

Brooks Hill Elementary School General PTA Meeting

Tuesday March 2nd, 2021 6:30pm via Google Meet. Next Meeting: Tuesday April 13th 6:30pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Janelle Enser called this meeting to order at 6:31 pm

In attendance: Rachel Rayburn, Janelle Enser, Janet Bissi, Lindsey Schwartz, Lisa Turner, Lisa Christensen, Meredith Klus, Stacie Miller, Jean Waldmiller, Kelly Zaryk, Jackie McKenna, Rebecca Kanaley, Sharon Smith, Amy Tome, Julia Sadler.

A quorum was established.

2. Approval of January minutes:

Minutes approved as written. Remember minutes are always available on the PTA website.

3. Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report: Lindsey Schwartz

January Financial review:

- \$30,278.32 in checking \$5,868.08 in savings. \$0 in paypal. There were no new memberships in January. The only income was the December 2020 box tops payout.
- A reminder to event coordinators: please let Lindsey know if you have not received budget information for your event.

Vice President's Report: Lisa Turner

- A thank you was sent to Emily Kreuter for her subbing long-term for Mrs. Davin.
- A national membership drive was conducted in February. As a result we had 7 new memberships for a current total of 134.

Nominating Committee Report: Lisa Christensen

As directed by our PTA bylaws, the nominating committee met (virtually) and discussed nominations for the PTA board for the 2021-2022 school year. All current board members are willing to come back next year and are within their term limits to do so except Co-President Janet Bissi whose youngest child will be graduating from Brooks Hill this year. The nominating committee would like to recommend the following slate of candidates for the 2021-2022 school year:

Presidents: Janelle Enser (Current President) and Lisa Turner (Current Vice President)

Vice President: Rachel Rayburn (current secretary)

Treasurer: Lindsey Schwartz (current treasurer)

Secretary: Theresa Cline

Voting for these positions will take place at the April PTA meeting. Any floor nominations must be received at least 2 business days prior to the election and can be sent to lisajchristensen@gmail.com.

Thank you to all these parents for their willingness to dedicate so much time to serving our Brooks Hill community.

3. Principal's Report: Meredith Klus

Brett Provenzano's meeting was productive and related to the added Wednesday in-person class days and the direction of returning to school. Stacie and I spend ample time working on what school will look like when we return to school 5 days a week.

Many good things are coming up this month. Brotherhood-sisterhood week will be held virtually with Minerva Deland students. There will be activities and a story. Part of our monthly Make a Difference activities will include partnering with all Fairport schools to benefit the Perinton food shelf. This will start 3/8.

Virtual pickup day time has been changed to 3:45-5:00 to accommodate the new in-person days.

State testing is planned to continue, pending results of NY state's request for a waiver for 3-8th grade students. There are many questions surrounding state testing and we are considering the logistic of this. Science testing is still planned for the 4th and 8th grade levels. Test results typically indicate this test is not a valuable assessment tool. There is hands-on performance aspect to the science test that would take several days.

Q: How does school funding relate to state test results, and what is the typical opt out rate?

A: Funding is somewhat related to state testing. Results arrive too late to be useful in terms of assessment/placement and curricular changes. This testing is more useful as a way for the state to test whether schools and districts are performing as expected. Instructional time taken away to conduct tests is not always the most productive use of time. Opt out rates vary yearly. Over the past 5 years the percentage tended to be smaller. Two years ago it was an average of 4-5 per classroom. Reasons families choose to opt out vary and are often made based on what they feel is appropriate for their child. Following removal of the teacher performance measure aspect of state testing opt out rates declined.

The Board of Regents released a statement about the regents exam at the high school level. The federal government will require only exams related to graduation (pending waiver approval) and a proposal has been made to waive August exams.

Please reach out to us with any questions. No concern is unimportant, and we always appreciate your advocacy. The goal is always openness and transparency.

5. Lead Teacher Report: Mrs. Waldmiller

Thank you for the PTA support provided this year. We observed many students complimenting each other for their Virtual Variety Show performances. There were positive reactions among students and adults alike. The staff felt this was a great idea and a very fun and positive event.

We are looking forward to March clubs and could not imagine this was something that could actually occur.

The kids are really enjoying it!

Please request help as needed for Colonial Capers and International Days. The teachers are very excited to resume these events.

6. Report of Coordinators

a. Lindsey Schwartz- Staff Luncheon

Planning us underway for the luncheon which takes place 3/26 from 11:30-12:30. The theme is "Fairport Pride" and staff will be given a boxed lunch from Spinelli's. We are working with Moonlight Creamery to plan a dessert idea.

We are in need of items for the staff raffle portion. We will also be posting volunteer slots to help decorate, man the raffle table, distribute lunches and prizes, and clean up. We would really appreciate support in volunteer time and items.

Q: How many items are donated/raffled?

