

## **Bowne-Munro PTA**

### **September 21, 2020 minutes**

Principal's message: Mr. Lieberman- thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He said it was great attendance, probably the best since he has been Principal at Bowne. He thinks we need to do them virtually more often to increase attendance. He thanked the PTA as an organization for what we do for the school. It has only been a couple of weeks since school opened but the opening has gone smoothly. There were bumps in the road but, we have worked them out. Today the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers it was exciting we partner with the Teacher's College at Columbia to provide about 10 days each school year for staff development. They talked about strategies of distance learning. On Wednesday, another staff developer will be coming to work with our Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers. The teachers were really thrilled so we are looking forward to tweaking even more of our practice. Once again, welcome. Thank you for volunteering and being a part of this organization. We look forward to working with you this year.

Jessica Todd thanked everyone for coming and helping us support the teachers.

The board introduced themselves- Jessica Todd, President; Robyn Pistilli, Vice President; Rachel O'Neil, Treasurer; Doreen Kammerer, Corresponding Secretary; and Melissa Gicherman, Recording Secretary.

Call to order by Jessica Todd

Approval of minutes from the May 2020 meeting. Robyn Pistilli approves and seconded by Doreen Kamerrerr.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel mentioned that the budget has been posted on the Bowne-Munro PTA page on Ebnet.org and said that we will vote on the budget after her report. We will give everyone a few minutes to look at it.

- Kindergarten tee shirts- \$294 spent on a \$300 budget
- Our teacher appreciation budget is \$2,000 for the year and we spent \$183.
- We have \$120 so far in membership and budgeted \$600
- Dine to Donate at Stefano's we earned \$300
- We spent \$192 on face masks for Bowne kids who qualify for free or reduced lunch. We had not planned on this expense but, it was worth it.

Jessica approved the budget and the attendees (via Zoom) also approved with a thumbs up/wave

Jessica asked Mr. Lieberman if there is anything else he would like to add for the Principal's report. He said that he already said what he planned.

Teacher Liaisons for this year will be Mrs. Prusakowski (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Mrs. Grant (3<sup>rd</sup> grade). Mrs. Prusakowski was in attendance and said thank you from the bottom of her heart for the wonderful gifts- the masks and Starbucks gift cards and cup. It was a special treat for all of us getting ready for this crazy school year. She also said the teachers appreciate the books so they can add to their libraries. Rachel added to please let the other teachers know that they are appreciated every hour of every minute of every day.

#### Old Business:

- Mother's Day- Rachel said that Art to Remember made \$75 and that shipping took longer due to Covid. She mentioned that it wouldn't be possible to have this fundraiser this upcoming Mother's Day. Rachel also said that Roots of Love was wonderful to work with. She would love to work with them again. People just had to mention Bowne-Munro when ordering. They were giving 10% back to the school and that the owner sent a personal check on top of the money we raised by ordering through them. We earned \$100 with this fundraiser.
- Scholastic Book Fair- Afansa Aziz- She said that we had \$800+ in Scholastic Dollars to disperse to the teachers to shop for book and expand their library. Afansa said that she has been working with the book fair for the last 8 years and that this year obviously had challenges with the remote learning/Covid issue. She mentioned that this is her last year as her youngest children are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will be leaving Bowne-Munro at the end of the school year. Alice Magner-Chen said she would be willing to co-chair (via chat comments on Zoom).
- End of year teacher gifts- Rachel mentioned that we weren't able to have our typical appreciation lunch due to Covid but each teacher was sent an Amazon gift card via e-mail.
- Gertrude Hawk- Milissa Sullivan said that even with Covid it was a successful fundraiser. It made \$1,600+ and all orders were received on time. It ended up running smoothly. One of the things I had to do that was different was that I had to distribute everything to everyone's home which was not too hard. Everything came in packaged well and she thinks it was a good turnout even though it was the beginning of quarantine when orders were coming in. It seemed that we got everything on time and it worked out well.

