

PTA Meeting 9/2/14

Those present: Kristen Walker, Kathryn Williams, Mallory Biringer, Angie Maynard, Stephanie Raiford, Sagrina Serrano, Sheila Cain, Rachel Love, Kimberly Richards, Amy Kiser, Kari Moncrief, Julie Harmon, Elizabeth Kahn, Paule Myre-Bisaillon, Roger Follas, Cyndy Fettig, Staci Morris, Katie Jones, Crystal Holladay, Emilie Snyder, Christine Lennon

Advocacy: Amy Kiser will be presenting advocacy information throughout the year. WCPSS has proposal available online for 2015-2016 school assignment. Small portion of Briarcliff students moving to Olive Chapel. WCPSS is taking feedback on their proposals. NC School Voucher program was ruled unconstitutional, and NC will appeal. NCPTA website offers webinars throughout the year for anyone to check out.

Special Guests:

Mrs. Brooks, new music teacher, introduced herself and outlined some plans for the school year.

She wants to do some multicultural grade level performances and asked for feedback about timing of these events. At this time, she is thinking about performances for 1st and 3rd grades. For 1st grade, Mrs. Brooks is planning a holiday around the world theme for the second week in December. The third grade class may do a performance for the family night of spring book fair. Another option is doing a performance on EOG Night on April 28. The audition for Pieces of gold will take place the first week in December. The PTA informed Mrs. Brooks that \$500 is budgeted for her to purchase needed music instruments. She will also have her yearly \$200 teacher grant. She plans to purchase smaller instruments for K-2 grades, bucket drums, and handbells. Mrs. Brooks may also try to get donations through Donors Choose. A suggestion was made to ask Home Depot to donate buckets needed for music class.

Officer and Committee Reports:

After meet the teacher, many offered ideas for improving next year's event. Ms. Maynard suggested having one hour for Popsicles on Playground instead of two hours. Also, having grades 1-5 Meet the Teacher first from 1:00-3:00 and 2:00-3:00 for popsicles on playground. At Kindergarten Meet the Teacher, parents didn't see the class lists and were walking around looking for their child's class. Suggestions were given to have someone direct parents to see class lists or different signage. Also, it may be beneficial to have a Spanish speaking person to direct families. Once the ambassador program gets running, those students may be able to assist with these events. Someone also suggested shortening the duration of Kindergarten Meet the Teacher to 1.5 hours instead of 2 hours (possibly from 12:30-2?). Ms. Raiford stated it is not possible to have Meet the Teacher earlier in the week due to many last minute enrollments. Since July 1, Briarcliff enrolled 106 students.

Membership Report: Cyndy Fettig, the membership chair, attended a local PTA conference on membership. The goal of the class was how to get more members and create a vision for school's PTA. The PTA is the oldest child advocacy association and is 117 years old. At its highest, the PTA had 12 million members, now the number is 4 million members. Cyndy's hope is to ground our PTA mission of advocating for children to attract more members. As of today, the PTA has 60 members.

Go, Play, Save Update: PTA will be passing out kindergarten books tomorrow. Many books have been returned without buying so far. \$900 received so far, we only get \$450 of that. Plan is to put advertisements in carpool line and make announcements as to which class is leading sales. The class who sells the most books will win a Moe's party. Kristen will send out a yahoo blast reminding parents about selling the books.

Tutoring/Enrichment: This program at Briarcliff is unique and benefits many students. Sagrina Serrano is coordinating the tutoring side and Amy Kiser is coordinating the enrichment. Volunteers are needed to help with these programs; can volunteer as little as 30 minutes a week in either tutoring or enrichment. The training will be held at the beginning of October and the program will start the middle of October. A flyer asking for more volunteers will be sent home soon. Some volunteers from nearby churches may be participating in the tutoring/enrichment program. Ms. Raiford wants the coordination of community volunteers to be handled by Robin Lane.

Hospitality update given by Elizabeth Kahn. This year, 14 new parents signed up to help with hospitality.

Elizabeth and Amber would like more help with planning and organizing hospitality events for this year. Contact at elizabethkahn22@gmail.com and ambertingle@gmail.com if you can help.

Spirit nights: Our first spirit night will be on Sept 23 at Barberitos and Menchies from 5:00-9:00. The flyer for this event includes information about taking the c-tran route. A McDonald's spirit night will be held in October.

Principal's Message:

Ms. Raiford presented a thank you from the teachers for the lounge makeover. She also presented a special gift to Melanie Dunning, Rachel Love and Kristen Walker for their help in this project. On the PTA website are pictures showing the lounge makeover. The current enrollment of the school is 590 students which is lower than previous years. The preschool program has fewer students as the program has been modified in its scope. Last year's tardy and attendance rates have improved with Ms. Wooten's Tardy Busters program. Ms. Raiford shared the results of the Teacher Working Conditions survey. 98.1% of teachers rated Briarcliff as a positive place to work. Keurig donations are welcome. On Thursday this week, the school EOG scores will be released.

Literacy Around the World Book Club: A volunteer to run this program is needed. Kathryn Williams who started this program has all of her programming information organized for anyone willing to take it over. Last year, this program was offered for students in grades 3-5. Each month, students read a book from a particular continent, sampled food from that culture and learned pertinent information. Last year, two groups were offered so program could be offered to 48 students.

Interested, contact Kathryn at kwilliams8@nc.rr.com

Cooking Up Character: Ms. Wooten is offering this club for students in grades 2-5. She needs a PTA volunteer to assist with managing money and shopping for needed items.

Fall Festival: This event will be held on October 24. Cyndy Fettig is the chair for this event, Amy Kiser will create the rope maze, and Kathryn Williams will help run the games. Cyndy has asked for someone to coordinate volunteers. This involves contacting Cary Teen Council and Key Club at Cary High and Green Hope High, and sending them a sign up genius link. Someone also needed to get pumpkins and candy donations. If you can help, contact Cyndy at cfettig1966@msn.com

PTA Bulletin Board: The PTA is looking for someone to create and maintain the PTA bulletin board. The PTA bulletin board is located where the old terrific kid board was. A new bulletin board for character education will be located near Ms. Wooten's office. The Board agreed that the Student Council can help put PTA messages on the outdoor chalkboard

Final budget discussion: The final budget for 2014-2015 was presented. Spring fling/silent auction was proposed to earn \$2500 to balance the budget. All board members approved the budget, so it will be presented at the open house meeting on Sept 18.

Square One Art: Ms. Dale will be having the students create their artwork soon. A custom catalog with each child's art depicted will be sent home at the end of October. Each child will receive a set of stickers whether they purchase any items or not. The deadline for ordering is Nov 17 and the artwork will be arriving Dec 8. Some new items will be available. Briarcliff will receive approximately 33% of sales.

Coffee and Grounds: Crystal Holladay asked for help with establishing dates for fall and spring workdays. She does not want to do the day after fall festival. Tentative date of Oct 11 for fall workday. Ms. Raiford shared that Summit Church will be volunteering at Briarcliff to clean up amphitheater, make carpool benches, and cut back trees and bushes. This will take place weekend of Oct 4. Over the summer, mulch was put down under the playground structures.

Next PTA meeting Oct 7 at 7:00 pm.