

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: February 10, 2021
Time: 2:00 PM (Zoom)
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto, Mrs. Kral, Officer Dan
PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook
School

1. **Call to order and flag salute**
2. **Approval of Minutes- January 2021 Meeting:** Approved without objections or corrections.
3. **Principal's Report (Mrs. Drexinger):** Principal report attached.
4. **Teacher's Representative:** No Teacher's report.
5. **President's message/Announcements (Diana Ettinger/ Emily Mellow):**
 - a. **Kindergarten and 1st Grade Registration:** District link is available on PTA landing page.
 - b. **Sprit Day:** Kids to wear anything valentine themed tomorrow (February 11th) both for Roomers and Zoomers.
 - c. **Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteers and look for the list on the PTA website.
6. **Treasurer's Report (Ana Roth):**

Report for January

 - i. We got \$129 in Box top rewards
 - ii. 2 checks were cashed by Class parents
7. **Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee):** Nothing to report
8. **Reports:**
 - a. **Spelling Bee** (Urmi Mukerjee): Virtual Spelling Bee registrations have started in school. Word list and more information is available on www.saltbrookpta.com. Classroom Bee will be between February 23rd-25th and Spelling Bee will be on March 30th, 2021.
 - b. **Talent Show** (Kristina Yadlon): Talent Show dates – March 19th 2021. Sign up still open for talent show, participation low this year compared to previous.
 - c. **STEM Fair** (Diana Ettinger): Registration open now grades 3-6. Stem fair is a virtual event. Students will create a presentation and uploading on padlet instead of using trifolds. Every participant will get a T-shirt. PTA website has all the STEM Fair details.
 - d. **Author Day**(Elizabeth Lee): Virtual author day is on March 3rd, 2021 in three zoom sessions divided by grades. Author will talk to the students over zoom. Author is still secret and kids will

participate in guessing contest. Book sales will begin March 1st, 2021 – March 12th, 2021. Books will be personalized and signed. 20% of book sales will go to PTA.

- e. **SouperBowl Winner Announcements** (Jennifer Niederhoffer): Chiefs won by 98 items. Food pantry was extremely grateful for the donation. Looking for volunteers for doing this next year.
- f. **YearBook** (Kristina Yadlon): *Year book is trying to get as much as possible. Deadline for yearbook is March 15th and it will not be able to cover events after. Sales information will come later. Information is being sent to parents from school and PTA to add photos of students. No class pictures this year.*
- g. **6th Grade Graduation** (Kristina Yadlon): Parents have been notified about things to send in for the video. More information will be sent out about interview videos and pictures.

9. Open Forum:

1. **Question for Officer Dano: Is there a way to suspend parking on the other side of Maple St. due to snow, especially during pick up time (12.20pm)?**

Officer Dano: During pick up times, you are allowed to park on the west side of the street going south bound. No parking in the north side during pickup, if parents stop parking there it will solve a lot of the parking problems as it will open the road up. No tickets have been written so far, but the continued delays may change the situation. Police don't have the authority to change parking rules.

2. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Any chance we can clean more of the snow from the Westside of Maple St. Kids are having trouble getting from the pavement to their parents cars. Or even make a few more passageways from the sidewalks to the cars.**

Mrs. Drexinger: Can talk to maintenance but they don't clear between the sidewalk and curb. They were working till midnight to clear the snow. They usually clear sidewalks and lots. As the weather gets warmer and the snow melts the issue will be resolved but will surely discuss with Maintenance Department.

3. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Is it a requirement that during the new phase the windows have to be open or is it based on teacher's preference.**

The recommendation from CDC and NJ State Departments says windows be kept open to some extent for ventilation. That was from day 1. Guidance to the teachers remains the same. Windows are open based on the teachers/student/families comfort levels.

4. Question regarding the technical issues with regards to Zoom. Has the problem been identified and do we have a timeline when it will be fixed?

The issue seems to be with the firewall based on the conversation with technical people. Working with the outside companies and vendors who monitor district technology, hoping to have it solved soon, but we do not have any timelines.

5. Addressing the open window issue, can the parents donate space heaters to the class? And can kids bring in hand warmers?

School is prohibited to keep space heaters in the building as part of the fire code. They are allowed to bring in hand warmers.

6. The temperature checks happen in the outside in the morning when temperatures are really low. Is it realistic to find child with fever if it's that cold outside?

The temperature checks might not be accurate. Hopefully parents are keeping an eye on their kids and checking their temperatures at home. We get a temperature range from checking the temperatures and if some kid is higher then we will check them again with a warmer thermometer indoors. Also fever is not a prevalent symptom of Covid in children. Runny nose is a more prevalent symptom. The questions we are asking are more important than temperature checks. The daily reminder to parents when they see us standing with temperature checks and questions is a reminder of how seriously we are taking this situation and to be similarly cautious at home and before bringing kids to school. Sometimes the kids are sitting by the heater and we get incorrect readings, so we let the kid cool down a bit and take the reading again.

We also keep the thermometers in our hands to keep it from getting cold.

PTA MEETING

February 10, 2021

PHASE 2

- Going Well!
- This week all students have been arriving in their classrooms by 8:40 a.m.
- Thank Custodian and Maintenance for snow removal
- Appreciate parents' support on having students ready as they exit cars - Big help!
- As weather gets warmer and sidewalks cleared - encourage walkers
- Classroom instruction is going great with the larger groups. Teachers are being mindful of zoomers and making sure that they feel included.
- Remember to remind students to charge iPad overnight
- Internet sporadic outages have been occurring, The tech department is working on it.

KINDERGARTEN / INCOMING FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION

- Wednesday, February 17- Friday, March 5, 2021.
- Incoming students must be registered in Info snap. Information for registration is posted on the website.

Standardized Testing

- CHANGE OF DATE: In View – Grades 3 and 5, March 24th and March 25th, 2021 (Grp. C students option to come into building to take assessment)
- NJSLA and NJSL Science - Still scheduled by NJ State Dept. of Education. Tentative dates 5/10 - 5/21/21.
- We will communicate testing procedures to all parents as the dates get closer.

CURRICULUM REPORT - Board of Education Meeting, Thursday February 25th

HARLEM WIZFIT CHALLENGE

- Congratulations to SB for being the winning school!
- Golden Basketball Winner is Casey Szeto,
- SB Top Class - 3S, Mrs. Salsberry
- Several SB Education Foundation Grants are being submitted. Thank you to the Education Foundation for their fundraisers and support!

OTHER

- Thank Mrs. Niederhoffer for the Souperbowl
- Thank PTA for efforts with the upcoming Spelling Bee, Talent Show, Author Day, and STEM Fair.