

Edward J. Bosti  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, PTA meeting – Minutes

1. **Welcome**

- Diana Armandi (PTA President) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. She explained that we do not need a motion or a second to call a meeting to order like we did at the last meeting, so going forward, we will not be doing both. Danielle Psarreas - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Christina Yazbek - 2nd Vice President, Ashley Robinson - Secretary were present. Mrs. Kimball was also in attendance. Aimee Allocco – Treasurer, was absent.

2. **Secretary's Report (Ashley Robinson)**

- Ashley took attendance. 17 members were logged on achieving our Quorum of 10 or more members in attendance.
- Reviewed the voting procedures: Please keep microphones on mute and utilize the chat box in the lower right-hand corner of your screen.
- Reminded membership of the means of communication: Remind app: Text @bostipta to the number 81010, Facebook: Bosti PTA, Email: [Bostipta@gmail.com](mailto:Bostipta@gmail.com), Website: Bostipta.org and Venmo: @Bostipta (Please include your child's first and last name, grade, their teacher's name, and a note of what you are paying for in the memo section).
- Mrs. Kimball emailed the September minutes. Ashley asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There was none. Ashley asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Diana Armandi moved to have the September minutes approved, Tara Wagner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Since there were no corrections to the minutes, the minutes stand approved as distributed.
- Ashley spoke about our ongoing fundraiser with Shutterfly. The website is: <http://bostipta.shutterflystorefront.com/>. Click on the link and it will bring you to our store front. After clicking our store front banner, it will take you to the full Shutterfly site. It will no longer say Bosti PTA but your purchase will be credited to us.

3. **Treasurer's Report (Diana Armandi)**

- Current funds: \$11,973.94
- Mrs. Kimball emailed the budget to everyone. Diana went over revenue and expenses. She explained we received the check from our school supply fundraiser. The check was deposited and cleared. We did just have our Welcome Back event and so checks went out to the DJ, ice cream truck, the slide company and not all those checks have cleared yet. Diana asked if there were any

questions on the treasurer's report. There was none, therefore, the treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

- Colleen Basile spoke about the fall mum sale which ended on 9/24. We are still waiting to hear from Joseph's Nursery to find out the PTA's exact profit, but the fundraiser was very successful. Plant sale pick-up will be on 10/6 between the hours of 6 - 7:30pm, during the evening book fair.
- School pictures were taken on 9/22. Diana spoke about the re-take policy. If you are unhappy with your pictures, please send all the pictures back. The picture re-take date is scheduled for 11/3 and it will be held indoors.
- Michelle Distelkamp and Aimee Allocco are planning the Halloween party which is scheduled for 10/29. There is going to be two sessions just like in the past however this year the event will be held outdoors. The chairs are working on some exciting attractions such as Trick-or-Treat stations, a Spook walk, and a D.J. for the event. Michelle Distelkamp was looking for volunteers through Facebook. We thank everyone who has committed thus far.

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

- Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> was National Custodian Day. It was celebrated on Friday October 1<sup>st</sup>. The teachers had the older students make individual thank you cards that they handed them to the custodial staff during lunch while the art teacher, Mrs. Ritter, created jumbo cards that the younger students were able to sign and draw pictures on. Those were displayed in the hallway by the custodial office. The PTA also sent over breakfast for the day-time custodial crew (Justin & Nick) and dinner for the night-time custodial crew (Sal, Monica, Joe, and Chris). A big thank you to our wonderful custodial staff for everything that you do for us. You do a fantastic job and we hope you enjoyed your day! Thank you to all the faculty who helped make this a special day.
- The Book fair is being held this week on 10/6 and 10/7. The students will have the opportunity to shop with their classmates. Dorothy Roventini and Diana Armandi have arranged a book and poster raffle for the students during the family evening book fair on 10/6 between the hours of 6 - 7:30pm. We ask you to please wear masks and keep socially distant if you plan to attend the evening book fair. No more than 30 people will be permitted into the atrium at one time and there will be someone there to monitor the traffic.
- Colleen Basile spoke about the cookie dough fundraiser. Cookie dough sale packets will be going home soon. The packets will include the frozen cookie dough, gift wrapping, and all the home essentials. The sale will start on 10/13. This is a fantastic fundraiser for all the holidays that are fast approaching.
- Red ribbon week is scheduled for the last week in October as per Mr. McGuckin which will be the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Diana reached out to Janice Abel for her input

since she has done them in the past. Janice was very helpful suggesting ordering all the ribbons including the blue and white ribbons for Veterans Day. All ribbons have been ordered and were delivered over the weekend, so they are ready to go.

