

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: November 11, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM (Zoom)
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto, Mrs. Kristen Hubert, Mrs. Lynn Kral, Mrs. Robin Kelly
PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook School.

1. Call to order and flag salute

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

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

4. Teacher's Representative:

- a. **(Mrs. Hubert)** Discussing a day in the life of the Salt brook teacher/ student.
 - i. Morning: Cover all core areas like reading, writing, math, social studies, science. Active participation by both roomers/ zoomers. Teachers are able to see all the kids in class and the zoomers are looking at either the lesson tuaghtclass or viewing their classmates.
 - ii. While one on one and small group instruction is lacking in the morning session because of Covid restrictions, the afternoon zoom handles that gap by using the remote only time for smaller guided reading group work, one-on-one conferencing, etc.
 - iii. In the afternoon remote session, all students come together as a cohesive group which allows for mask-free (facial expressions visible) bonding and socialization among students and teacher.
 - iv. The afternoon remote session also gives teachers a little more time with Group C who are then able to show and discuss things with the teachers and bond with them.
 - v. This model has worked for the school where morning is an intense teaching session covering a ton of curriculum and afternoons are all about one on one and bonding time.
 - vi. Technology (good sound systems, iPads, trainings to the teachers during summer) adopted by district is partially a reason for the success of the school.
 - vii. *There were no questions but parents appreciated the teacher's efforts and enthusiasm during this time and also for building great relationships with students.*
- b. **(Mrs. Kral)** Updates from the Health Office
 - i. Wanted to thank parents for being cautious with health

decisions by keeping students home for extra days, also keeping siblings at home if one is sick even if the other is not, calling to ask the tough questions.

- ii. Flu season is coming up and everyone is encouraged to get the shots to avoid a bad flu season on top of current health crisis.
- iii. Continue to keep students home even if they or siblings or anyone in the family is sick. 'Sick' can be any symptom on the Covid list including runny nose.
- iv. While keeping students home, filling the "Absence matters" form is critical even if they are attending remote, to know for emergency reasons who is in the building. Available on the Salt Brook website, under 'Attendance' and in the comments you can mention they will be participating remotely.
- v. If anyone has Covid test results pending they should stay at home along with siblings.
- vi. Travel season: Need to follow quarantine guidelines for national travel. In case of International travel the district requires full 14 days quarantine and cannot test out of quarantine. Quarantine starts from the day you return to NJ and not from the day the travel began.
- vii. *No Questions from parents.*

5. Guest Speaker (Robin Kelly): Joining is from the New Providence Education Foundation. Her remarks are about activities they are doing in the district.

- a. Co-chair for the New Providence Education Foundation
- b. Foundation is a non profit and purpose is to help support and allocate resources for educational programs in all the New Providence schools that otherwise traditional means are not able to do. Due to Covid a lot of in person events are no happening but some virtual events are planned instead.
- c. Virtual Trivia Night (December 4th from 7:30PM to 9:00PM). It's going to be 5 rounds with prizes and is for families. \$20 for each team. More information will be sent out via facebook, instagram, schools.
- d. Similar event like the Wizards, even though it will be virtual. More information will come out shortly.
- e. All the programs will help support academic efforts in the school systems.

6. Presidents message/Announcements (Diana Ettinger/ Emily Mellow):

- a. Agenda is on www.saltbrookpta.com
- b. PTA memberships toolkit updated and all ticket sales from here on will be over Membership Toolkit. For any problems contact Emily

Mellow.

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

- a. Treasurer Report posted online
- b. Deposits of an additional \$5700 for class and PTA dues.
- c. Outgoing \$4900 moved to 6th grade funding account. \$2900 moved to Fundraising account. \$1300 sent to class parents for class activities for the year and have been cashed, 2/3rd are yet to be cashed.
- d. Paid PTA state dues \$1100.

8. **Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee):** Nothing to report

9. **Reports:**

- a. **Book Fair** (Kathy): Book Fair opened Monday (Nov 9th) and runs online. Information sent over Facebook, mails from Room parents. Book Face photo contest launched today. Complete Scholastic catalogue is available this year. A big portion of the sales go to PTA, who then give the Scholastic dollars to the teachers for class libraries.
- b. **Yearbook** (Kritina Yadlon): Cover contest is happening now. Theme is Character Education and artwork for Yearbook and is due on Nov 30th. Still collecting photos for Halloween, link is available in the PTA blast. Parents are requested to create an account and upload photos. Teachers were requested to take pictures of their class during the day and can then be shared with the PTA. This year also there will be no class photographers needed because of the new company. The yearbook company is also this year's school pictures company and they will be using individual pictures of students taken on picture day in the yearbook this year. Any Group C students who missed picture day will have the opportunity to send in their own pictures and the company will preload everything.
- c. **Picture Day:** For students who could not come to school for picture day can now take their pictures and upload them from home. We are working on many options to ensure the student's pictures are taken and put them in the Yearbook. Information will be sent out soon, possibly this week. With the new company the proofs will be available and the students can take them or for Group C parents will be asked to pick them up, and then the proofs can be used to try all different backgrounds prior to purchasing. The pictures will then be mailed directly to your home.
- d. **Box Tops:** Goal was to raise \$300 in the fall and we raised \$87. A new electronic process is available to make it easier to do box tops.

Certain issues have been highlighted as a reason for the low participation.

