

Briarcliff Elementary PTA Meeting
November 7, 2017

Attendees: Sheila Cain, Mimosa Hines, Crystal Holladay, Craig Shapiro, Paule Myre-Bisaillon, Amber Tingle, Jacquelyn White, Abra Rearte, Anne Dirilgen, Betsy Betsacon, Ashley Stockbridge, Erin Long, Alicia Angell

Staff: Stephanie Raiford, Beverly Benton, Karen Hargett, Katy Weaver

Meeting Called to Order: 7:01pm

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Ms. Cain welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Introductions

II. The Minutes for the October 3 meetings were approved

III. Advocacy

Ms. Rearte reported that there is no advocacy report this month.

IV. Officer & Committee Reports

President's Report: Ms. Cain reported that she met this afternoon with Ms. Rossi and Fun Run fundraising prizes will be provided to kids tomorrow. The Fun Run gross revenue was \$10,427; expenses \$1,374; net income \$9,053.00. Ms. Rossi will not be chairing the Fun Run next year and will help out with whomever takes over. It would be ideal for the Fun Run to have three co-chairs. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Cain, Hines, or Rossi.

Fall Fest was a great success, with thanks to co-chairs Ms. Predergast and Rearte. Fall Fest takes many volunteers. It would be beneficial to delegate smaller pieces of the event so that the co-chairs can run the event while also enjoying it with their kids. Cary Teen Council volunteers did a great job. Fall Fest brought in \$1,984 net. There was discussion regarding the amount of candy donated -- there was an enormous amount donated this year. It would help to include candy donations on the SignUpGenius. There is concern regarding the proximity of the Fun Run and Fall Fest with respect to volunteers and generally asking for help and donations from the Briarcliff family. There was discussion regarding spacing out the events, moving the Fun Run to the Spring, or possibly not having a Fun Run. At a recent Board meeting it was determined that three fundraising events are crucial. There was discussion regarding the timing of the Fun Run and why it was moved from Spring to Fall after the first Fun Run. It is possible that March would be a good month for the Fun Run to space out the donation requests. Holding it

later in the year would also provide more time to solicit corporate donations/sponsorships. A concern regarding moving the Fun Run to the Spring is that it would cause the PTA's cash flow to be low for the first several months and then spike in the mid- to late-Spring.

Ms. Cain closed her report by acknowledging and thanking everyone that volunteered at Fall Fest and the Fun Run.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Holladay reiterated the numbers for the Fun Run and Fall Fest. Ms. Long reported that the GoPlaySave fundraiser surpassed our goal of 150 books -- 152 books were sold, earning the PTA \$2,052. There was great success with online ordering. Online ordering will be stressed even more next year. Ms. Long intends to continue to chair the GoPlaySave fundraiser again next year. Ms. Stockbridge volunteered to help Ms. Long next year with GoPlaySave.

Ms. Holladay reported further that we need to revise a budget line item for Spirit Wear because of the PTA's purchase of 50th Anniversary t-shirts to sell at Family Night at the Book Fair (Nov 16). We need to approve \$1,000 additional in the Spirit Wear budget for the purchase. Ms. Rearte moved to increase Spirit Wear line item by \$1,000. Ms. Myre-Bisaillon seconded. Motion passed.

Cultural Arts: Ms. Holladay reported that the mime was great, the kids largely loved it. There has been a poet in residence with the 5th graders. Ms. Weaver reported that the kids have enjoyed it and many kids were inspired to write poetry in their free time. The next Cultural Arts program is a writer in residence for 4th grade. Ms. Cain lauded the Cultural Arts program and how it inspired students to express themselves through poetry.

Book Fair Update: Ms. Holladay reported that the Book Fair is Nov 13-17, 8am-3pm. Bagels/Donuts & Books is Tuesday morning (Nov 14). Thursday from 6-8pm is Family Night (Nov 16). Online shopping began November 5. The Book Fair needs volunteers -- only 7 of 51 slots have been filled. There was some criticism of, and discussion regarding, the Scholastic volunteer sign-up site (contrasted with SignUpGenius). Ms. Raiford will include information about the need for volunteers in her written announcements. Every family that attends will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win Scholastic Bucks that can be used to purchase books. A concern was expressed regarding the students that need financial assistance to purchase books. Ms. Weaver said that at her previous school every teacher was given 3 coupons -- each for the purchase of a book from a selection of books that cost \$x or less. This idea will be considered for future book fairs. No dinner sales this year, but there will be snacks available.

Membership Report: Ms. Hines reported that we are at 193 members. We received recognition by NC PTA with the Blue Key award because we submitted our membership fees on time. We still need a few teachers to sign up. Unfortunately, since all teachers have not yet signed up, there will be no drawing for the Stone's Education gift card.

Spirit Wear Update: 50th anniversary t-shirts have been purchased and the funds budgeted. They will be sold at Family Night at the Book Fair (Nov 16).

Hospitality Update: Ms. Cain reported for Msses. Fleming and Gourley that the November hospitality event will be related to the 50th anniversary celebration. There will be a community reception from 5 to 6 PM on Thursday, November 16, which is a catered event paid for by the PTA, and hospitality is setting up a sign-up for additional items such as veggie trays and fruit trays.

Spirit Night Update: Ms. Cain reported for Mr. Riley that our next spirit event is December 7 at Duck Donuts, Chipotle, and Firehouse Subs. Reminders/fliers will go out between now and then. The last Spirit Night at City BBQ brought in approximately \$250. Mr. Riley will provide more specifics at our next meeting.

Fall Coffee & Grounds: On behalf of Mr. Madding, Ms. Cain reported that the Fall Coffee & Grounds on October 14 was a success.

Principal's Report: Ms. Raiford reminded everyone that there is no parking on the Briarcliff side of the street. Recently, a family (with a Briarcliff student) was almost hit by a car. Don't park on this side of the street. More families are using carpool in the morning and it is running very efficiently, typically completing by 8:20am, which is better than previous years. Parents should not be dropping off students in the loop in front of the school.

New playground -- currently the cost is \$24,000 to install the new playground and \$5,000 to remove the old playground. Ms. Raiford was not previously told about the removal cost. As such, it is currently over budget. The playground is coming, but Ms. Raiford is still going over design changes and resulting changes in costs.

There will be a retro night with each hallway having different themes by decade. A Briarcliff parent that is a florist is donating balloons, etc. A Fuji Instax Mini 8 (current polaroid-type camera) will be available for photos. Briarcliff needs donations of film packs for this camera, to be used during retro night.

Briarcliff still needs speakers in STEM fields.

The next PTA meeting is Dec 5, which is the date of the 3rd grade meeting regarding new curriculum, which will precede the next PTA meeting from 5:45-7pm.

Dec 7 is the 5th grade parent meeting regarding the Human Growth and Development section and the overnight field trip.

V. New Business

Ms. Cain conveyed a suggestion that there are too many flyers sent home. The PTA will be sending out a monthly newsletter to help with that, start date TBD.

Ms. Hines showed a new comment/suggestion box that will be in the main hallway near the PTA sign. We encourage solutions as well as complaints.

VI. Announcements/Dates to Remember

November 16 Family Night at the Book Fair

December 5 Next PTA meeting.

December 7 Spirit Night @ Duck Donuts, Chipotle, and Firehouse Subs

Meeting adjourned: 8:07pm