A: The items vary. We have between 30-50 selections. Smaller items are often bundled and raffled together. Floral centerpieces are also usually raffled off. Staff members are given 10 tickets when they arrive and place their tickets with the items they are interested in.

Meredith mentions: The staff will be thrilled for the treat of a lunch they didn't bring from home or purchase from the cafeteria, as food order deliveries are currently prohibited.

Catering orders will be taken (staff will choose from 3 options.) A Google form or Excel doc will be created to keep this organized.

b. Lisa Christensen- Virtual Variety Show

This event was a success. There were a few video mistakes in the final production. Overall, this was a positive experience. We sent popcorn and tickets home. It was great to see parents congratulating each other's children on Facebook. Students watched and enjoyed the production, and we sincerely appreciate all the support from parents.

c. Lisa Turner for Kelly Zaryk – Virtual March Clubs

March clubs kicked off yesterday and are available via Google Meet. Teachers are posting links on google classroom with clickable icons and there are around 4 videos a week. If anyone wants to create a video to be included reach out to Lisa Turner or Kelly Zaryk. Videos are posted on PTA YouTube video. Videos are private and unlisted and can be taken down as requested. If you have any talent or activity to share, we can make it happen. Videos must be for all kids and require only items available at home and should not require parent supervision. Thank you to Kelly Zaryk who reached out to local companies who provided videos. We also have a magic show in the 3rd week where kids can learn how to do their own magic tricks.

d. Julie Sadler - International Days

I have been working with Janet Bissi on International Days to get a feel for what this event normally looks like to decide what to put together for 3rd graders. Obviously it will be different this year, and we are figuring out whether parent volunteers will be able to come in to assist or if teachers will manage the projects and activities and best to fulfill their expectations. We are working on ways to gather more involvement and engagement from teachers and students, and figuring out what will be realistic to offer. We will be looking for volunteers to help prepare materials. Virtual student pickup is the same week as International Days so logistics are expected to be tricky.

e. Janet Bissi for Alexa Schwartzbeck - Colonial Capers

This will be more of an afternoon activity and will be simpler than in the past. We will include virtual and hybrid students for activities like calligraphy, snacks like popcorn and apples as opposed to the normal lunch, students can still dress up. There will be other crafts, including more low key activities that require less adult help. Michelle Wagner and Alexa Schwartzbeck are skilled at creating large events and are confident it will go well.

f. Rachel Rayburn- Spirit Wear. Thank you to everyone who placed an order. We appreciate the tremendous support from the Fairport community! If you got a taste of that rainy spring weather last week and feel like you missed out on buying an umbrella or blanket we will have a limited supply available for purchase after March 15th. Orders are slated for distribution the week of March 15th and will either be sent home in students' backpacks, or will be available for pickup during the remote pickup time (which has been changed due to the new Wednesday school schedule and will now take place Wednesday, March 17th between 3:45-5 pm at Brooks Hill.)

g. Lindsey Schwartz- Ganondagon

Every year the PTA donates to Ganondagon, and in return 4th grade students are offered free admission one a specific day in fall. We were unable to do so this year, and 4th grade students will be instead view virtual tours of the historic site. Students will see the 45 minute tour on 4/7 or 4/14.

VOTE: To add a budget line of \$300 to the Ganondagon virtual field trip. A donation has been provided as usual, and this is an additional amount to allow for the field trip. This motion was passed with 14 yes votes.

h. Janelle Enser for Jackie Cougevan and Heather Mirrione- 5th grade memory book

We are still waiting for photos from some families. Photos will still be accepted to ensure everyone is included. Please contact Janelle if you need help. Candid photos are also needed.

New business

- The yearbook staff is always looking for photos from parents and staff. Please be sure to send whatever you have from parents and staff brookshillphoto@gmail.com

- Jean Waldmiller : Our 4th and 5th graders in student council are working on a project with the town historian taking photos of what it's like to learn during Covid-19 times. We can forward those photos to the yearbook staff to gain a child's point of view. I will work on sending photos and names of student council members for yearbook inclusion.
- We are adding the Variety Show to the yearbook. If you have photos of students preparing, watching, performing please share them with the yearbook staff. Any events photographed are welcome. Meredith suggested highlighting a specific type of photo each week in the enews to gather more photos than usual. The yearbook deadline is the end of April.
- Ball in the House Wednesday assembly will take place on 3/10 a musical performance.
- March clubs next week include Elite students dancing, yoga, and soccer shots.

Announcements/Adjournment

An announcement for school reopening committee volunteers went out on Parent Square and volunteers should refer to Parent Square or email for more information and to access the application.

There is also a meeting Thursday 6:30-7:45 about racist resistance and school policy. Attendees must RSVP via Parent Square in advance.

Motion to adjourn by Meredith Klus and seconded by Lisa Turner. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.