

**Edward J Bosti**  
**April 11, 2022, PTA meeting minutes**

**1. Welcome**

- Diana Armandi (President) welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. There were 18 members logged on.

**2. Special Guest Speaker (John Allen)**

- Mr. John Allen (Assistant to the Superintendent) spoke to the membership about the potential capital projects that will be on the ballot in May.
- In 2002-2014, a project of approximately 100 million dollars was undertaken in the district to expand the elementary schools to build the kindergarten atriums; the additions made to both middle schools and the addition to the high school were made as well. That work was done over seven years, and we are currently at a point where a large portion of that debt service is coming off the responsibilities of the district. Approximately 4.4 million dollars of debt service is no longer allocated to any projects.
- The district has a significant energy savings initiative that is going on throughout the district that involves changing out all the light fixtures to LED and doing an extensive solar project. Those are only 2 of the 17 measures taken, but the overall project will save the district about 1 million dollars in utility costs.
- Taking those two chunks and adding them together totals 5.4 million dollars. That gives the district approximately 60 million dollars in borrowing power. We have been able to take that 60 million dollar and reassign those expenses back into the budget, not increasing the budget but just reassigning them to a different line item, it gives us the ability to do this 60-million-dollar project with no increase in taxes across the community which is pretty awesome.
- We have already completed a large project at Bosti, the 2019 project of the paving and the mechanical system on the 2nd floor amongst a few other projects at Bosti as well.
- With using this retiring debt service and energy savings, it allows us to perform a large chunk of work and maintain our buildings to the level that our community expects and avoid those large ticket expenditures that might happen at any point. It's best to stay proactive and take advantage of these opportunities when they present themselves.
- Concerning Bosti, this project's significant cornerstones are heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. There have been changes to the ventilation codes in the last 20 years; by upgrading the ventilation, we will then be able to increase the filtration. The highest MERV rating is HEPA, which is not practical in the school district, but we will do everything to get as close to that. That involves a lot of mechanical equipment and means that we will be going into spaces that were not planned out as instructional spaces & adding a current 2022 system that is up to code.
- All our building instructional areas will have integrated air conditioning tied to the BMS. We'll be able to move away from the expensive and unreliable window air conditioners, and we will be able to have a comprehensive system that will be centrally controlled that will be able to monitor the entire building.
- This will also mean an upgrade to the electrical system which is over 60 years old.
- We will be making all instructional areas handicap accessible.

- The last piece is the replacement of the boilers at Bosti. There are two boilers that are temperamental at best, and we are constantly repairing one of them while the other is carrying the full load of the building.

**Question:** *When you stated the air conditioning would be upgraded to all instructional spaces, does that include the cafeteria?*

**John Allen:** *The cafeterias and the gymnasiums are not considered general instructional spaces because to do those large spaces through the buildings would cost approximately 8 million dollars. The board did not feel that it was fair to go out to the community to ask for more money than what the capital project could be done without increasing the community's taxes.*

- One of the things that is on the ballot is the creation of a capital reserve. If there are any available monies at the end of the year, we can put that into a reserve, and when enough is saved up, we can then tackle additional projects.
- With that money, I would recommend that boilers at the middle school be replaced and address all the large spaces such as the gymnasiums and cafeterias.

**Question:** *could the parents email the board with suggestions on what to use that money for?*

**John Allen:** *No, there are a lot of guidelines that need to be followed when creating a budget and creating a capital project. A lot of the posting and notifications need to be done in a series of events, in the 45 – 60 days prior to it. At this point, a 60-million-dollar project, there is nowhere to fit it in there.*

- To be completely transparent, this district has been very fortunate in its ability to fund reserves. I suspect that these capital projects will be completed quickly within the next three years, and after that, we should have no issues funding the reserves. At that point, the community can undoubtedly voice their opinions on what projects should be done.
- At the middle schools, the HVAC will be updated. We have done a lot of work in the past couple of years, and we have 40 out of the 60 rooms completed already.
- There are also ADA compliance issues at the middle schools as well.
- Lastly, the roof needs to be replaced as it looks like the moon's surface with several pockmarks on it. If we don't do this now, this could put the district in a bad spot.
- At the high school, the main stadium field will need to be replaced before the end of these projects because it is about 9 years old and accumulates a lot of wear and tear.
- Upgrading the electric service so we can perform the same type of work with the HVAC system.
- The high school also has ADA accessibility issues that need to be addressed.
- The big capital project at the high school will be the pool. The pool is over 60 years old and is extremely tired. It uses caustic materials that are corroding the pipes.
- Those are the broad strokes we are looking at as far as the scope of work for Bosti and the rest of the buildings in the district.
- The board of education hasn't voted on it yet; however, the central office has done a lot of work this year to get our tax levy as low as possible. Everyone is hearing about the record-setting aid that the schools will be receiving. However, Connetquot is only getting no more than a couple hundred thousand dollars more than last year in state aid. There is a lot of reasons for that, none of which are in anyone's control. It is partially because we received our aid earlier in the previous year or two, but despite not getting an increase in aid, they are going forward with a budget that will be less than 2%. The final numbers will be landed on by the Board of Ed tomorrow night.

