

PLAZA PTA

Minutes of General Meeting

September 8, 2016

PRESENT: M. Caamano, K Wunsch, S Fisher, C Eckler, K Lozada, K Kucharovic, V Sookdeo, R McGovern, C Hyer, L Thompson, S Bruno, E Kirchner, S Smiling, N Driscoll, M Chery, F Elliott, J Klemme, R Simmons, M Hilburger, A Spies-Fullone, W Gomez, G Donchanco, M Blagrove, E Severin-Patrick, G Patrick, K Reid, S McTaggart, K Bolling, M Scott, M Ricafrente-Biazon, J Hernandez, I Chatelain-Fleming, M Sandaire-Josarin, L Morris, S Diaz, M Clennon, E Millerick, C Gioe, C Alvarado, J Gomez, D Amato McCoy, T Mark, C Sostack, B Donovan, T Kaynak, E Nofarstefano, C Carney

CALL TO ORDER: Christina Eckler

7:11pm Pledge of Allegiance, Emergency exits and procedures, no smoking, cell phones on vibrate. Parking rules, driving precautions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Christina Eckler

Welcome. I am always available at pick up and dismissal. My phone number and email are up on the plazapta.org website. New Parents' Tea was held prior to this meeting tonight - welcome to new parents attending their first PTA meeting. If you have not yet joined the PTA, see Ellen Millerick. The cost is \$10 for a single and \$16 for two. Your membership money directly helps the children at Plaza.

PTA meetings are a place to gain information about programs, events, fundraising, school district, and state happenings. If you have a personal problem regarding your child or teacher please make an appointment with the classroom teacher or the office as PTA meetings are not a forum for these matters.

Do not park on the east side of Rockville Dr or pull into the teacher parking lots when dropping off or picking up students. Please drive safely and slowly around the school.

The motto for the 2016-17 school year is "Learning Together"

The PTA hosts many events run by volunteers. Sign up sheets will be passed around. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for at least one committee. If you work please do not feel you can't help out as there are plenty of opportunities that can fit into any work schedule.

Thank You

Vicmarie Sookdeo- for organizing the installation dinner in June

Doris McKeon - for helping, coaching and guiding me to take on this role as PTA President

Justine Chan and Sherone Ramnarine - for hosting a wonderful meet and greet here on the playground over the summer.

All who signed up to chair committees this coming year

Karyn Reid, William and Lisa Morris, Susan Fischer, Marykate Caamano - for taking photos and making signs for first days of school

Auditing Committee Sherone Ramnarine and Alicia Fullone successfully completed the audit on August 4, 2016. The books were found to be in order all funds were accounted for.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

2016-2017 Officers:

President: Christina Eckler

1st VP of Legislation: Susan Fisher

2nd VP of Membership: Ellen Millerick

3rd VP of Health & Safety: Doris McKeon

4th VP of Fundraising: MaryKate Caamano

Treasurer: Kim Albrecht

Recording Secretary: Kristina Lozada

Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Alomia

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Gray

Welcome to new parents and welcome back to returning parents. This has been the smoothest opening we have had in a long time. Crews are in classrooms now fixing windows. Some would not open or needed two people to open. This is being rectified now thanks to Dr. Camhi and the District Office.

There is a new creative space downstairs in Plaza. It is part Science lab and part Media center. This space is equipped with Eno boards, which are Smart Boards which can be controlled from any spot in classroom. The space will also contain children's tablets and indoor gardens.

Team Orchid will continue to report on events happening around the school and we will post this on the Baldwin website. There is an app as well.

We are aware of significant puddles outside in the back (where sidewalks were redone) and we are addressing the problem.

We are aware there is no crossing guard at E Seaman and Grand. A letter was written requesting a traffic study which will hopefully be a quick procedure which will hopefully lead to the assignment of a crossing guard there.

Sept 20 is "Know Your School Night." It is a good opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about the school. There will also be a PTA sponsored Book Fair at that time.

Questions:

Q -Will Team Orchid be happening this year?

A - Yes, for fourth and fifth graders

Q - Last year the meeting times for Team Orchid and Student Council conflicted. Is that likely to happen again?

A - This year I have asked the two groups to work together more.

Q - Are the basketball courts primarily for the school or the neighborhood because they are too high for elementary age children?

A - Once the school day is over, they are accessible to the neighborhood. We can look into lowering the baskets.

TEACHERS' REPORTS:

PE - Please check schedule and dress appropriately for PE. Appropriate attire is shorts or sweatpants, a t-shirt, socks, and sneakers with laces or velcro. Please do not wear slip on shoes. A Fitness Fanatics Calendar was sent home and it is also available on my webpage. Return this calendar at the end of each month so your child can earn a mile for their class. We will find out which class earns the most miles.

K - Weather is very hot, please dress children in clothes that are appropriate for the temperature. Children should bring a healthy snack daily. Discuss with children which food is snack and which is for lunch, being aware that there is only time to eat one or two snack in the classroom. HW will not start for awhile. Students will be working on the numbers 1-5 and counting sets. We will start a Word Study program with a student of the day and reading that student's name will be the focus. Writer's Workshop and Reader's Workshop will be launched soon starting with learning the rules and routines. Titles of the books read in class will be put in weekly newsletter. Science will include a yearlong study of trees and Social Studies topics are friends family and school

1st- School begins promptly **at 8:35** and ends **at 3:00**. Notify teachers if someone other than a parent will be picking up your child. Please put students to bed at a decent time and start their day with a nutritious breakfast. Please send a healthy snack and water to school daily. Water bottles only! Please dress children in cool, comfortable clothing for

this hot weather. Please check students' red take home folder daily for info from the teacher. Provide your child with a consistent HW spot with all the supplies necessary. Refer to Baldwin Homepage for our teacher websites for the latest updates, classroom newsletter, homework, etc...