- Christina Yazbek reported that the committee of cultural arts has booked a program for Pre-k through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and that they are in the process of coordinating a program with Vanderbilt for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They also got the ball rolling for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade circus, they are just waiting to hear back.

5. **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (Danielle Psarreas)**

- Danielle spoke to Ed Hanley about the chocolate sale. He said the numbers are still coming and we are doing really good. He is very excited. Also, he posted on Facebook that today was the last day for both pick up and payment. If there is anyone who still would like chocolate, please contact him and to pay in cash.
- The Welcome back event went very well. All the kids had a great time and the parents were happy. We had a D.J., an inflatable slide and the ice cream man was there. Tara Wagner thanked all the volunteers who helped set up for the event and brought coolers filled with ice. She also thanked the custodial staff for all their help. We got a lot of positive feedback and it was great to see everyone come together. We hope we will be able to have this event again next year.
- The pumpkin patch is scheduled for 10/25 & 10/26. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the students will pick their pumpkins outdoors and on the 26<sup>th</sup> they will have the opportunity to decorate them with their classmates in the atrium. There are no volunteers needed for this event, but please send your child in with a sturdy bag to carry their pumpkins home in by that Monday (10/25).

6. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report (Christina Yazbek)**

- Spirt Apparel sale ended on 9/17. There was a total of 71 orders and the PTA generated \$637 in profit. We do not have an exact pick-up date for the apparel yet, but we are expecting the merchandise to be ready mid-October. Once we
- receive a delivery date (figure the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October), we'll reach out to everyone and let you know the details.
- AmazonSmiles is on the PTA webpage. If you go to the Bosti PTA website and click on the fundraisers tab, the directions on how to sign up are there, The PTA gets .5% of eligible sales and they get accrued quarterly. Our last quarter ended in August and the PTA made \$131.64. The check usually gets deposited into our account about a month after the quarter ends.
- PTA membership is ongoing. If you have not signed up yet, please feel free to do so. Our membership goal is 171 members and we are currently at 96, so we are already more than halfway there. Six of those members are teachers. The forms

to join are on the PTA website. If you would like to print the membership form you can do so by clicking the membership tab or you could click on the online store tab and purchase a membership online. Please remember if using Venmo to add that it is for the PTA membership in the memo line. Also, if your name is different than the one on the Venmo account please let us know as it helps clear up any confusion.

#### 7. Principal's Report (Mrs. Kimball)

- Today we re-started our bus of the month program. We were not able to do this program last year, but we have done it the previous two years. The children earn thumbs up from their bus drivers that are being tallied up. At the end of the month, the bus that receives the most thumbs up get to go to the principal's office and pick a prize from the treasure chest. There are some little trinkets for the younger students and some homework passes for the older ones. The students really like this program and it does reduce the number of incidents. Last year there were no incidents on the bus, unfortunately we have had some incidents already. Principal Kimball spoke to all the classes to remind them of the 5 rules of the bus and that the bus of the month program has started again. Mrs. Kimball also spoke to the bus drivers today because we have a lot of new bus drivers this year who were unaware of this program and they are excited about it as well.
- October is fire safety month which Mrs. Kimball takes very seriously (as should everybody). Every single year there is a fire somewhere in the district or within the Bosti community. The West Sayville fire department has invited our kindergartners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders to come to the fire house. It is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. They will learn about fire safety and what to do in case of a fire. They will also get to see all the fire equipment and what firefighters look like in full gear so if they should encounter one, that they know it is a friend who is trying to help them. There will be some in class workshops for pre-school and special ed. Grades 2-5 will have a modified assembly with the firefighters where the fire fighters will come to the school and talk to one grade level while it is live streamed to the other grade levels because there is not enough room to accommodate everyone in the atrium or cafeteria while remaining socially distant.
- We will be doing some fieldtrips this year but they must be done within the safety guidelines. Any fieldtrips planned by the teachers; they must find out from the vendors if they can maintain the safe guidelines. Mrs. Kimball suggests that, if possible, they be outdoors.
- Assemblies will happen but with modifications. With the help of Christina Yazbek, there are some virtual ones scheduled that Mrs. Kimball is very excited

about and some in person ones as well. Mrs. Kimball is more than happy to help work out in-person assemblies as long as they stay within the health guidelines. With advanced notice, we can also get the tech team involved who will be happy to help us out as well.

