

Brewster Elementary School PTO



September Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 15, 2023

Call to order: Emily Kahnke, President

Location: Brewster Music Room

Time: 6:08 p.m.

Attendance: 8 virtual attendees, 11 in-person attendees

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report:

- Proposed Budget for the 2025 - 2026 SY
 - Budget is proposed and approved the previous SY
 - PTO members will propose and approve a budget for the next school year (26-27)
- July and Aug - The addition of President and Treasurer to the account
 - Purchased: welcome back sign, pencils and bracelets for K
- September pending transactions:
 - Insurance and Secretary of the State settled for this school year
- Discussion of an online payment portal for Polar Express and moving forward.
 - Now accepting cash and check but would like to select an online payment portal
 - Last year - Venmo was used
 - Other options - Cheddar UP, Cash up
 - Other Suggestions:
 - Zelle
 - Online Payment through Square
 - Give Butter
 - Motion to table this. Board will research options.

Principal's Report:

- **September**
 - Incorporate some family workshops to get more families to the meetings and benefit families as caregivers etc.
 - Research workshops for 5-6 workshop and then a 6-7 meeting
 - What type of workshops will interest families?
 - Deb suggests Restorative Practices Workshop and how to incorporate in families
 - Seek out other ideas going forward
 - Suggestions - provide food and childcare

- Raising socially and emotionally stable children and how we can foster this at home.
 - Mrs. Murray will send out a family interest survey
 - Suggestion of holding workshops on a separate day than PTO meeting and/or limit PTO meeting time in order to provide workshop
 - Funds for workshops will come from the school budget
 - Possibility of virtual component or recording to send out to everyone
- During September assemblies, learners have been going over CORE ethical values; next month learners will focus just on the CORE value of responsibility
- Clubs (1x a month on Fridays) about 20 different choices, students select top 4, 2 sessions will be offered (4 of each club) they will begin mid October and learners will begin choosing next week.
- **October**
 - Picture day 10/1
 - Conference week 10/8 - 10/9
 - Go Pink Day 10/10 to raise funds for Middlesex Cancer Center
 - Book fair the week of October 6
 - Lions club screenings - 10/20
 - Pumpkin Patch - 10/23, K pumpkins purchased through school funds. Prek and 1 will be purchased through PTO
 - Halloween Parade on 10/31
- **GoFar**
 - It is coming! Mr. Edwards will revamp and bring it back with a twist. Will take parent volunteers and communication will come from him
- **Artist Residencies**
 - Goes with cultural arts line item
 - Proposed:
 - Booked - Flocked Theater to come in March
 - Bret Daniels: musical program with technical and musical components
 - PTO decides if we will fund the additional expenses
 - Will vote on it next meeting (October 21, 2025)

President's Report:

1. Essex Steam Train Tickets purchased last week 12/4 & 12/11 6pm. (Payments due by Sept 29th)-Google form/next year plan
2. Durham Fair 2025
3. Upcoming Events (September, October, November)
 - Trunk or Treat - Peckham park Saturday 10/18;
 - Pumpkin Patch
 - Read a thon - proposed 10/6 - 10/24
 - Deb will put in Friday update on 9/26
 - Family Holiday Pictures - Rachel Spinks - Adrianna to text Rachel regarding holiday minis
 - Author visit Kindness Day - Piglet the Pink Dog; mindset lessons over course of next 6 months and in Feb. or March will have author visit

- Kindness day in late Nov. Author to come and sells books
- Food Drive: 11/7 - 12/5 (community drop off)
- Wolfpack game
 - Tentatively scheduled for Sunday March 29th and has secured the big flag for us.

Deb will send out signups for events

Review of By-laws

- Proposed
- Revisit and approve by December
- Changes are highlighted
- Special committees (section 8)

Next Meeting: October 21, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 p.m.

Minutes Compiled by: Adrianna Leoni