

Brooks Hill School PTA Meeting

Tuesday 12 January 2021, 6:30 pm via Google Meet

- Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 February 2021, 6:30pm via Google Meet
- In attendance: Laurie Hedberg, Kelly Weishaar, Janet Bissi, J Sadler, Lindsey Schwartz, Rachel Wiesner, Janelle Enser, Jackie McKenna, Kelly Zaryk, Sharon Smith, Rachel Rayburn, Stacie Miller, Lisa Turner, Lisa Christensen, Susan Tortora, Jean Waldmiller, Meredith Klus, Tasha Crown, Melissa Kreso, Amber Coronado, Pisa Balabi, Theresa Cline. A quorum was reached.

1. Call to order and greetings

Janelle Enser called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm

2. Approval of the Minutes

November 2020 minutes were approved as shown

3. Guest Speaker: Kelly Weishaar, Title 1 Presentation

Kelly Weishaar is a Title 1 Student and Community Access Liaison. It is a requirement that information about this program is presented and its specific aspects are approved yearly at an annual meeting at schools eligible to receive funds (in the FCSD these schools include Brooks Hill, Dudley, Martha Brown, Northside, and Johanna Perrin. Eligibility is determined by the percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch. There is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy to be approved. Schools eligible to receive funds must receive a presentation. Monies are provided to districts to ensure fair and equitable access to education and to enable meeting state standards. Some requirements include ensuring materials, curriculum, and teacher prep aligns with state standards, closing achievement gaps, and achieving equitability.

Title 1 also participates with several agencies in the Rochester area to facilitate parent outreach, diversity, and provide mental health and tech support. Monies provided to local districts fund items such as partial salaries for specialists, summer programming, support for behavioral health, and aid for students in temporary housing and private settings. Allocations must be reserved for parent and family engagement activities, and full transparency must be achieved on how money is being spent.

A parent-school compact must be in place; the details of this are still in progress.

An updated policy list was approved through the Board of Education Updated in the fall of 2020. This outlines the procedure for parental engagement, explains how a partnership between state and local administration is supported, evaluates the needs of families, and outlines parental engagement, and outlines how support can be provided.

The overall question will be posed “Do you adopt the district’s parent and family engagement policy?” An approval letter from the school principal stating agreement to comply with Title 1 regulations is required to receive funding.

Kelly Weishaar is available kweishaar@fairport.org to answer questions or take comments.

4. Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report: Lindsey Schwartz

- Included in the PowerPoint are the financials for November and December, as we did not have a December meeting.
- We ended November with \$30,746.02 in the checking account, \$4,938.46 in the savings account, and a PayPal balance of \$67.52. Activity for the month included Fall Reading Incentives, some staff recognition purchases, cookies for School Related Professional Day, and PEG grant purchases. Income included memberships, the Square 1 Art deposit, and Amazon Smile income. 8 memberships were purchased in November.
- We ended December with \$30,211.46 in the checking account, \$4,858.08 in the savings account, and a PayPal balance of \$25.32. Activity for the month included PEG Grant purchases, ELL Thanksgiving Dinner purchases, and gifts for the Board of Education during their visit to Brooks Hill. Income included a transfer from the savings account and memberships. 3 memberships were purchased in December, bringing our total to 146.
- Reminder: All event coordinators should receive an email from the Treasurer explaining the budget for your event, the reimbursement process and other pertinent information. If you are a coordinator and have not received an email, please request one from Lindsey Schwartz at ltmschwartz@gmail.com.

Vice President's Report: Lisa Turner

- Presentation on how to access and use the online Brooks Hill student directory
Membership Report: Access the Member Toolkit page (this is where you sign up, access the directory, and access signups. Click directory: there is a search area to find by grade and teacher, by name, and the listings include names, addresses etc. A PDF will also be available and sent out if you would like to print a copy. It will include only paid PTA members.
- We currently have 146 members which includes 35 faculty memberships. The printed directory previously made available for paid members of the PTA will not be moving forward this year. With the hybrid and virtual schedule differences, we have decided to provide a PDF directory of paid members without class lists. Members can always access this information on our Membership Toolkit site, and as a reminder all information is private and only to be used for PTA or school purposes and is not to be shared with any outside persons or businesses.

- The PDF directory provided today is a student directory sorted by teachers. This is not a full listing of our members. As a reminder, ALL information entered into membership toolkit is elective and you can choose which information will be shared or kept private. Anyone can sign up for Membership Toolkit and not become a paid member, but still be included in the directory if they choose.

Life Events:

- Thank you cards were sent on behalf of the PTA to the following coordinators: Beth Rupp for the virtual book fair, Alexa Schwartzback for the Sharing Tree, and Carolyn White for her help with the ENL Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Thank you cards were received for gifts sent on behalf of the PTA from Mrs. Meredith Klus, Donna Finlayson, Kris Abbot, and Joyce Kostyk from the BOE. Thank you cards were also received from Melanie Easter for her upcoming retirement, and Rachel Mutch for her wedding.
- Congratulatory cards and gift cards were sent to Melanie Easter celebrating her upcoming retirement as well as to Amber Goodness welcoming her new baby girl, Sky Karen Goodness.