- We are planning to do the circus this year that will also have some modifications to it. Typically, we have the whole school watching in the gym, so we'll probably have to live stream it to some grades. For the live performance in the evening, we might have to put a cap on the amount of people who can attend by possibly distributing tickets because of social distance guidelines. Mrs. Kimball will check with OBMS to see how they are handling sporting events because it is in the gym and we typically follow their guidelines.
- We are tentatively scheduled to do an evacuation drill on November 4<sup>th</sup>. During the school day everyone will go on the buses to OBMS. We will go to the auditorium at OBMS where we will take attendance. After attendance we will get back on the buses and return to Bosti. Mrs. Kimball will be sending a letter home beforehand once the schedule has been confirmed.

## **8. Report of Informative Committees**

- Diana spoke about the Board of Education meeting on 9/14. We learned about the bus driver shortage. Connetquot is looking to hire 15 bus drivers. They already hired 3. They also spoke about bringing back events such as the book fair, plant sale, pumpkin patch, and field trips.
- 9/28 Board of education meeting spoke primarily about the lawsuit. There were mixed feelings among the parents in attendance. Some were for the lawsuit, some against it and others were wondering who's paying for the lawsuit.
- There is nothing new to report regarding the Co-Council. They have a meeting tomorrow night (10/5) which Diana will be attending.
- Mrs. Kimball spoke about the Sight Based Management Team (SMBT) meeting that happened virtually on 9/29. Mrs. Kimball was very pleased with the turnout. We had 5 staff members and 5 parents in attendance including Mrs. Kimball. During the meeting Mrs. Kimball gave a similar school report as she did at Septembers PTA meeting. The only thing she added that wasn't spoken about at the first PTA meeting was the mental health initiative program that the district has now adopted called the RULER program (Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate.) This program is from the Yale Center for Social Emotional Intelligence. The purpose of this is to help both the children and staff in the building to understand their emotions, why they are having these emotions, and how to monitor and regulate them.
- Edward J. Bosti is also a "Leader In Me" school which follows the Stephen Colby "Seven Habits of Successful people" or in education terms, "The Seven Habits of

Happy Kids". The school is planning to continue with the Leader In Me Program and to find ways to bring the two initiatives together. Mrs. Kimball asked the SBMT to produce ways on how that may be achieved and will be discussed at the next virtual SBMT meeting which is scheduled on 10/27 at 8:30am.

9. **Old Business**

- None

10. **New Business**

- None

11. **Announcements**

- Book fair will be 10/6 & 10/7, Cookie dough sale begins 10/13, Pumpkin Patch is 10/25 & 10/26, PJ Day is also on 10/26, Halloween party is 10/29, Picture Re-take day is 11/3 and the McDonald's fundraiser is on 11/4 from 5-7pm. **Next virtual PTA meeting is on 11/8 at 7pm.**

**Questions:**

- **Question:** Will you need any volunteers for the field trips?
- **Mrs. Kimball answered:** It's determined by the teachers. They are limiting the numbers of volunteers because they need to keep the number of people on the bus low, so it all depends on where they are going and what they would need.
- **Question:** How do we know what day the kids go to the book fair?
- **Diana Armandi answered:** Unfortunately, we don't. The front desk was going to make a schedule for us. Send in money in an envelope with your child's name ready for Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mrs. Kimball added:** Yes, the schedule was made today. Half of the school will be going on 10/5 and the other half will be going 10/6. The best thing to do would be that if you want your child to purchase, put their money in an envelope marked "book fair," place it in their folders, and we'll hold on to it for them until whenever their class is scheduled to go.
- **Mrs. Kimball also added:** We are tentatively scheduled to do an evacuation drill on November 4<sup>th</sup>. During the school day everyone will go on the buses to OBMS. We will go to the auditorium at OBMS where we will take attendance. After attendance we will get back on the buses and return to Bosti. Mrs. Kimball will be sending a letter home beforehand once the schedule has been confirmed.
- **Question:** Is the plant pick-up at the same time as the evening book fair and is it going to be outdoors?
- **Diana Armandi answered:** Yes, the pick-up will be 6-7:30pm, the hay and corn stalks will be outside and the mums will be indoors as long as we do not go over the 30 people maximum. If it starts getting too crowded, Colleen will bring the flowers out to those who are picking up.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm (24 members were logged on)**