

## Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting  
Date: January 13, 2021  
Time: 9:30 AM (Zoom)  
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto, Mrs. Sporel  
PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook School.

### 1. Call to order and flag salute

2. **Approval of Minutes- November 2020 Meeting:** Approved without objections or corrections.

3. **Principal's Report (Mrs. Drexinger):** Principal report attached.

4. **Teacher's Representative: (Mrs. Spoerl)** Spoke On Zoom security Update

- a. Thanked the parents for following the directions and log into zoom
- b. All the students are logged into Zoom.
- c. Reason for the additional security was felt so teachers can lock down Zoom sessions only for NPSD users.
- d. Teachers can still set sessions with parents with regular Zoom Ids.
- e. This was a proactive / cautionary step to block any non NPSD student/ person from hosting the meeting since some cases of students posting teachers ID on social media was reported (no cases reported for Elementary school ).

5. **President's message/Announcements (Diana Ettinger/ Emily Mellow):** No message from the president but there was a parent message.

- a. Parent Message from Jennifer Niederhoffer: Jackie, a 5 year old girl, has been diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia called JMML and her only chance for cure is a bone marrow donor match. Request is to get the word out and make people register as a bone marrow donor. If you have any questions about getting involved or be able to support the family contact Jennifer.

6. **Treasurer's Report (Ana Roth):**

Report on November and December months.

a. November:

- i. Holiday craft sales - \$1900, Profit from T-shirt sales - \$1578, Additional class dues - \$148, Amazon Smile reward - \$104.
- ii. Going out: Additional checks cashed by class parents - \$2200, \$20 for M&M contest.

b. December:

- i. Martial Arts Fun Raiser - \$150, Holiday Crafts- \$69
- ii. Going out: Color Me Mine- \$2000, Staff Holiday breakfast -

\$1200, Additional class dues - \$1097, PTA state dues - \$97, Contribution Go Zen Sponsorship - \$74, 6th Grade account - \$325.

**7. Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee):** Read out Thank you messages from Shelly, Elizabeth, Mrs. Drewes and Officer Dano in response to PTA Luncheon and Holiday gifts.

## 8. Reports:

- a. **Author Day** (Elizabeth Lee): Coming up on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and it will be virtual this year. Will run similarly as in the past with three groups – by grade. Author is a secret; students will get clues and guess the Author. Book sales will be used as fundraiser for the PTA, parents will have the opportunity to purchase books, they will be personalized and signed by the author in the form of a bookplate sticker. Book sales will start after the visit.
- b. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee** (Kristina Yadlon): Reconvene and look for activities for the year. Approached parents for the graduation video.
- c. **Yearbook** (Kristina Yadlon): Looking at creative ways to fill the yearbook.
- d. **Rest of the events:**
  - i. Pins have been cancelled.
  - ii. Still on Talent show, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Annual fundraiser- looked at ways to adapt them to virtual environment.
  - iii. Mother son bingo and sweetheart dance- making contingency plans for these underway.
  - iv. Need creative ideas and volunteers!

## 9. Open Forum:

1. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Are the dividers three sided?**  
*Mrs. Drexinger: Yes, These are three sided dividers*
2. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Given that it's January and trimester changes in March will there be other selection periods during the rest of the school year when people can opt in if they choose to change their groups.**  
*Mrs. Drexinger: We are going to have February and then the March as part of the plans now. Not had discussions about later opt ins, as of now. Soon educators will start getting vaccinated and as things change we will have open sessions for parents to make decisions.*
3. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Regarding students have IEP's. Have there been talks about them coming in longer and if it's been delayed and if you can talk to us about that.**

*At the beginning of the discussions for phase 2, we were planning to bring IEP students in and making plans for a full day in school, but the numbers started to spike and while discussing with other surrounding communities on our round table no one was moving to 3:00 pm school and health department wasn't thrilled either. Lunch and recess being main concerns, final plans came up with the 5 days and half days model for all students. There could have been some confusion about communicating the ideas to IEP families but by the end of the day the Phase 2 will work best for all students including IEP.*

**4. *With the current level of cases are we looking to move and transition or are we looking to be in a better place?***

*We are looking to get to a better place even though elementary schools are in a better place compared to Middle and high school number wise. Ideally we would like to move to a better place in terms of numbers.*

**5. *If every Group C student comes back, will the school still be able to maintain 3 feet distance between students?***

