

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: October 21, 2020
Time: 2:00 PM
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mr. Firetto, Mrs. Julie Spoerl, Mrs. Lynn Kral, Officer Dan
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 any objections or corrections.
3. **Principals Report (Mrs. Drexinger):** Principal report attached.
4. **Teacher's Representative: (Mrs. Sporel)** Discussing the Screen Time Program
 - a. Resources for Parents – How to sheets and videos.
 - b. Screen time is a feature on all Apple devices to allow parents to control the device screen time.
 - c. Set up Screen time:
 - i. Preferable at the time after 3 -3:30 after child is not doing school work
 - ii. Monitor time spent by child on websites/ apps like Typing Club
 - iii. Can set up screen time for after school
 - d. No need to have an apple device or apple id
 - e. Question asked during this time has been recorded under open forum.
5. **Presidents message/Announcements (Diana Ettinger/ Emily Mellow):**
 - a. Agenda is on www.saltbrookpta.com
 - b. PTA memberships closed but can be accessed from membership toolkit. We have collected about \$6000, 311 registered families. 25% less than a regular school year, but better than expected.
 - c. Class dues have closed. Funds will be distributed to the room parents soon. To room parents who haven't shared their mailing address with Diana Ettinger should do so at the earliest to receive checks.
 - d. Undecided voters for BoE candidates can check out the candidate forum on www.saltbrookpta.com.
 - e. Membership Toolkit hosts all contact details of the parents/guardians, if district was given permission to share with PTA. If you bought a membership outside of the account, now will

you will see it reflected inside the account. In case, you have made payments but cant see your membership payment details, do not pay again, check with PTA first. Membership toolkit is up and running – you can create account, search directory, etc. No requirements for parents to be paid members to purchase any ticketed items from membership toolkit this year.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Ana Roth):

- a. Treasurer Report posted online
- b. Main checking account we got in \$12,500 for class and PTA dues, smaller items like yearbook refunds (\$98), masks (\$50), Decorations (\$200), Pumpkin contest Gift cards (\$135).
- c. No activity in fundraising account
- d. 6th Grade account we rolled up \$700 from 5th Grade.

7. Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee): Nothing to Report

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Cultural Arts** (Geri Fletcher): Mr. Firetto and Geri discussing ideas for the school wide assembly, most days will be virtual. In terms of residency, teacher’s from each grade has been contacted. Most residencies have gone virtual, coordination activities are being done.
- b. **Apparel Sale** (Korin Markel): **Sales going good and will go on till Oct 28th and sold 103 T-Shirts, much above the goal of 50, raising \$1,303.85.**
- c. **Book Fair** (Elizabeth Lee): Book fair will be virtual and run for about two weeks (Nov 9th – 20th). Scholastic may be providing a 360 degree shopping experience online, testing is in progress.
- d. **Grandparents Day:** Will not be happening this year.
- e. **Veterans day:** Volunteers who wish to chair the event can reach out to Kristina by end of the week.
- f. **Halloween party and 6th grade** (Ally): T-shirts are being made and will be ordered soon for the entire 6th grade class, awaiting student sizes from few students. Committee chairs met and are figuring out ways to make Halloween fun for sixth grades since most of the regular events can’t happen.
- g. **Open Forum:**

i. Question for Mrs. Spoerl, Is the screen time password protected?

Mrs. Spoerl: On logging on to Screen Time it will ask for a password input, parents can input a 4 digit password. The password if needed can be removed (by Mrs. Spoerl).

ii. Question for Mrs. Drexinger :

1. For virtual class parties,

- a. **1. Can room parents do snacks if the kids are eating at home.**

b. Should they still adhere school rules about snacks?

Mrs. Drexinger: If the kids are home snacks are fine, while encouraging healthier snack.

2. Raising concerns voiced by parents on forums like FB – There has been some confusion about the text of the letters coming out from BoE or School about Covid-19. Especially about phrases like “ there was no exposure” and concern about “when will parents be alerted about possible exposure”.

Mrs. Kral: Health Department provides the templates for letters and also approvals from them before letters are sent out. The language is being tightened to address issues and concerns. Health Department identifies close contact as being within 6 feet for 10 min or more. Since the classrooms are set up to address this issue, Health department does not consider anybody to be a close contact, but the language will be further looked into. Parents will only be alerted when it was identified as close contact, under guidance of the Health department. If for some reason to suspect close contact in school then the parents will be made aware of the situation.

Mrs. