

PTA MEETING MINUTES

Franklin Avenue Elementary

Dateline 10/2/2018 7:00 P.M. | *Meeting called to order by* Kim Crispino

I. Pledge

II. Approval of Minutes

- Rose Croke and Jennifer Del Negro approved the June 2018 minutes.

III. Treasurer's Report – Approval of Budget 2018 / 2019

- Budget for 2018 / 2019 was approved.
- Harlem Wizards: Event date and location TBD.
- Makerspace: The makerspace is well-stocked for the school year. However, 1-2 sewing machines may need to be replaced. Estimated cost is \$425 per sewing machine. PTA will research and look into the availability of grants to cover cost.

IV. Teachers Report – No teacher present (Mrs. Alaimo read)

All of the class teachers thanked the parents for coming to Back to School Night and look forward to a great school year.

- Kindergarten: Students are starting to learn their letters. At home, reinforcement and nightly reading are important.
- First Grade: In math, students are learning different ways to make a sum; in reading, new trick words are being introduced weekly; parents are asked to reinforce the words at home. In science, students are exploring light and sound.
- Second Grade: Students should practice math facts, starting with 0-10. Read nightly for 15 minutes. The first module math test took place on a Wednesday, 10/3. Please remember sneakers on gym day.
- Third Grade: Students should be reading aloud each night at home for five minutes as part of nightly reading. Students should be memorizing math facts.
- Fourth Grade: Students are enjoying hands-on science. Practice math facts. Please remember to read daily, bring in a healthy snack and wear sneakers on gym days.

VI. Principal's Report – Mrs. Alaimo

- School safety is a priority. The District's Facilities Department is adding a second set of secure doors at entrance. The protocol for entering the building has changed. If a parent is dropping off an item (i.e. book, lunch, sneakers, etc.), they can drop off at the window in the vestibule. If a parent wishes to enter the school, they must show ID and sign in. This

is for all visitors, even if the Greeter knows the parent. The District is working on also installing swipe pads at each entrance so that teachers and staff can use their ID card as a security swipe.

- ELA: The program is getting assistance from Teachers College units of study provided by BOCES.
- We are still using Engage NY for Common Core Math.
- For Science, 1st and 3rd grade are using Stem Scopes. 2nd grade is piloting the Science 21 program. Third and Fourth graders are using Foss Science kits.
- Cursive writing is being introduced to 3rd graders while 4th graders are practicing cursive exclusively.
- Maker Space is underway with Mrs. McGee leading the charge
- Halloween: To control the volume of traffic and parents on school property, the Trunk or Treat will be split into two groups. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will enjoy the Trunk or Treat from 12:15 to 1:10p.m. Third and fourth grades will enjoy it from 1:15 to 2:10 p.m. The Halloween parade will start at 2:30 p.m. The blacktop will be open for participating cars involved in the Trunk or Treat starting at 10:15 a.m.
- American Education Week (November 12-16, 2018): Mrs. Alaimo is exploring ways to manage volume of people entering and exiting the building throughout the day. Under consideration is having one class viewing at a time for no more than 30 minutes on Tuesday, November 13th and Wednesday, November 14th.
- Mrs. Alaimo expressed her gratitude to the Committee Chairs and Members in advance for participating in this year's planned activities.
- Morning Drop Off: Children should be dropped off to school no earlier than 8:45am. Before this time, there is no staff available to monitor the children.

VII. President's Report – Fundraising Opportunities

- Balance is \$15,887.72. PTA Activities budget is being impacted by two new District mandates. District is going paperless in an effort to be green and cutting down on paper copies. Any hard copies printed through Docutech will incur a charge. As a result, more notices will be posted on the Franklin Avenue Elementary website and Facebook page, as well as sent through the PTA's new email system via MailChimp. Many thanks to Jennifer McCarthy and Tricia Sutton for setting up the email system and updating the PTA's website page.
- The Pearl River School District has also enacted a policy of charging custodial overtime fees for any event outside of the custodian's regular working hours (i.e. Father/Daughter Dance, Muddy Creek). To mitigate the impact of these mandates on the budget, the PTA is actively exploring additional fundraising opportunities.
- Launch Trampoline Park in West Nyack has agreed to host a school fundraising night in February. Date TBD. This will be a two-hour event (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.) Limited ticket sale of 150 tickets. Pre-sale will start in November. Kids only will be charged for admission.

Parents do not have to pay to attend. Meal deals will be available on site for both kids and adults.

- Penny Wars: Two-week period of loose change collection starting in November (two weeks before Thanksgiving). The teacher whose class collects the most change must accept the class challenge and grant the class wish in front of the entire school.
- Levity Live Magic Show featuring magician Mark Calabrese. This is a Sunday “Family Day” event scheduled in October at the Palisades Center in West Nyack. Limited to 150 tickets. Tickets will cost \$18 and does not include the standard “two item (food/drink) minimum” at comedy clubs.
- Box Tops: Many thanks to all those who submitted their Box Tops on Back to School Night. There are two collections per school year. The first collection must be postmarked by November 1, 2018. Students will be asked to bring in their bagged Box Tops (in counts of 50 or less) with their name and class written on the bag by Friday, October 19, 2018. This year’s Box Tops earnings will go towards new recess equipment, including indoor games for use during inclement weather and an outdoor gaga (ball) pit.
- Fourth Grade Baby Photos for the Yearbook are due at the end of October.
- Thanksgiving Feast: One seating only on Monday, November 19th. Payment can be made this year through MY School Bucks (\$4 per child/meal).
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon/Dinner: PTA sponsors this event and caters lunch and dinner for teachers during parent/teacher conference days (Thursday, November 15th and Friday, November 16th).
- Clothing/Miscellaneous Flash Sale – any items leftover in the PTA closet will be put on the Website/Cheddar Up for a Flash Sale (PTA Marketplace).

VIII. New Business

- Family Picnic: Many thanks to all those who attended. It was a wonderful evening. Many thanks to Whitney Hennessey, Erin Levy and Diane Sirakovsky for planning such an organized and well-attended event and all the volunteers who made the Family Picnic such a wonderful evening for both the children and their families. It was enjoyed by all in attendance.
- School Pictures: No amounts yet but event went well
- Yankee Candle: Fundraiser on-going
- School Kits (Kim Crispino): Used a new company called EPI, which was very responsive. The PTA made over \$1,000 on school kit orders. The PTA is looking at other companies for different options, including having school supplies shipped directly to home and having the option to order supplies a la carte.
- Fall Plant Sale: Thank you to all who placed an order. The Plant Sale raised a profit of \$961 for the PTA.
- Kindergarten Playground Night / Bus Orientation: Both were well attended. There was no space for parents to gather ahead of time due to the ongoing construction. Some parents

at Playground Night expressed disappointment that the teachers weren't there to meet the kindergartners and parents.

- Kids Clubs: Begins this week. Question was asked if the time period could be extended and Lindsay will mention to Joy Diviny to look into. Stage will be cleared off soon.
- Fence is being installed by PR Public Library which hinders the evacuation of FA to the Methodist Church. The District Safety Committee will meet with the School Safety Committee to discuss.
- Deadline for Information to be included in the email blast is Monday at noon.

Call to Adjourn 8:16 P.M. - Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes taken by: Rose Croke