Remember that **Thursday Sept 29** is Picture Day

2nd - 2nd grade classes will be reading picture books that promote teamwork and self esteem. All the students have been enjoying the first read aloud book of the year, Because of Winn Dixie. The first writing genre that the children will be focusing on is narrative writing. In math, we have started chapter 1 which focuses on number sense and place value. Second grade is also beginning with the study of soil in science and in social studies we will learn about different types of neighborhoods.

3rd - Third graders are also beginning the school year focusing on the genre of narrative writing. In math, the first chapter of the year focuses on the properties of addition and rounding numbers. The third grade will be starting a unit on animals in science and we will be studying types of communities in S. S.

4th - We are beginning the year with a unit on reading and writing realistic fiction. In math will be studying place value. Please review multiplication and division facts with your child. Students will be learning about geography in social studies and rocks and minerals in science. Please check and sign your child's planner nightly and check the website to make sure your child has brought in all needed materials.

5th - Fifth graders will soon be composing personal narrative writing pieces and beginning a math chapter on place value. In science, we will learn about outer space including planets, stars, moon, sun etc.. In social studies we will be learning about the development of our nation and government. Please check your child's homework folder and monitor their nightly homework assignments to ensure completion.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Kim Albrecht

Budget flyer sent home in backpacks with children yesterday and copies are also available here at this meeting. My contact information is available on the PTA website.

Reconciliation for May 2016 was completed by Christina Eckler, for June 2016 the reconciliation was completed by Vicmarie Sookdeo. The reconciliation for July 2016 completed by Kim Albrecht and all funds have been accounted for.

The budget:

For expenses and programs - \$26,900

For Income (Ways and Means) 26,900

The balance as of 06/30/2016

Checking: \$9,502.42

Savings: \$5,932.72
Fifth Grade Events: \$100.00

Vote taken
In favor of the budget: 36
Opposed: 0
The budget passed by majority

1st VP of Legislation: Susan Fisher
There will be a Legislative Forum/Voter Registration Drive hosted by the Baldwin Council of PTAs on **Oct 6**.
Competition - the local PTA with the most attendance will receive a shout out.

2nd VP of Membership: Ellen Millerick - membership drive is going well

3rd VP of Health & Safety: Doris McKeon
Sept is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and National Suicide Prevention Month (suicide is the Leading cause of death for age 10-24.)
There will be information posted on the Plaza Parents Facebook page.
Oct 1 is Shed the Meds

4th VP of Fundraising: MaryKate Caamano - nothing to report

Recording Secretary: Kristina Lozada - nothing to report

Corresponding Secretary: Jeannette Alomia- absent

COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS:

Doris McKeon
Picture Day- Sept 29 (Retakes 11/4)
Bus Drill - **Sept 15**
Book Fair - **Sept 20-21** Can purchase books for as low as \$5.

Karyn Reid - Reflections Committee

Reflections is a PTA sponsored contest allowing students to explore talents in art, writing, photography, music, or dance. This year's theme is "What is Your Story"

To encourage more children to participate we will hold workshops where they will prepare their entries. Volunteers are needed for these workshops and volunteers to judge the entries.

Vicmarie Sookdeo - Cultural Arts Committee
The Cultural Arts Committee brings assemblies and shows to the school. A few days before an assembly a flyer will go home with a date and description of the assembly.

In my new position as Ways and Means board member of Nassau Region PTA, I will keep you posted on events and conferences taking place.

Upcoming Events -

-Resolutions Advocacy Workshop on 9/29 in Garden City

-Fall Conference **Oct 19** at 7:00pm in Hicksbille

Banking Committee

First Banking Day will be **Oct 17** and a flyer will go home. Plaza partners with Ridge-wood. Saving Bank so students open saving accounts where they can deposit cash or checks into their account once a month at school on "Banking Days."

Christine Carney

Chinese Auction

The annual Chinese Auction will be held on

Oct 13 at 7:00pm at Plaza's next PTA Meeting.

Tickets will cost \$5 for 26 tickets.

See Christine to donate items or services.

Christine DeLuca

5th Grade Events -

Sept 24 Fifth Grade Carwash and Clothing Drive (taking unstained clothes, sheets, pocketbooks, and stuffed animals). Look for the flyer to come.

Fifth Grade Event Swirl Bliss fundraiser **3:00-8:00pm** this Friday (9/9).

Fall Festival

On Sat **Oct 15 11:00-2:00** we will hold the Fall Festival, which is a fun family event that the PTA hosts free of charge for Plaza families.

Oct 22 is the rain date.

There will be clowns, pumpkins, face painting, vendors and more. Older children in need of community service requirements can help out with the Fall Festival.

Karyn Reid

Speaking on behalf of the Baldwin Board of Education (BOE) encourages parents to join the BEA (Baldwin Educational Assembly) a steering committee that helps BOE make decisions. BOE charges BEA committees to do research and gather information. Next meeting will be on **Sept 20 8:30** in Cafeteria A at Baldwin High School.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

Meeting adjourned **at 7:52pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by PTA Recording Secretary Kristina Lozada on Sep-tember 9, 2016