



Blairstown Elementary School
Parent Teacher Group
October 21, 2021

Present:

Jamie Oatley, President
Jodi Hawkswell, Vice President
Christina Malcolm, Secretary
Meredith Coronato, Treasurer

Members In Attendance: 22 (Names on File)

Meeting Commenced: 1905

OFFICERS REPORTS

President: Jamie began by thanking our former President and Vice Presidents, Erinn Allison and Annie Dato for their years of service. We are grateful for our members being patient while we transition to new leadership, and while working with Covid guidelines that change daily.

Vice President: Jodi is requesting that anyone can email her via our main email account or her personal email account if they have any questions for Head Room Parent or Class Committee questions. She is also requesting that Committee Chairs for events copy the PTG email for all main emails that are sent to their entire committee. Back and forth conversation does not need to be cc'd to us, just major details and decisions. Jodi is requesting that anyone who wants to be added to a committee after the initial membership sign up email her directly. We would like to remind all members that any flyers need to be sent to the PTG for approval first, then on to the office for final approval. Anyone who needs to make copies should contact Mrs. Scialla in the main office at least twenty-four hours in advance.

Treasurer: Budget activity for 2021-2022 is available for members to view.

Secretary: Tina has announced that this is her third year of her three-year term. Applications for the secretary position will be available early next year.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS

Spirit Walk: Event was a success; we are just waiting for the final tally from the Committee with how much money was raised.

Gertrude Hawk: Claire Crowder is the Chair. The event starts today and finishes 11/8 for in person orders. Online orders can continue until 12/12.

Bear Wear: The sale ends tomorrow.

Book Fair: Pattie Van Valkenburg is the new Chair. She is asking everyone on the committee list to sign up for second co-chair. The event will run from December 6 – 10. Per Mrs. Silvestri, we can have up to four volunteers per day at the event with the following restrictions: they must provide a vaccination card or a negative covid test (cannot be a rapid at home test). They must wear masks at all times and remain six feet away from the students. We can have different volunteers each day. Regarding Family Fun Night – it will be discussed at an upcoming meeting with Mrs. Silvestri. There is also discussion to have the sixth graders be buddies to help at the event, as students can be closer to each other than adults.

Santa's Secret Workshop: The Chair and Co-Chair have decided they are not comfortable holding the event with the current restrictions that are in place. Several members voiced their opinions about workarounds for the guidelines, but no one in attendance volunteered to take the role as Chair or Co-Chair and plan the event in five weeks. This event has been cancelled for this year.

Pastries with Parents: The indoor event has been cancelled. We are considering an outdoor event under tents with picnic blankets in the spring. Elisa Diego has volunteered to chair the event with Taylor Gerstner.

Plant Sale: Kristi Dickson is the Chair, and we are still seeking a co-chair for the committee. Messina's will be doing it again with us, and we are looking into the possibility of a winter event with poinsettias.

Staff Appreciation: This event is in the early stages of planning.

Tricky Tray: We are looking in to possibly holding a virtual event.

Bingo Night: Melanie Daleo is waiting to hear from the Church if they are allowing in person events again. If not, it may be held outside the school in the Spring.

Refreshment Committee: We are still seeking volunteers to take on the Chair position. Their involvement in events will be evaluated on a case-by-case event following the guidelines in place at the time of the event.

Family Roller Skating Night: Jamie Oatley is aiming for a Spring event.

Playground Improvement: Elisa Diego brought new members up to speed. The original committee was formed with the idea for an outdoor pavilion, and two weeks later everything shut down for Covid. During the virtual school year, a contractor did come in and take measurements to get ideas of what could be done with the space. There are plenty of volunteers for the Committee, and we are currently seeking a co-chair.

Paws to the Pavement: There has been interest in bringing this event back.

Box Tops: We would like to encourage everyone to download the Box Tops app and keep scanning their receipts. While it is a lot more work than clipping a physical Box Top, we still made over \$1000 last year!

Amazon Smile: By visiting Amazon through the link smile.amazon.com, you can set the Blairstown Elementary School Parent Teacher Group as the charity, and every purchase you make gets us a small donation. It even works when you use the Amazon app.

NEW BUSINESS

In lieu of colored t-shirts for the preschool and kindergarten students, it was requested that we get colored hats. The idea was to alleviate having to wear the same shirt for two weeks, and keeping it clean the whole time. Purchasing hats went over the budget by roughly \$400. A vote was held to retroactively approve the expenditure, and it passed unanimously. We have decided to switch back to shirts for next year unless other alternatives are presented.

A vote was held to increase the teacher classroom money to \$200 per teacher every year, and it passed unanimously.

In lieu of the Teacher Wish Lists, we are going to be developing a grant system. Teachers will be asked to submit letters and any documentation relating to their request. It would first be submitted to the school, and they would filter out any requests that can be met through them. A committee would be formed to review the remaining requests and grant them based on what our budget would allow at that time.

A new idea for an event this year is a carnival. It was done at another school and was a great success. We are seeking volunteers to Chair/Co-Chair a new committee that would be formed.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Candy Grahams – Taylor Gerstner brought to our attention something done at a nearby school that would involve our Sixth Graders. They will take orders for Candy Grahams during the lunch periods and deliver them like Elves to the recipients. Candy ideas for different seasons – Candy canes for the Winter Holidays, heart shaped red lollipops for Valentine's Day, clover candy for St. Patrick's Day, and even flowers for teachers. Taylor has volunteered to chair this committee, with Erinn Allison as co-chair.

Sylvia Soltys brought up an idea to look in to doing a shaped pasta fundraiser. She will do some research to see if it's a viable idea for our school.

Meeting Adjourned: 2010