



Meeting Minutes

BOOTH FREE SCHOOL PTO

Date: December 16th, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

Officers

Co-President: Jessica Granger

Co-President: Cara Abraham

Vice President: Megan Hodge

Treasurer: Brenda McGuire

Secretary: Donna Laskowski

Meeting Called to Order By: Cara Abraham

Time: 6:32pm

Minutes from 11/18/20 were read and accepted.

Attendance: Cara Abraham, Donna Laskowski, Cathy Colella, Cathleen Brooks, Amy Testani, Melissa Kamkar

Committee Reports

Principal's Report / Student Council Report: Speaker / Cathy Colella

- (Attached)

Treasurer's Report: Speaker / Brenda McGuire

- No new activity to report

Enrichment Programs: Speaker / Meagan Hodge

- All enrichment programs on pause – We will continue to reassess feasibility and interest level from teachers in January.



Old Business

Spirit Wear: Deliveries of Spirit Wear arrived and were distributed on 12/16, taken home by students.

Holiday Trees: The Trees were beautifully decorated by classes and donated to seniors at Bernhardt Meadows.

Playground Additions: Snow block makers will be added to playground equipment in January. Blacktop stencils will be installed in the Spring.

New Business

Square 1 Art: PTO will sponsor Square 1 Art with Mrs. Manley in January. Orders will be due in February and ship-to-home delivery forecasted for late March.

Raising Spirits! PTO suggested implementation of a school-wide “spirits-raising” event. Cara and Cathy are collaborating on the framework for a school-wide reading challenge coinciding with Dr. Sues’ birthday.

Meeting Adjourned At: 6:51 | Motion to adjourn by: Cara Abraham

Minutes Compiled by: Donna Laskowski



Booth Free PTO Principal's Report – 12/16/20

Cathy G. Colella, Principal and Cathleen Brooks, Head Teacher




1. Two workshops have been scheduled to support parents/guardians with remote learning. Today, December 16th a virtual Zoom meeting was held for K and grade 1 parents from 5:30-6:30 to learn how to support their children using Seesaw and tomorrow evening, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. a virtual workshop will be held to learn how to navigate google classroom for parents/guardians for grade 2 – 5.
2. Report cards were available electronically on December 11th. This is a good time to set goals with your child(ren).
3. Our school community thanks the Washington's Lions Club for providing eye screening for our students and for making our school a part of the Lions KidSight USA initiative.
4. With the winter weather approaching and the increase in COVID cases in our state, the district and I want to be prepared. In the event of a delayed opening or a school closure, a district phone call will be made through *School Messenger* by 5:30 a.m. to families. Announcements will also be posted on our district website, and with local news outlets. New this year is the ability to have virtual snow days if possible. That determination will be made by the superintendent. We are also preparing for Distance Learning should we need to do so. You have received a letter from me explaining all of this along with schedules for both Distance Learning and Virtual Snow Days. Thursday may be our first virtual snow day.
5. BFS is supporting two senior projects. We are collecting new baby blankets for Hailey Lasky's project raising awareness for Gastroschisis, a rare birth defect. Your contribution is very much appreciated. The second senior project is in support of Jillian Cody. She is working with Bernhardt Meadows and assisting our local seniors. Thanks to the PTO each class received and decorated a tree. These beautiful trees will be donated to the seniors at Bernhardt Meadows. Jillian will be picking them up this Friday. A special thanks to the PTO!
6. Our *Cultures Around the World* will take place on December 21-22. This year's focus will be on multiple countries and students and staff will share through Zoom.
7. Student Council News: Student Council recently sponsored PJ Day for the Kids. Thank you to all those that participated. All proceeds will benefit the Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Mrs. Curren is now working on a new project through Ben's Bells about kindness called the Be Kind The Ben's Bells Project.

Important Upcoming Dates:

12/21 & 12/22 Cultures Around the World

12/21 Virtual Workshop-Navigating Google Classroom, 7 p.m.



12/23 Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
12/24-1/1 Holiday Recess
1/4 School Resumes
1/11 Virtual Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
1/18 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/20 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
1/25-1/29 Kindergarten Registration

Many thanks,
Cathy and Cathleen