President's Report: Janet Bissi and Janelle Enser

- We would like to remind you that on Fridays when enews is sent out, our newsletter is included. New activities are included in the newsletter each month.
- Volunteer opportunities are coming up- we are always looking for volunteers in different capacities please reach out if you have a desire to participate. Be sure to reach out to us with questions, ideas, etc. at brookshillPTA1@gmail.com We are currently brainstorming some great activities to keep students engaged.

5. Principal's Report: Mrs. Klus

The district is working with NWEA testing for all grade levels and began administering the test to kindergarteners this year. This is a very short assessment K-2 students complete on iPads, and 305th graders on Chromebooks. There is one testing session between January and February break, and another round will take place later in the school year. This testing serves as the initial assessment to determine reading/math services.

Continued testing and screening tracks growth throughout students' school career. Comprehensive looks at student progress is more likely to take place in the fall of this year. NWEA is MAP (measures of academic progress testing.)

Testing taken in the fall compared to previous years shows students did well considering the overall education situation (shutdown due to Covid.) The number of students below the 50th percentile was anticipated to be higher than it ended up being. There was a greater reduction in math scores than in reading scores.

The FCSD has reinstated optional Covid testing, at a rate of 5% of the student and staff population, until otherwise notified. The intent is to supply the governor with additional information to help ensure school stays open. Final decisions on this are not made by the district and are subject to state mandates.

Students are moving back into specials rooms after a very conservative fall procedure. All specials rooms are cleaned between classes. Still distancing and masking still occurs during specials. There continues to be no rug time and students are sitting in chairs instead. We hope to reopen the library on 1/25 with access regulated to ensure safety. PE has been balancing outdoor and gym space, health will continue in the classroom for the remainder of the year.

6. Lead Teacher Report: Mrs. Waldmiller

The student council meets virtually every other month on Wednesdays during the lunch hour. The council is working on videos to promote events like spirit days and monthly Make a Difference to increase engagement and involvement.

IXL: A note to parents; if a child is working on IXL and the suggested activities appear to be too easy or difficult, go back and complete a new diagnostic test (10-15 minutes) which will redirect the program back to the student's appropriate level. The recommendation is to complete a 5-10 minute diagnostic test weekly (depending on overall usage.) IXL is not currently used as an assessment tool, but is a valuable way to support additional educational opportunities for all students. It also addresses students at whatever level they have achieved in different subjects.

7. Assistant Principal: Stacie Miller:

Regarding field trips, the lead teachers and I are working to provide a field trip experience for every grade level this year.

The Jared Campbell concert was a valuable and enjoyable experience with a positive message for students. The arts and entertainment budget paid for this event.

8. Report of Coordinators

- a) Lisa Christensen- Nominating Committee: The committee is working on planning the first meeting which helps to choose nominees for the 2021-2022 school year. Board members serve one-year terms with a 2-year consecutive term limit per position. Current members often shift positions from year to year. If anyone is interested in participating, there is an open position (with one volunteer for said position.) If anyone interested in participating, please contact Lisa Christensen. Your name can be added to the ballot later but volunteering now provides support from the committee on how the procedure works. All who are interested are entitled to the opportunity to run for a position, but there will be no fighting and we strive for a peaceful process. Desire to be nominated should be submitted by Friday, January 15th to every extent possible.
- b) Rachel Rayburn for Mrs. Strack and Giambrone- Spirit Wear
A spirit wear sale is in the works and is slated to run from the end of January through the Friday before winter break. We are working on offering some new items (blankets and umbrellas) and will have a combination of Fairport gear and Brooks Hill wearable items with a new BH logo. We are still finalizing the details of items being offered. Sincere appreciation to Mrs. Strack and Mrs. Giambrone who are organizing the sale with Crazy Dog.
- c) Janelle Enser- Virtual Variety Show with BRAVO! Creative Arts: Just over 40 students are participating to showcase an existing or new talent. Acts include dancing, singing, magic tricks, telling jokes, etc. The premiere will be a virtual showing February 12th (the Friday leading into

break week) at 7pm. A live link will be available. The variety show replaces the school play that is typically held every two years.

9. Seeking Volunteers

- a) March Clubs coordinator- March clubs will be virtual this year, pending a volunteer coordinator. Many ideas will be provided by the PTA for those who are interested. Four consecutive weeks are planned. Many resources are available from the PTA to facilitate clubs.
- b) Yearbook photo volunteers- One from each class to download photos from Parent Square and email them to the yearbook committee. A signup will be in MTK. The yearbook committee is unable to access accounts to retrieve photos unless they have a student in that class. Classes already covered: Mrs. Taillie, Mrs. Barry, Miss Cummings, Mr. Riccione, and Miss Barker.
- c) International Days organizer- The plan is to have all students participate in music, arts, and discuss artifacts. In lieu of moving around to different classrooms there may be rolling carts with materials to allow each cohort to participate. Virtual students will also receive materials to join. International Days will take place Thursday and Friday May 13th and 14th. Thank you to Julie Sadler who volunteered during the meeting to coordinate.
- d) Colonial Capers- Will take place June 3rd and 4th. Lisa Christensen will be working on this event and currently has volunteers to assist

New business

Announcements/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Janet Bissi, seconded by Rachel Wiesner; meeting adjourned at 8:06pm