our pta page and Levittown School page if you want to take a look or have any questions.

Membership: Kerry states we currently have 176 members. We have 659 students and 1 pending. If you want to have your voice heard, make decisions, vote you need to be a paid PTA member.

Audit: No Report

Nominating: No Report we are going to circle back after we vote on bylaws

Standing Committees:

Cultural Arts: Erica mentions now that Boces has sorted out insurance issues we are in the process of getting cultural arts back into building. She is working with Colleen and Holly to set up events for grade level k-4 and school wide. School wide can be tricky but we will do what we can.

Principals' Report: Dr. Maurer wants to speak to different theme, and may go off script. Going to speak to the recurring theme of "patience". That is an important theme. It ties in what I wanted to talk about. With the exception of 9/11 this is the hardest year I have ever had. Other teachers, and administrators across the board feel the same. They thought last year was going to be the toughest year. We are all feeling it, teachers, families, kids. Our job as a school is to educate children, that is not just the curriculum. It is how to be citizens, productive members of society. Kids are having tough times, family and people are having tough times. I think it's a

direct result of the pandemic. Our 4th graders haven't had a normal year since 1st grade, 2nd grade has never had a normal year. Some of our kids have largely no experience with socialization. We have talked about limiting screen time, when you are a remote student you are only using screen time. Kids have largely depended on devices over the last 18 months. Kids are now watching you-tube, tik tok. They do not know how to resolve conflict. They are having issues with hands, words, behavior etc. Dr.Maurer would like to share his philosophy and the school's philosophy. The goal is to teach the kids the right way to handle things, change behavior. This takes time, consistency of behavior. Giving them time to learn the strategies, time to practice. Never had a philosophy of giving kids the hammer, historically that has not worked. We try to teach kids, what could you have done differently, what could have been better. Taking away things doesn't help them. We have a great support staff, helping behind the scenes, you do not know all the things that go on here. Something has to give how we approach things, how we handle mental health and the stigma that goes along with it . I ask for patience and keep our message consistent. With everything going on in this world right now we need to be on the same page. Our world is a crazy place right now, I will make all my decisions on what is best for the kids.I welcome and appreciate phone calls, if something doesn't seem right or you need to talk. We need to help kids, they are going through alot, I can't cut a kid off because they made a mistake. We have a special building, our PTA does so much for our kids, they care so much.

Old business: No Report

New Business:

Convention is coming up,sending a representative from the unit to vote on resolutions. Since its not a typical year we have the proposed resolutions for you to vote on if you are a paid PTA member. You are welcome to grab a packet, vote and hand back in.

Question for Dr.Maurer. With the vaccine coming up is there anything we need to know. He has not heard anything specific to it yet from the district or from state.

Another question: I have a kindergartener. I plan on getting him vaccinated. Should I keep him home? Dr. Maurer says let us know how he is, he will be marked absent,

Susanne encourages anyone to go to BOE meetings. They are very informative.

Do you have to get a covid test to come back to school if you are out from getting the vaccination?

Beth Lyons encourages you to bring these questions to health/safety or BOE they will get you the answers you need. They are very helpful.

Dr. Maurer says the state is very good about bringing news down to district level.

Susanne says as always please bring any questions to us or to Dr. Maurer

Adjourned: Susanne Gallina adjourns meeting at 8:03pm

Meeting notes written by: Janette Ruddy