- e. **Apparel Sale** (Korin Markel): 123 T-shirts were sold which resulted in \$1577.96, this is well over the goal. T-shirts have been mailed out and received by few parents and the rest should get them soon.
- f. **Vineyard Vines:** PTA does an event every year leading up to the holidays. Vineyard Vines provides a discount to anyone in the store during hours and we receive a percentage of the proceeds back to the school. That will happen this year on Dec 11th between 11AM and 2 PM. Vineyard Vines is also giving us an online option. More information will be available on the PTA page shortly.
- g. **6th Grade (Ally):** 6th grade T-shirts are currently being made. Big thanks to Stango and family for donating the T-shirts this year. Halloween Costume contest was organized for 6th graders and they got prizes in 5 different categories. Working on Online Trivia event, more information will be shared when it's finalized.
- h. **Holiday Craft:** Color Me Mine will be assembling Craft to go bags (\$18 each) that will be sent home/picked up by any of the participating students. The students will be able to paint 1 of 5 items of their choice. The pictures of the craft options are available on <http://www.saltbrookpta.com/holiday-craft.html>. Registration is live and available till Nov 25th. Craft bags will be sent home the week of Nov 30th. Crafts can be done at home and brought back to school in the same craft bag.
- i. **Open Forum:**
 - 1. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Can you share the numbers on the students from Group C choosing to come back to school or the number of students opting to stay home?**

Mrs. Drexinger: As of today 15 students are choosing to come back to A/B and 2-3 A/B students decided to move to Group C. Group A/B parents can move to Group C at anytime. They do not have to wait for end of trimester to make the move. Group C students must wait until the start of a new trimester to move to A/B. 25% of the school is Group C right now.
 - 2. **Question for Mrs. Drexinger: Based on the survey question on lunch what are your thoughts or is the school planning to do lunch at school in any capacity.**

Mrs. Drexinger: The survey was taken to check the comfort levels of the parents. School is independently planning to increase in person instruction for special education students and ESL students. To increase capacity in a safe manner for all students, lunch/recess are big concerns because of exposure. With Covid restrictions, the school can place about 40-50 students in the cafeteria at a time which might take 650 students many hours to

complete lunch and is not feasible. Additionally, expanding the in person day to 3 PM may not mean the best instruction. School is considering various models. One potential option is installing plexiglass around each desk, allowing students to sit closer than 6 feet apart so that all A/B students can come in every day (for a half day to avoid lunch). Working on pros and cons for each model plus the surveys between parents / teachers which will help them make the decisions.

- 3. Question for Mrs. Drexinger: What will happen if the new model comes about with Plexiglass. What happens with crowding while getting students in, in the morning and at dismissal and managing hallways. Will it be tougher to have everyone socially distanced safely?**

More students will come in to school. We might need more resources like temperature checkers, might have to ask parents to volunteer. Students will not be travelling to specials and with the staggered dismissal with maybe a little increase in the number of students we don't foresee a big problem. Lunch/recess is a concern. The special teachers will still be visiting all the classes. Even if there was lunch/recess in school it may be done in class to keep kids in a more contained environment. The teachers then would have to move to cafeteria since the teachers room is not big enough to socially distance the teachers and they currently use the classrooms for lunch breaks.

- 4. When you say Special Ed students increasing in person time, which group were you talking about?**

Anyone with an IEP. We can not move IEP students from A/B schedule to every day in person because we can't socially distance properly. As an example if one class has 5 students with an IEP and they have 9 children in Cohort A, if those students are to come back every day then the numbers are up to 14. The class can fit 12-13 kids at the max with the current situation. That is the biggest challenge. So, the plan is to offer the parents the option of (1) having the IEP students stay in school until 2:30 on the days they come, lunch/recess for small groups can be handled (2) parents of IEP students may take the children home for lunch and bring them back at 1:30 or (3) parents of students with IEPs may elect to maintain the current model. School is trying to balance and working hard to gather the information, working with state regulations and work for the students for their safety.

- 5. Question for Mrs. Kral: Our neighboring towns are seeing a huge spike in cases. What is the threshold for closing?**

Closing is on a case by case basis. It could be an administrative decision, based on the lack of staff or a health department guided decision, based on number of student cases in the building. There is no number set by the health department for the school closure, based on tracing the decision will be made. Cases linked to in-school transmission are more likely to result in a closure. So far, New Providence cases have not been linked to in-school transmission, which implies that our model is working to keep students and staff safe.

PTA MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2020

HYBRID MODEL UPDATE

- Thank You to all of our families for your continued support
- District Student Grouping Request Changes will begin on December 7th.
- All parents of returning students will receive a confirmation email with their homeroom and grouping assignment.
- The district is beginning to consider Phase 2 plans.

COLD WEATHER DAYS

- Please dress your children in layers to allow for open windows when possible.

HVAC VENTILATION REPORT - All SB interior rooms have met or exceeded the fresh air requirement for occupancy.

TRIMESTER / REPORT CARDS

- First Trimester ends on December 8, 2020
- Electronic Copies are available in the power school portal on December 14, 2020
- Kindergarten Conferences: December 9th - 11th (kindergarten parents will also receive a printed copy of their child's report card prior to their conference)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS –

- Clubs are beginning this week and next and run through April
 - Art Club for Grades K - 6
 - Multicultural Club, Grs 1 - 5
 - Broadcaster Club for Grade 6 (may expand to grades 5 and perhaps 4)
 - SWAT Team for Grades 5 and 6
 - SB SWAG - Gade 6
 - STEM Club for Grade

TEACHER REPORT

- **“A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SB STUDENT”** - Mrs. Hubert, Grade 1 Teacher

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEALTH OFFICE - Mrs. Kral: Topic: Cold and Flu season and Covid Tips