

PTA Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2021

Call to order by Jessica Todd, She called to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020 PTA meeting and by a show of hands they were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Rachel O'Neil):

- Relevant Speaker's Network (Assembly) We paid \$225. We have spent \$450 out of a \$4,500 budget for Assemblies.
- We paid for 1 month of Zoom to provide the whole school read aloud before the Winter break
- We paid \$221 in Membership dues to the NJPTA
- We received \$66.80 from the Holiday shop sale out of the \$100 we budgeted to bring in
- We made a \$191 Spirit Wear payment but there is more to pay we haven't received the rest of the invoice.
- We wrote a check for \$1,044 for last year's yearbook

Principal's report:

- Mr. Lieberman is excited about this week's Kindness Challenge. He and Mrs. Schwam went into each class virtually last week to talk about it, had fun, etc. The kids wore ties today to show they are tied to kindness.
- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the assembly this week as it ties into the Kindness Challenge.
- Tonight was the first of the Back to School 2.0 meetings for 4th grade. He was happy to see a lot of participation as the teacher's discussed the procedure for the virtual school day, etc.
- In the email blast Mrs. Schwam was looking for families that were interested in a Virtual Diversity night since we had to cancel our in-person event. So far, she has only received 1-2 responses so if anyone is interested please email her.

Old Business:

- Spirit wear (Robyn Pistilli) It has been difficult to say the least due to Covid and manufacturing problems. We still have 2 pieces missing and the rest have been delivered or dropped off at the school for the teacher's. We offered the masks in green or black and they sent us black only in a toddler size. We refunded anyone who ordered the masks via Venmo or cash depending on how they paid. The company is still trying to get us some black masks so we will make them available for purchase first to those that previously ordered them. Some people have asked about a Spring spiritwear and we will discuss it as a board to see if we will order. If so, we will use a different vendor for that purchase.
- Wingin' in the New Year- (Robyn Pistilli) This dine to donate was successful in a way. Thank you to Dani Cherabi who helped us make this location possible. We received 20%

of the total bill which came to \$102.06. She said that she spent more than that on her order and went on to say that aside from the board there were not many orders and maybe we need to look more locally. If anyone has any suggestions please let us know. We will proceed with Scoop to My Lou in the spring as they are very local to us. We were thinking of doing Auntie Anne's pretzel kits. Would anyone be interested in that? Please email the PTA with any ideas or if you know a business that would work with us.

- Festive Holiday Wear flipgrid (Rachel O'Neil): As Robyn stated this also had low participation. Aside from the board we had Mr. Lieberman and 1 other student participate. Mrs. Schwam chose a winner and left nice feedback for all of the kids. She chose Katherine Pistilli who won a \$10 Scoop to My Lou gift card.
- Zoom Holiday Read aloud- (Rachel O'Neil and Mr. Lieberman): Rachel's school had done this before. It was nice to bring everyone together. Maybe next time we will shut the chat off earlier. There were some issues logging on so Mrs. Sardinia shared her screen so her students could see and hear the story. Mr. Lieberman said there were some struggles since it was new to the staff but overall it brought everyone together which was nice.

New Business:

- Attaboy Assembly (Robyn Pistilli); The assembly was funded by the PTA. It will happen at 10am on Wednesday, the 27th. She is really excited about this assembly. They are really up beat and have high energy. They have been using this platform for a while and said parents can join in too via the link. They are a cool band with a serious message to take responsibility. The assembly is in the morning which is good- it will get the kids going, stretch their legs, etc. They can ask questions in the chat, too. This should run smoothly and will be fun for the kids. Mrs. Schwam recommended the assembly and the PTA is happy to support it.
- Valentine's Day: (Jessica Todd/Rachel O'Neil): The kids will be able to personalize their cards and then coordinate with the room parents to drop off or pick them up. In order to let them sit for a few days before distribution they need to be dropped off by next Monday, February 1st. There cannot be any FOOD items given with the Valentine's cards. You can check this Friday's email blast for more information, too. In the newsletter will be the room parent contact information. The room parent cannot contact you if you haven't given them your information. Also, the PTA will have some extra Valentine's if anyone really needs them.
- Zuzu (Robyn): On February 8, 2021 the African Acrobats virtual assembly will be held. They are amazing and have been on America's Got Talent. You can google them to check them out. Their show is really cool and will also be a good kickoff to Black History Month. Again, Mrs. Schwam found them and the PTA is happy to support this assembly.
- Counselor day (Jessica Todd): Counselor day is on February 5th. If anyone wants to reach out and leave Mrs. Schwam a nice message please feel free to do so. The PTA is sending her a \$25 gift card and if we are back in person we will also provide her with lunch that day.