#### New business:

- Kindergarten Orientation- Jessica spoke about how it was Virtual this year and we made the best of it. We do have Kindergarten t-shirts to gift to all the students which will go out in the next material pick-up.
- Welcome Back gifts- Rachel said that Jessica was able to secure some Starbucks gift cards and that Robyn made great, personalized masks for each staff member depending on their subject area. Then, she and Evelyn Pan stuffed bags with other goodies (granola bars, water, etc) and dropped them off at the school for the school staff. She said that Robyn did a lot of the leg work with the masks and they were appreciated.
- Dine to Donate- Robyn said that the Stefano's Dine to Donate cost us nothing and we received 10% of the sales for that day if you mentioned the Bowne-Munro PTA. We wound up making \$300. She thanked the parents and teachers who ordered from the restaurant. She mentioned that she blasted the flyer to a few Facebook pages, groups and even to a blogger and News 12 who did a story about the restaurant. She also asked if any parents had any suggestions for other places and said we would ideally like to help local family-owned businesses. She said she will get the word out if we have ideas and it does not have to be a restaurant. She would also like someone to join her team.
- Fall pictures- Milissa Sullivan, Jessica Todd and Mr. Lieberman spoke to see if we had a date. Jessica mentioned that the dates would be November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lieberman said we can do it outdoors and we can set up times for our virtual kids to come in and we'll do the other ones during the day to make that work. He asked Jessica to email him those dates so he can make sure they are on the calendar.
- Staples- Jessica secured 200 bags of mixed school supplies (crayons, dry erase markers, etc) from Staples. She gave them to Mr. Lieberman who distributed them to the Bowne teachers to use as needed. He said that was a great donation and they really appreciate them.
- Ear protectors- Robyn is getting 50+ knitted ear protectors for the staff to alleviate some of the soreness of mask straps around the ears. There is an East Brunswick resident who has been making them and donating them to First Responders for months. She is knitting the pieces and then sewing buttons on them using our green and white school colors. They should be coming in soon.
- Boscov's- Robyn said that the Monmouth Boscov's store reached out to the PTA about a Friends Helping Friends sale. The two-day sale will run on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> both in person at the Monmouth store as well as on-line. Customers will receive 20% off sale and regular priced things with some exclusions. There is a flyer to shop in person or on-line with a code. Boscov's will then in turn give us 5% of every purchase back to the school.
- Halloween Contest- Jessica said this is still in the works and will be discussed with room parents soon for Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Discount Card- Doreen told us that the cards will cost \$20 each and the school gets \$10 back for each one sold. The discount card is valid at over 200 local stores and restaurants. You can go to [route9community.com](http://route9community.com) for a list of all participating merchants. She mentioned possibly having a contest to offer buy three get one free, etc. In years past cards were distributed in the class then you either purchased it or returned it. However, this year we will put an order form on Facebook and in the Friday email blasts, etc.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade committee- Doreen said that she emailed anyone who said they were interested in being on the committee. Doreen also spoke to Mrs. Ferrara and said they will meet virtually next week and will plan some fun events for the year.
- Fall Clothing drive- Kim Costello runs this but was not in the meeting. Doreen said the company we have used before is not accepting clothes this year. We are looking into collecting personal items like toilet paper, deodorant, etc and will pass info along after we discuss it.
- Spirit Wear- Jessica said orders are coming in and if you have any questions let her know. We are using a new vendor this year, the same as Frost and people there have liked the quality and design a lot. Please reach out to [bownepta@gmail.com](mailto:bownepta@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need an order form.
- Box tops for Education- I said that it is easy to download the app and select Bowne-Munro as your local school. You can scan receipts for qualifying items and some items still have the old cardboard pieces that you turn in.
- Amazon Smile- I said that you can choose a charity on your Amazon account under Amazon Smile. If you choose Bowne-Munro PTA we will receive 0.5% of qualifying purchases.
- Holiday adopt-a-family- Robyn said that every year we adopt a family that is in need for the holiday season. She contacted Rick Perrine from Parks and Recreation and they have added us to the list to adopt a family. They will contact us in the middle of October with more information.

#### District News:

- East Brunswick Public Library opens for business on Wednesday September 23, 2020
- Healthy Kids Running Series has begun but you can join at any time

Committee openings-

We do have some committee openings and ask that you please volunteer.

Membership- please join and please know that Grandparents are welcome to join. Setting up your membership in Memberhub is vital for us especially this year more than ever. We won't have as many fundraising events, we won't have the chance to generate what we need for this year and next. The dues are very relevant this year. Please involve everyone that you can and we can be more supportive than ever.

In closing, Jessica asked that the members please share any ideas that you have and ask any questions that you have.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be a zoom as well.

Mr. Lieberman noted there is a question in the chat about the Venmo address. Jessica said our Venmo account is listed on the ebnet.org PTA page as well as the Facebook page for the PTA. Robyn also asked that you follow us on the Facebook page and mentioned that Jess is doing a good job of keeping the Ebnet.org PTA up and running, too.

Robyn calls to close the meeting. Doreen seconds it.