*School is striving for it! Every piece of furniture has been moved out from the classes at the beginning of the year, leaving behind only teach and student desks, giving us more room in each class. So while we try our best if every student comes back we will try the best to have three feet or the most space that can be managed. The windows are being opened in the winter, while monitoring the comfort levels of the students and teachers.*

**6. *Is there any concern, if we have twice as many kids in school and during transitions in hallways, dismissal or arrival? How we are going to maintain distance?***

*While arrival will be a bit tricky, we have limited resources for staff doing temperature checks. We will have to be patient. No one will be marked late because of a temperature check or traffic. Only marked late if they come in after 9-9.15. There are no transitions in the hallway. The students aren't moving for any classes, the classes come to them. They only move for P.E classes, two classes at any one time, where they have one class coming in and other going out while using different staircases. Some transitions for band lessons or for reading specials but those are individual situations. Traffic in the hallway should not increase during the school day and we will keep staggered dismissal schedule.*

*A potential concern we see is student's hanging outside after dismissal and while playground aides are constantly monitoring*

*the situation but sometimes students are still there at 4:00pm in the playground, playing without masks.*

7. ***With Group A and B coming in together could there be a situation where Group C might miss out on activities/teamwork/projects in school?***

*No projects will be done together. Nothing much will change apart from kids coming in together from Group A and B and they will see each other in class and have some interactions. No group works or groups projects will be done. Teachers are also aware of this and will see for signs and make sure they figure ways to include Group C in everything and the students don't feel left out.*

8. ***Assuming that once the change are made you will continue to monitor the situation and roll back to the hybrid model if numbers spike?***

*Yes, we can certainly do that.*

9. ***Are the 6<sup>th</sup> graders still able to do the testing for the middle school enrichment placement?***

*Tentative dates are in mid March when they normally run. It will be like the In-View where students in Group A and B will get tested in school and Group C will have options to do it in school cafeteria spread out 6 feet apart. Middle school is still working on options for students who are not comfortable with these options.*

***PTA MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2021***

**I. HAPPY NEW YEAR / Thank You!**

- Toys for Tots - police community service drive. Huge participation from our SB families. Thank you so much for your generosity!

**II. PHASE 2**

- Offering In-Person Instruction 5 days per week 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions remain as is.
- Students in groups A and B will attend school 5 days per week
- Group C and Group D schedules remain unchanged
- Personal desk mounted plexi-glass dividers have been purchased and are beginning to be installed at both Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook Elementary Schools.
- Under this plan, student desks will continue to face in the same direction and be arranged to the maximum extent possible in order to maintain social distancing.
- Parents will have another enrollment period to change their child's grouping per the new plan. - Letter with link to sign-up sent out.
- **NOTE: While this plan is targeted for possible implementation in early February for all elementary students, we will continue to work closely with the Westfield Board of Health to monitor the health and safety of our school community. Final decisions as to the start of Phase 2 will be communicated on or around January 22, 2021.**

**III. STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS**

- In View – Grades 3 and 5, February 10 and possibly 11th, 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.

**IV. GRANTS**

- **DRIVE FOR AUTISM GRANTS** - Received a \$2,000 grant to supplement our special education instruction. Thank you to the Drive for Autism for their generous donation!
- **EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANTS** – In process

**V. VALENTINE'S DAY**

- We will be hosting class parties and permitting distribution of Valentine's Day cards in Grades K - 5.
- Guidelines for cards: Individual Valentine's Day cards can be distributed in grades K - 5 following these parameters:
  1. If a child brings cards in to distribute, there must be one for every child in the class
  2. All student Valentine's Day cards are due in school by Friday, February 5th (to allow time to sit untouched)
  3. Each student should only write his/her name near "from" and leave "to" blank. This will make it easier for the teachers to distribute.

4. Each child will have their own labeled "mailbox" i.e. paper bag, shoebox, manilla envelope, empty tissue box etc.
5. Classroom teachers will place one Valentine from each child's collection into individual labeled mailboxes.
6. Labeled mailboxes can be sent home on February 11th and/or February 10th if we are still in a hybrid schedule. Valentines that are being picked up by Group C families can pick them up starting on Wednesday, February 10th

## **VI. OTHER**

- NPHS Character Education Club sponsoring evening zoom sessions for elementary students
  - Snowflake Craft, January 20th 6 p.m.
  - Valentine activity, February 9th, 6 p.m.
- Harlem Wizards Fundraiser with NPEF - coming up!

**TEACHER REPORT - Ms. Spoerl, Zoom Security Update**