

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: May 12, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM (Zoom)
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto
PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook School

1. Call to order and flag salute

2. **Approval of Minutes- April 2021 Meeting:** Approved without objections or corrections.

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

4. **Teacher's Representative:** No teacher representative report.

5. **President's message/Announcements (Diana Ettinger/Emily Mellow):**

- i. We have been looking through the chair positions open for next year and we have a few. We need volunteers to run some of our programs. We are operating for next year assuming that everything will be back to normal. An email blast will go out which will have volunteer signs ups for room parents, committee chair openings.
- ii. Middle school PTO is looking for volunteers. Open positions are Co-president, Vice-president, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Facebook chair.
- iii. Reach out to the presidents if you want to know about any details of the open positions.

6. Treasurer's Report (Ana Roth):

Report for April

- i. Incoming:
 1. We received \$4339 from yearbook orders for April.
 2. We got \$600 for 6th grade yard signs. That money will be transferred to the 6th grade account.
 3. Tiger track registration was \$321.
 4. Celebration book donations for 2020-2021 of \$180, to be used by the library to order books.
- ii. Outgoing:
 1. Payment for yearbook expense of \$7480
 2. Author day book sales payment \$1258
 3. Teacher appreciation \$475 were spent so far.
 4. Talent show we spent \$450.
 5. Mystery readers and book mark contest \$330 in prizes

6. Celebration \$273 towards library book purchase from money raised last year.

iii. Net cash flow for -\$4700

iv. Nothing in fund raising a/c yet

v. One student paid toward 6th grade - \$60

7. Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee): Received thank you notes from teachers appreciating the PTA and parents of Salt Brook for the Staff Appreciation week.

8. Reports:

- a. **Teacher Appreciation Week** (Emily Mellow): Thank you to Shannon Naughton and Ally Santocross and a huge thank you to parents for donating to the effort. If anyone would like to help out with the committee, they could certainly use your help.
- b. **Mother Son Scavenger Hunt** (Ana Roth): Is happening this week, it got rained out last Saturday. All set for the event, it will be 70 and sunny. For volunteering or any information do reach out to Geri / Ana.
- c. **Daddy Daughter Scavenger Hunt** (Kristina Yadlon): Similar set up to Mother son hunt, from 1-4 PM. Looking for volunteers!
- d. **PTA Fundraiser** (Diana Ettinger): Kicking it off next Monday. More details to come out. Date is June 4th.
- e. **School Supply Kits** (Diana Ettinger): Sale has started. Digital flyers are going out.. Kits will be sent directly home at the end of summer. PTA does not make any money out of it, it's just for convenience.
- f. **Field Day** (Debbie): Doing some research on field day colors. Don't have much yet but will share information soon.

9. Open Forum:

1. **Can the group C students tell you by tomorrow if they wish to come back to school? Do they update the form or send an email.**

Mrs. Drexinger: Either one is a good option. Group C 6th grader will be able to participate for any 6th grade events. The notification will be sent out soon to all the 6th grade families.

2. **Question plans for next year. Are we hoping there will be no zoom options and everyone will be in school?**

Mrs. Drexinger: The governor stated that all students should be ready for in person instructions. If that stays according to the governor then we will not be offering any remote option. The district does not want to offer the remote options as there are lots of skills that we are not able to teach to remote learners. We are finding that the older learns are coming up some independent skills, even though they are missing out on social skills. Younger grades are struggling a little bit, more on life skills like knowing how to use a pair of scissors, closing bathroom door

or even shoe tying which are taught early on in kindergarten.
We will wait for what the governor says but currently the school plans to fully open with in person instruction.

3. Are there any academic program planned for students will a faster growth curve, apart from G and T?

Mrs. Drexinger: The district funding right now is for the students who have experienced learning loss. The recreation does run the summer enrichment academy, where it sometime includes STEM classes and other classes, which involve a higher order thinking. The district will not be running those programs but we have options through the recreation department.

4. How will snow days we treated from next year on. Will they be a holiday, half day or a zoom class ?

Mrs. Drexinger: Snow days are controversial topic. We don't have any updates from the state of New Jersey about the snow day option to go remote or not. Dr. Miceli is monitoring that and we have lots of mixed feelings about it. We do like the half day compromise. Till 12:30 the teachers can get some instruction in and then give the students the rest of the day to enjoy the snow day. We are still awaiting state guidelines on this.

5. At the BOE meeting, there were talks of counseling camps. Do you have any more details about that- age, invite only or any other information you may have?

