

Beekman Elementary School PTA

Minutes from October 5th, 2011 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm; 25 people in attendance

Secretary's Report – Amy Goetz

- Minutes from September meeting approved

Treasure's Report – Adriana Arroyo

- Approved

President's Report – Gerri Santolo

- We have received our Fall Fundraiser and for the first time in 8 years we did not come up with enough money. We only reached half of our goal. We made \$12,000 and we only receive \$6,000 of that.
- There is to be no spending at this time. All money is frozen unless you talk to me first. The only money we have is for our Arts and Ed.
- Will reach out to Joe Corbi about another fundraiser with just his food products.
- We will continue with Red Ribbon Week as well as Reflections.
- We will not be able to have the school dance as well as the Ice cream social if we don't come up with the money.
- There will be no more babysitting unless we get volunteers.
- Will send out a letter to parents explaining the cuts and propose a budget about what programs we run and at what cost. Explain to them a list of what we did last year and the money that was earned and where we are at currently.
- We will have to prioritize each event and see where cuts will need to be made.
- Mr. Benante to ask Mrs. Simoneau as to where she is at.
- Could we get any grants for things such as PARP?
- Alicia Jazayeri and Tina Irwin have volunteered to clean out the two cabinets.
- Please come and support Arlington High School marching band. Torn 9/11 is the theme.

Vice President's Report – Doreen Meehan

- None

Principle's Report - Mr. Philip Benante

- Welcome parents as well as teachers that are in attendance. Mrs. Graffone is our Academic Invention teacher, Mrs. Osso our Librarian and Mrs. Patton our 3rd grade and Special Education teacher.
- Mrs. Ferrieri had a baby boy Evan and is doing well. Mrs. Cowan is expecting her second child in the spring. Mrs. Simoneau is also expecting.
- Calendars went out.
- We had 40 people in attendance for the WITS program. We went into how to respond to bullying, etc. We will have a swearing in ceremony. From 9-9:30 K-3 will be sworn in and from 9:45-10:15 am 4th and 5th graders will be sworn in. We will have giveaways such as pins, badges, erasers, etc.
- Thank you to Alicia Jazayeri for getting the bulletin set up.
- Great field trip with the first graders to Barton Orchards.

- Last Note: The Arts and Ed budget we will go over with Mrs. Ginsberg and Mr. Jennings. Once the budget is established we will go through what the kids need and what can be cut.
- Last Idea: Whenever we have a holiday or an event/field trip where a lot of parents are coming into the school, I would like to have volunteers in the lobby to greet parents and show them where they should go as well as check them in. Terri Sudol to send out an email for request.
- Thanks to our volunteers who came in to help out our first graders punch in their numbers at lunch.
- Smartboards Company is here tonight to install the new boards and hopefully be fully installed for tomorrow.

Mrs. Patton – The kids are thrilled that the smartboards are coming in!

Mrs. Graffone - on the PTA Facebook we posted a web site called [menuforhealthykids](#). Check out the You Tube video [menuforhealthykids](#), you can access the video, check out healthy recipes' and other links that parents can check out. Mrs. Nolan's daughter Emily is the model.

Helping Hands – Mrs. Patton

- We need parent volunteers to help out with our packages to soldiers on November 17 (half day). Students write letters to our soldiers overseas. Need volunteers to pack candy into zip lock baggies.
- Also we are looking into asking local grocery stores as well as dentist office if they would like to donate toiletries items for the veterans instead of asking parents for donations.
- We need parents to help supervise the students in the cafeteria to make sure that all packing is done properly.
- Mrs. Riffenberg is doing the UNICEF trick or treat boxes. We need parent volunteers to bring change into the bank to cash in for dollars. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mrs. Patton at rpatton@acsdny.org.

Mrs. Osso – Library

- We have a new library system, web hosted. Web links and reference links called Opals. Students can type in what book they want and the front cover of the book will pop up. You can see what books the students are checking out.