- Gertrude Hawk (Milissa Sullivan): She has been in contact with Gertrude Hawk and we need to decide if we want to go 100% virtual or have the brochures as well. If fully virtual we would be responsible for the shipping costs and the kids would not earn prizes. There is a way around it. She could place the only paper order and have everyone else submit electronically. Then the orders would be shipped to the school if school is open. If school is closed they can be shipped to her and she can distribute. Right now they have dates where we would expect delivery on 3/15 or 3/22. The closing dates for the sale would be either 2/22 or 3/1 depending on the delivery date we choose.
- Scholastic Book fair (Afsana Aziz): We are scheduled to have the next virtual fair from February 15-28th. We have a two week period to bring attention to the fair. Obviously, it is easier in person. Her challenge, and she talked to Mr. Lieberman, is to have the teacher's mention it to the students. Since they can't walk by the sale and check out the books. Usually, the parents know about the virtual sale so this time we want to make sure the students know so they will ask their parents about it. On the last sale we made \$250 which is nice but, it is one-third of what a typical in person sale makes. So the more exposure we have the better the sale can be. We can post on Facebook and maybe share it on your personal pages, too. Mr. Lieberman will talk to the teachers to let them know to tell the students, as well. Robyn said to remind her and she will blast it on the PTA FB page. Jess said to post it on the blackboard text the first day of the sale. Mr. Lieberman said he had it set for the middle of the sale but he will add one on the first day.
- Box Tops (Melissa Gicherman): If we are back in person and anyone has any of the paper/cardboard box tops please send them into school with your child. I have to send the next batch in to Box Tops in March. Most products no longer use the paper box top so you can download the app and just scan your receipt for the school to earn.
- Amazon Smiles (Melissa Gicherman): Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile where you select a charity and they will send 0.5% of the qualifying purchases to that charity. So, if you wish to add Bowne-Munro PTA we would appreciate it. Every dollar helps us to help the school and the kids.
- 5th Grade Committee: (Doreen Kammerrer): We are not doing too much right now. The \$20 discount cards are still available and are good through December 2021. The PTA earns \$10 for every card sold. We have made \$230 so far this year which is lower than normal.
Rachel told Mr. Lieberman that they are trying to come up with replacement activities for the Basketball game that normally takes place in March. They are thinking about outdoor basketball, dodgeball, kickball, etc. They were hoping they could survey the staff to see what their thoughts were. Mr. Lieberman said he will speak to the teachers at their next meeting to see where everyone is.
- Valentine's Jamboard (Jamie Ansalone): She is setting up a virtual card for teachers on Jamboard where kids could add pictures for their teachers, special messages, etc to show their love and appreciation for their teachers.
(add more after recording)
- Board Positions (Jessica Todd): We will have at least one board opening next year. If anyone is a current PTA member and is interested in a board position please send a

letter of interest to the Bowne-Munro PTA email address. This will also be discussed at the next PTA meeting.

- Membership: (Jessica Todd): If you know anyone new or someone who isn't a PTA member please ask them to join us. We are always looking for volunteers and new ideas.

Floor open to questions (there weren't any). Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 8th at 7pm. Be sure to check your emails, the FB page and Ebnet.org for any new information.