



## Meeting Minutes

### BOOTH FREE SCHOOL PTO

**Date:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**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:** 6:32 pm

**Minutes from 12/16/20 were read and accepted**

**Attendance:** Cara Abraham, Donna Laskowski, Megan Hodge, Cathy Colella, Cathleen Brooks, Sarah Curren, Roseann Cice

#### Committee Reports

**Principal's Report / Student Council Report: Speaker / Cathy Colella & Sarah Curren:**

- Attached Report
- All in attendance paused for a moment of reflection in honor of Emma Gorglione.
- Cathy: Thank you to Roxbury Conservation Commission who has been instrumental in providing classes with educational experiences.  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Weather Station | 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Aquarium Greenhouse)
- Sarah: The BFS community has been celebrating positivity! Through the "Be Kind Challenge," examples of positivity have been recognized by teachers and student peers. A chain-link is proudly displayed with acts of kindness and keeps on growing. 😊
- The student council has also conducted a community outreach, making valentines for veterans and seniors.

### **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**

**Playground Improvements:** Family volunteers needed to paint playground stencils in the Spring. Igloo blocks will be purchased.

Cathleen Brooks shared a request for a section of the playground to be dedicated to Emma Gorglione. The PTO would love to collaborate and support this idea, taking the lead from administration so that family wishes, and timing are respectfully considered.

**Square 1 Art:** All but 3 students have completed their artwork. Cara will reach out to families to see if we might have 100% participation. Aiming to have order forms available for families before Spring break.

**Raising Spirits! Reading challenge:** Cathy, Sarah and Cathleen will collaborate to design Covid safe activities and share a potential format with PTO. While PTO does not have enough resources to manage the program, we can provide donation of prizes/awards. Cathy will advise if her staff can assist with execution.

### **New Business**

**Spirit wear:** There have been many inquiries by BFS families to purchase additional spirit wear. The PTO will offer another opportunity to purchase items. Timing TBD, with a target date in February.

**Virtual talent show:** Cara and Mike Abraham brought forward an idea to stream a spirit-lifting video compilation of our student body. Students would have an opportunity to record and present 10 to 90 second skits or positive messages. Cara will seek volunteers who might be able to offer their tech-services to pull-together the video compilation.

**Meeting Adjourned At:** 7:11 | Motion to adjourn by: Cara Abraham

**Minutes Compiled by:** Donna Laskowski


Booth Free PTO Principal's Report – 1/09/2019

Cathy G. Colella, Principal and Cathleen Brooks and Amy Testani, Head Teachers

- We wish to extend a happy and healthy new year to all of our supportive and very generous PTO members. 2019 is sure to bring us all new and exciting adventures.
- We thank the school community for their donations towards our Giving Tree. Your donations made a local family with three children so happy. It was a joyous season for all.
- Report cards were sent home in December 14<sup>th</sup>. As we begin the second half of the year, this is a good time to set new goals for learning.
- On Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> the staff and students participated in their annual “Cultures Around the World” celebration. As in the past, the teaching staff concentrate on one country. They had chosen Brazil. It was an exciting afternoon. The staff and I hope you enjoyed the pictures presented in our newsletter.
- Six students from grades 4 and 5 had an opportunity to attend a Leadership Conference on January 8<sup>th</sup> sponsored by CAS. We recognize the following students who were chosen to attend. They are: Diandra Daly, Gabe Granata, Jacob McCauley, Wylden Abraham, Quinn Hurley, and Antonia Kearney.
- We have selected topics and have schedules our enrichment programs, *For the Birds*, with the Audubon. Thank you, PTO for sponsoring these opportunities.
- Mr. Morgan reports that he has received 51% of family responses about Field Day. 47% voted yes to a combined field day, 3% voted no, 1% agreed to either way. He will attempt to send out one more opportunity for families to respond and a decision will be made by next month.
- Mrs. Gordon, our librarian, is preparing for the upcoming grade 4/5 play. Information is forthcoming. Thank you, PTO for sponsoring this and we look forward to this event.
- The Unified Band/Chorus Concert will take place at Shepaug on January 17<sup>th</sup>. It is for students in Band or Chorus. Band members should report to SVS at 6:00 p.m. and chorus members should report at SVS at 6:15 p.m. Doors to the concert will open at 6:45 p.m. Concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. The boys and girls look forward to their collaboration with Shepaug students.
- Reminder to Parents: The weather is so unpredictable! Please remember to send your child with sufficient outerwear for the expected cold. The children go out for recess in most conditions.
- Other:
  - Staff Requests/Proposals
    - Mrs. Brooks - status
    - Mrs. Testani - new

Dates to Remember:

1/14 Grades 2 & 3 – Minor Memorial Library Visit  
1/14 Board of Education Meeting/Business, 7 p.m.  
1/15 Grade 1 – Minor Memorial Library Visit  
1/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School Closed



1/28 Board of Education Meeting/Education, 7 p.m.  
1/28-2/1 Kindergarten Registration Week  
2/6 CT Science Center Program, BFS, Grade 2  
2/11 REACH Open House  
2/13 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
3/2 Dr. Seuss's Birthday/NEA's Read Across America Day