- If there are any questions, please reach out to John Allen: [Jallen@ccsdl.org](mailto:Jallen@ccsdl.org)

### 3. **Secretary's Report (Ashley Robinson)**

- Ashley took attendance. There are 18 members currently logged on, achieving our quorum of 10 or more members. **(Please put microphones on mute and utilize the chat feature to vote)**
- The minutes from the last meeting were emailed along with the budget and tonight's agenda by Mrs. Kimball. Diana asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Diana then asked for a motion and a second motion to approve the March minutes. Colleen Malia motioned 1st, and Christina Yazbek motioned 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved as distributed (8 ayes, 0 nos).
- Reminded membership of the means of communication:  
**Facebook-** Bosti Pta  
**Email-** [Bostipta@gmail.com](mailto:Bostipta@gmail.com)  
**Website-** Bostipta.org  
**Remind app-** Text @Bostipta to number 81010  
**Venmo-** @Bostipta *(Please include your child's first and last name, Grade, teachers name, and a note of what you're paying for in the memo section. also, please choose the 1-to-3-day option as there are no fees)*

### 4. **President's Report (Diana Armandi)**

- There is still an open treasure position. If anyone is interested, please reach out to us.

### 5. **Treasurer's Report (Presented by Diana Armandi)**

- We currently have \$13,576.72 in our account.
- We did receive quite a few checks as far as revenue. We took a cash profit from the Scholastic book fair of \$554.72. We made a profit of \$360.90 from the HERSHEY Park fundraiser, and the PTA made a profit of \$39.28 from the St. Patrick's Day cooler of cheer raffle. Spirt wear brought in a profit of \$356. Hammer and Stain brought in a profit of \$151, and the Urban Air fundraiser brought in a profit of \$434.80.
- As far as expenses, we have \$34.85 on snacks for craft night and \$5 on our dues for the New York State PTA.
- Diana asked if there were any questions on the treasurer's report. There were none.
- Colleen Malia Basile chaired the nominating committee and announced the slate for the 2022-2023 school year:  
**President-** Diana Armandi  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-** Colleen Malia Basile  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-** Christina Yazbek  
**Treasurer-** Theresa Smith  
**Secretary –** Amanda Courtney
- We will be voting on the slate at our next PTA meeting on May 9th. If there are any nominations you would like to put in; there is still time to add them to the ballot.
- Dorothy Roventini and Diana Armandi ran the spring book sale. They had 2 tote raffles filled with goodies and did a few poster raffles. Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you to all the volunteers for your help. The PTA split the profit and received a \$554.72 check and \$1100 in scholastic dollars that will be added to our scholastic credit. The PTA covered the sales tax.
- The Urban Air fundraiser was a lot of fun. The kids had a blast, and we were glad that the kids could do that. Urban Air gave us a check for 20% of our profits that night.

- Teacher appreciation week is the week of 5/2/2022. The committee has started the planning process. The committee had lots of great ideas to share. Without giving away too much detail there will be a treat/trinket for the teachers & staff every day, with lunch scheduled for that Wednesday.
- The Chipotle fundraiser was a big success. It was nice to see all the support. Thank you for spreading the word & advertising this fundraiser. They gave back 33% of the total sales, and we earned \$213 for that night.
- Class picture day is scheduled for 5/3. They will be taken indoors in the atrium. They will be at cost of \$7, and the flyer will go out at the end of April.
- Colleen Malia Basile is chairing the spring plant sale. It will be running for the entire month of May. Bring your flyer to Joseph's nursery at any time during May, and 25% of your sales will be donated to the Bosti Pta.
- Christina Yazbek spoke about the CEED/ Traveling Rainforest Museum that came in on 3/24 for the 2nd grade. It was a digital presentation and some animals and artifacts for the students to touch if they wanted to. Mrs. Kimball said that the students enjoyed it and were engaged with the assembly.
- We also had Going Quackers for the pre-k and kindergarten on 4/8. That was a story, a craft, and a hands-on interaction with a few ducks. The kids all loved the ducks. We received so much positive feedback.
- Laugh-A- Lot poetry is an upcoming assembly scheduled for 5/4. It will be held virtually. The presenter is a very well-known bestselling author who has also done a show on Radio Disney. He claims that he can motivate reluctant writers. He did send some of his books signed that the librarian has been sharing with the children.