Mrs. Drexinger: I don't have the information in front of me, but I believe they will be targeting all different grade levels from elementary , middle and high school. At first it will be by invitation only for students we know will have a tougher transition going into next year or have had a tough time this year. Really want to provide continuity for those students over the summer in these programs.

It will be a good program and a fun program for students. The program will be customized based on the different students in the program. Some students may do well on social skills group and others might need more of one on one.

6. Question about field day. Do you know if there is any thought for resuming class trip next year?

Mrs. Drexinger: It is on our list of questions too. Going into this year there were many unknowns and that's why we made the decision to eliminate the event as we could not have students jammed in all together in a bus and also most places were not operational. Going forward we will look at the venues to see if they are open , we got to see if they are running or will sponsor a class trip. Specifically, Jeff

lakes were not open for school this year.

Also we will have to see if the rules around buses are different this year than they were last year. May be the guidance will change, students can be on the bus with masks and windows open.

If we still have the social distance rule then the costs of the buses will go up as we can put one student on a seat. So instead of one bus we might have to get two, raising the cost of the ticket. So there are lots of questions but it's on our list. We want to run normal next year as much as we can. Waiting for guidance from state.

We are planning for all of that, if we have to cancel we will cancel but it will be all on the plans while we start the year.

- 7. Question about Remote days and iPads. Will the students be able to keep their iPads knowing that they might have to do a remote day here and there or for an emergency. Will the students be getting their iPads and bringing them home. Will the kindergartners come in with iPads as well.**

Mrs. Drexinger: Yes, students will continue having their iPads (Kindergartners most likely in the mix too). Students will have their iPads for next year. We will do the upgrades on the iPad this summer. 4th, 5th, 6th grade will take them home in the evenings each day as they do a lot on the Google platform and a lot of their work is on the device.

Discussing still on regarding 3rd grades, teachers don't feel the need as of now but at least they should have the option like if they working on a special project from home.

K through 2nd grade we will not be sending the iPad home with the students, unless due to exceptions like inclement weather. We are trying to limit the devices so younger grades don't have very heavy backpacks.

We will have parents sign permissions so all students could take the iPads home if necessary. So while we are planning for that we are hopeful that we don't need lower grades to take them home on a nightly basis.

About balance of technology (topic was raised during the board meeting) and as a school we recognize that this year everything was on technology. We are planning on balancing the technology out with in person instruction and that's another reason why we need all our students in the classroom. If all students are in the classroom we do not have to heavily rely on technology as we did this year. There is going to be a definite shift in technology when we have all students back in person.

Comments :

Last meeting of the year. This will be the last meeting for Kristina and Emily for this year. Special thanks from PTA and teachers for all your efforts!

PTA MEETING
MAY 12, 2021

I. SCHOOL YEAR UPDATES

- May 17th - Last opportunity for students to return to in-person instruction.
- Thank everyone for continuing to follow protocols.
- Quarantine guidelines updated - outlined in 5/7/21 correspondence
- District plan is to open for full days beginning with the 21-22 school year
 - Will review updated State guidance and protocols once they are released
 - Tentative plans include adjusting lunch/recess blocks to accommodate social distancing at lunch and reduce the number of students at recess
 - We are planning to have our gymnasiums and libraries fully operational for September.

II. INCOMING KINDERGARTEN / FIRST GRADE

- Incoming Kindergarten regular education enrollment # 43
- Incoming first grade enrollment # 80 (numbers adjusted)

III. SUMMER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

- Analyzing student progress data
- Developing schedules
- More information to come shortly

IV. CONGRATULATION and THANK YOU!

- Kabir Datey, Gr. 1 - Invent it Challenge
 - Honorable Mentions: Adam Zambrotta, Gr. 2 and Reisa Mukerjee, Gr. 4
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Teachers - Library Media Bonanza Night
- Elefante - Instrumental Sampling

V. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bike Rodeo - Grade 3, June 3rd
- Field Week - Looking to run a modified Field day event in June, Week of June 7th
- 6th Grade events - 6th Grade Group C students are invited to attend all End of the Year 6th Grade celebrations
 - Pizza and Fun! 6/21 (rain date 6/22)
 - Promotion - outside, 2 ceremonies 6/23 (rain date 6/24)
 - 2 ceremonies
 - Bagel breakfast / 6th grade video in the cafeteria
 - 6th Grade celebration - Tentatively 6/24