



Blairstown Elementary School
Parent Teacher Group (PTG)
October 9, 2019

Present:

Erinn Allison, President
Anne Dato, Vice President
Teesha Pagano, Treasurer
Tina Malcolm, Secretary

20 Members in Attendance (Names on File)
Dr. Elias, Principal

Meeting Commenced at 1901

WELCOME: Erinn welcomed all to the meeting. The Board members introduced themselves, as well as all meeting attendees.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

President: Erinn began with discussing the Author visit coming up in February. Mrs. Erikson, the librarian, also discussed it too. The assembly was also discussed for late winter/early Spring. BMX is being invited back. They offer four different programs that we can chose from.

Vice President: Anne proudly announced that we have a new record number of members this year, totaling 163 as of this date. For the Head Room Parent and Class Committee report, all Head Room Parent roles have been filled. We also have a record number of Class Committee volunteers!

Treasurer: Teesha announced the results of the Bear Wear sale - we made \$252 in profit from the fall sale. She discussed the option for Paypal that is available to us now - to pay dues, vendor fees, etc. We are requesting that people use the "Friends & Family" option when sending us money, to avoid paying fees. Despite being a non-profit, Paypal will still charge fees for using the Services option - although we are charged the lowest amount they will charge. For Amazon Smile, we received a deposit of \$27 in August. Paws to the Pavement & Tricky Tray are still currently listed on the Budget Report, however, we aren't sure yet if those events will take place.

Secretary: First official meeting for new Secretary Tina Malcolm. She has nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Plant Sale: Fall plant sale went well. We raised over \$700.

Spirit Walk: 10/4/2019. This event went well, with one minor traffic issue noted. There was an intersection that had vehicles getting through it. This will be addressed for next year. So far, over \$2000 in donations have been taken in.

Bear Wear: There will be another Bear Wear sale in the winter, with delivery in time for the Holidays.

Skate Night: 10/10/2019. The cost to rent the rink is \$475. As of this meeting, all but \$5 of this cost has been covered by RSVP's.

Gertrude Hawk: The Fall Gertrude Hawk sale will begin November 1, and end November 11. There will also be a Spring/Easter sale next year.

Box Tops: Physical Box Tops are being phased out; in lieu of cutting out Box Tops, they are switching to scanning receipts and/or linking your bonus club card to a Box Tops account. This new system will make it impossible to run individual classroom contests for collection, as there won't be a way to separate the donations by class. It was discussed to possibly have a school-wide goal, that if met, a special day could be the reward - such as pajama day.

Scholastic Book Fair: The Book Fair will run from 12/2-12/6. Due to the half days for Parent/Teacher conferences, the Book Fair will shorter each day. The schedule will be announced at a later date.

Santa's Secret Workshop: This event will be held December 7, 2019.

PTG Logo: The new logo has been implemented

Social Media: There are several ways to keep in touch with the PTG. They are as follows:

- a) Remind App: Text @blairst to 81010 or download the app to join
- b) Facebook: Blairstown Elementary School Parent Teacher Group
- c) Website: www.blairstownptg.weebly.com
- d) Email: ptgblairstown@gmail.com
- e) Mailing Address: PO Box 255, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Dr. Elias: Dr Elias brought up the new BES app as means for communication with parents. Parents can receive app notifications, text messages, or auto calls from the school. To change how parents receive notifications, they can log in to the Parent Portal. Dr. Elias also brought up the new RTI (responsive classroom) that has been implemented by the State. Detailed information regarding that was sent home with each child.

Q&A

The discussion of a new playground area was brought up. Suggestions included a covered bench or seating area and a preschool-specific area. There was discussion about forming a Committee to begin working on it. Dr. Elias has already been speaking with Mr. Saalfield about the idea. It was brought up that we would have to clear these ideas with the insurance company, and all physical construction would have to be done according to code. This topic will be addressed in the future.

Due to a minor issue with returned checks, there was discussion as to whether or not we should continue taking checks for the Book Fair. A returned check fee has already been implemented. We decided to continue taking checks at this point, reminding all that checks should be written out to BES PTG. Any checks made out to Scholastic can not be deposited, and it requires tracking down the family for the check to write a new one. The bank will allow Teesha to add "PTG" to any checks simply written out to "BES".

Meeting adjourned at 1952.