**Mrs. Kimball:** *I want to thank you for all the wonderful events you have brought to the school for the children. The children have truly enjoyed them, and it has been a productive year for them. I know it is a lot of work, so thank you.*

#### **6. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (Danielle Psarreas)**

- The HERSHEY Park fundraiser was very successful. We sold 118 tickets making the PTA a profit of \$360.90. All the tickets were distributed. It all went very smoothly.

#### **7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report (Christina Yazbek)**

- We got the final numbers in from the spirit apparel sale. Audra Malone chaired this fundraiser. There were 89 items sold, and the PTA made a profit of \$356. We hope everyone is happy with their purchases and if there are any problems, please reach out to the vendor, and she will be more than happy to fix them.
- The St. Patty's cooler of cheer winner was Rosie Ramos. The PTA only earned a profit of \$39.28, and because of that, we think we will be revamping the cooler of cheer for next year.
- Catherine Cortwright chaired Craft night. It was a lot of fun, and to our knowledge, no one bought the at-home kit. The PTA profit was \$151. Thank you to everyone who came.
- We did a HERSHEY giveback raffle. There were 2 baskets filled with different HERSHEY chocolate and 4 tickets to the park. The raffle took place on 4/9, and the winners were Jennifer Franco and Odalys Cruz.
- We have a Mother's Day raffle coming up. It will begin on 4/25 and end on 5/4. We will draw the winner on 5/5. It is a 50/50 raffle so that the winner will receive 50% of the pot and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. This fundraiser will be word of mouth; no flyers will be going out.

- We are up to 154 members, and it is not too late to join. Please go to the PTA webpage and click the membership link to sign up. We do have nominations coming up, and you must be a paid member for your vote to count. We were a recipient of a \$200 membership prize given by the Co-Council. We haven't received the check yet, but we did receive an email saying it's on the way. So please keep those memberships coming in.

#### **8. Principal's Report (Mrs. Kimball)**

- April is autism acceptance month. This week the students have been learning about the autism spectrum disorder in their classroom. Over the next couple of weeks, there will be more programs. Teachers and staff wear blue on Fridays in April. We are "lighting it up blue" in honor of autism.
- Friday night was the art showcase over at the high school. It was a fantastic event, and all our students had artwork displayed. Mrs. Ritter made beautiful displays of the artwork the children had created. The Bosti artwork will be displayed in Bosti later this week for the students and staff who could not attend the showcase.
- Also, on Friday night, the district-wide band, orchestra, and chorus performed at the art showcase, with many Bosti students participating.
- The NYS math exam will be administered to students in grades 3-5 on March 26th and 27th for those who are taking the exams. Parents should be advised that orchestra, band, and chorus will still be held on those days, so if you're not sending your child in for the test, please still send them in for the early morning class because they will have their concert soon.

**Question:** *so then do they come back home after attending rehearsals?*

**Mrs. Kimball:** *No, if they are already in school, they should stay in school.*

- The elementary honors art show will be held on May 17th and a few students from Bosti will be invited to participate in that.
- Kindergarten orientation and bus ride is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Letters have gone out to the parents who have registered with times and information. At the kindergarten orientation, the child will come in with their parents, and they will get to listen to a story and a quick bus ride together. The parents will get an overview of the kindergarten program.
- Kindergarten screening will take place on May 23rd and 24th. This is by appointment only, and the registration forms must be fully completed by then.
- We have tentative information regarding the reorganization of the 2022-2023 school year. We currently have 32 registered kindergarten students, so there will be 2 sections of kindergarten. There will be

**2 sections of grade one.**

**3 sections of grade two,**

**2 sections of grade three,**

**3 sections of grade four,**

**2 sections of grade 5.**

These numbers can change pending new registrants over the summer. There will be 5 or 6 sections of special classes. There are 3 special preschool classes with 1 UPK class.

- C-Quest Enrichment Program will be returning for the 2022-2023 school year. There will be a meeting on April 13th that will discuss reimagining the program. If anyone in the community is interested in attending the meeting and possibly giving some feedback, please refer back to the email sent by Christina Poppe for information and to RSVP.
- I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and enjoy the upcoming spring break.

## **9. Report of Informative Committees**

- There is no additional information on the Board of Education meeting.
- The Co-Council has not met again and so there is no new information to report. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/26.
- The next SBMT will be held virtually on 4/27 at 8:30am.

## **10. Old business**

- There was none

## **11. New Business**

- There was none

## **12. Announcements**

*(Please refer to the agenda for the complete list of announcements)*

- PJ day is 4/26

**Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm, with 19 members logged on.**

**The next virtual meeting is on May 9th at 7:00pm.**