Bear News – Terri Sudol

- Submissions are being sent in. An idea of selling advertisement on Bear news?

BLT – Brenda Williams

- K-2 will be craft and story time. Mrs. Romano to talk about literacy.
- 3rd we are not sure yet.
- 4-5 career fair
- We want to take pictures of teachers and students putting up art work all over the school. Will change throughout the year.

District Council – Doreen Meehan

- It was talked about that since some schools do well and other do not with fall fundraisers maybe we could have just 1 company for the whole district. Have all the money go to

- one central location and then divided up amongst all the schools. Or just one company for the district one time during the year such as spring or winter time.
- Support Learning Community will be continuing.
 - PTA meeting feedback: No on a primary fundraiser but possibly for a secondary.
 - Board of Ed meetings will no longer take place in the schools. They will be held at the central office located at Lagrange Elementary School. Meetings will be held every 2 weeks on Tuesday at 7:30 pm.
 - Every 3 weeks the Board of Ed would like to visit the schools while school is in session instead of visiting in the evenings when the students are not there.
 - They want a proposed budget. Unit dues of \$250 are due November 1st. November 15th taxes are dues. Scholastic payments should be separated into two checks. One for the net and one for the taxes.

Membership – Diane Clarizio and Lindsey Waters

- No Report

Fall Fundraiser – Penny Muir and Brenda Williams

- Orders are extended until this Friday October 7.

Box Tops – Tina Irwin

- October 21st is the first due date for Box tops. Letters will be going home tomorrow.
- Lollipop Day – students bring in a box top and they will receive a dum-dum lollipop.

Fall Pictures – Pam Nieto

- All went well.

Bike Rodeo – Adriana Arroyo

- Bike Rodeo will be held on October 15th at 1pm.
- We need volunteers to sell raffles during school lunch.
- Flyer to go home tomorrow.

Red Ribbon Week – Penny Muir and Diane Clarizio

- October 24th through the 29th will be red ribbon week.
- Anti-drug posters in classrooms. Students could decorate a door. Students could also do a writing assignment.
- Mr. Benante suggests modifying the letter that gets sent to the students. Some of the terms maybe too harsh for the younger students.

Fall Book Fair – Noelle Macaluso

- Scholastic is giving Beekman \$25 in scholastic bucks because we posted on our web site when the fair will be.
- Need volunteers to help run.

Reflections – Allison Haggerty

- Theme “Diversity Is”, we have 35 kids that have already entered.
- Mrs. Simoneau will help out next week.
- Deadline is November 4th.

Holiday Happenings – Jessica Schleicher

- Save the date letter to go out before the Thanksgiving break.
- Looking for raffles. Need volunteers. Maybe have a station where the kids can get their faces painted.
- This year we are going with LittleShoppers.com
- Maybe giveaway a free cookie coupon as an incentive to come. Maybe have a free wrapping paper station.
- Not sure yet about a snow date.

Recycling – Jessica Schleicher

- New boxes are in the school lobby. Looking to plant more trees this year.

Ideas – From parents in attendance

- Can we charge families for the ice cream social and other events that in the past have been free? Per Gerrie PTA cannot charge for every event that they have. For every 1 paid event they have to give two free events.
- More small events that we could charge?
- Going out to local businesses and asking for \$25 donation. In return they could receive a PTA certificate of appreciation. District Council said that it is legal as long as it's not a PTA membership card and just a donation certificate.
- Banner that shows all the businesses that donated and we could hang up at every event.
- A Vail Farm family that owns Sonics offered to hand out bookmarks with a free food items as an incentive for PARP.
- Need a parent to investigate the ins and outs of the Arts & Ed program.
- Talk to Gerrie about setting up a date with parents to brainstorm ideas on how to raise more money.

New Business

- Alicia Jazayeri would like to have a Disco Night for our Ladies Night this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.