



PTO meeting | Tuesday February 23, 2023 6:00p in the BES Cafe

Meeting called to order by Sabrina

In Attendance

Sabrina Searles
Missy Mahon
Lisa Perugini
Tara Lanese
Whitney Beatty
Kristine Cuccia
Nina Kekacs
Ashley Nelson

Meeting Minutes

- Opening points of note:
 - PTO Meeting being advertised in e-blast was good idea. E-blasts are helpful for getting news out to parents who aren't on social media or Digital Backpack
 - Can Wendy supply a computer w/ camera & mic to broadcast upcoming meetings via Zoom? Link would be provided in e-blast. This would bring more participants & parent feedback to PTO meetings.
- PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Wendy Y unable to attend. Report forthcoming
 - Can Wendy pls give us the 5th grade Graduation date?
 - Missy Mahon reported that more volunteers would be needed for graduation setup and tear down. Last year was only 2 people.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - Schoolkidz supply kits. Sabrina reaching out to teachers re: orders for 23-24 school year.
 - Assemblies: discussion of possible spring assembly events. Ideas for topics/speakers:
 - Ben's Bells – 'Kindness Project' – Tara to contact them
 - Region-wide with Mitchell PTO
 - Autism Awareness April 17th – 28th – Tara has a possible assembly idea
 - FoodPlay – nutrition education
 - The Pig Lady? Are animals allowed on campus/gym?
 - If so, FFA High School kids need volunteer hours
 - Hip Pickles – Kristine Cuccia will inquire
 - Round Up program: Missy spoke with Bernadette at Bethlehem True Value and was approved to have BES PTO approved to be on the list for monthly receipt of all 'round up' totals on customer purchases. Likely will start in August or September. PTO will ask again in the summer about exact placement in the program and about re-listing.
 - Yearbook: Whitney volunteered to take over the project hile Sabrina is still healing from surgery. SONJA is the yearbook company representative.
 - Whitney to get list of students from Wendy

- Outdoor Driveway Sign: needs monthly updates. Has switched hands in recent history.
 - Lunch Aides were recently tasked with the Outdoor Sign. This is not an appropriate job for Lunch Aides.
 - PTO will take over content and monthly installations.
 - Debbie Bernardi has the letters and supplies at front office.
 - Possible alternative solution: Student Council to manage the Outdoor Sign
 - Whitney to email Dannenhoffer & Casey about this option. If not, PTO will manage the sign.
 - Many schools have a digital sign... Possible school gift for the future.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Walk-A-Thon with Mr. Jackson: fundraiser to buy New Gymnasium Basketball Hoops
 - Tara suggests a theme 'Hops for Hoops' with jumping-based activities and challenges for children to participate and raise funds.
 - Hopping an alternative to the usual 'Walk A Thon' event to accommodate more indoor activities in inclement weather.
 - *Tentative dates* April 24-28.
 - Tara to email Tim Jackson and Mrs. Y regarding:
 - Goal amount \$ to be raised for the new hoops?
 - Hops – jumping contests (vertical jump, broad jump)
 - Hops – jump rope
 - Hops – bunny hop dance/song for little kids?
 - Mr. Jackson will be featured in a social media video encourage participation
 - Nina mentioned the huge success of Southbury schools Fun Run fundraiser managed by APEX Leadership Company. Childrens' t-shirts get a tally.
 - Further fundraising for the hoops suggested with a QR-Code printed on signage visible onsite the gym when Parks & Rec events are present.
 - QR code would have to direct user to a Venmo account. PTO's current Venmo account influx due to phone number needed on the account.
 - Nina suggests a Gmail account used for a Google Phone number.
 - Talent Show: Kristine Cuccia offers to chair the event.
 - Auditions at lunchtime. Participants limited to 4th and 5th graders only?
 - *Tentative Show date* Weds 5/31. Daytime performances in assembly. Evening performance for children.
 - Dr. Suess Reading Week
 - Themes for each day listed in Digital Backpack, Facebook and Instagram
 - Dr. Suess Bingo Night w/ MES's PTO on Tuesday March 7 @ Memorial Hall
 - PTO members to procure more prizes for Bingo Night
 - Missy ordering more Dr. Suess spirit sticks
 - Reading Contest – flyer going out Monday 2/27
 - Clothing Drive
 - Decided to be synched with the Plant Sale pickups on 5/12.
 - 'Pick up your plants, drop off your donatable clothing'
 - Sabrina will add this to the Plant Sale flyer
 - Is it possible to incentiveize the bags of clothing? Ex: For every 2 lbs donated clothing, receive a free packet seeds/flower pot /bag of soil...?
 - Possibly include Student Council with the clothing drive, with weighing and accepting bags?

- Plant Sale: Volunteers needed for unloading the delivery on 5/11 at 3:30.
- Staff Appreciation Week:
 - Let's mirror last year's schedule for the week.
 - Sweet Nelsons offered to donate cookies on 5/8
 - Sabrina will get the staff list and total # count to Ashley
 - Staff Lunch
 - Law Enforcement – Kim & Tina interested in managing
 - Bus Drivers – Dunkin Donuts to donate?
 - School Nurse
 - Teachers –
 - Plant Sale Gift Cards
 - Flowers from students; Dollar Store vases
 - Goodie Bags tucked into mailboxes t front office
- SPRING 2023 to discuss and plan
 - BES Family Festival – *Tentative date* Friday 5/19. Rain date Weds 5/24
 - **NHS PROM night is 5/19. New date to be suggested asap.**
 - Donated items & prizes for the now-cancelled Live Auction to be used as raffle prizes at the Festival
 - A tier system will be used to categorize prizes by value. \$1/\$5/\$10 tickets
 - Items are currently stored in PTO members' homes.
 - Activities proposed:
 - Dunk Tank / Bucket Dump (rental)
 - Obstacle Course (rental)
 - Popcorn cart (rental)
 - Face Painting – NHS Art Honors Society volunteer hours?
 - Petting Zoo – NHS FFA volunteer hours?
 - Dance floor – Mr. P to DJ and lead dances. Bubble Machine at dance floor
 - Yard games: Big Jenga, Cornhole
 - Carnival games (with tiny prizes). Volunteers needed to supervise these games and distribute prizes:
 - Magnetic Fishing Pool
 - Knock Over Blocks
 - Ring Toss
 - Frisbee throws into cutouts on board
 - FOOD TRUCKS / VENDORS:
 - Bethlehem Lions Club for burgers, fries, hot dogs. everything \$2ea
 - Ice Cream truck?
 - Ambulance / Fire House interested in participating?
 - PTO has lots of juice boxes and waters to offer free of charge
 - Parking: Much of the schoolyard blacktop will be used for these games and tents/trucks. Front parking lot is limited.
 - Whitney to write to East Street businesses with parking lots about overflow parking. We will need to make sandwich boards to direct cars into these other lots.
 - Possible hay ride option to take families from these lots up to BES

Miscellaneous/Reminders

- PTO website.
 - MES PTO uses a webhost service and recommends it highly. Sabrina has begun setup.
 - Other PTO members can get acquainted with useage of the site. Could begin using it for all advertisement and information.

Next Meeting

Friday 3/17 9:00am in BES Café

followed by

Friday 4/21 9:00am in BES Café

Thursday 5/11 6:00pm in BES Café

Friday 6/9 9:00am in BES Café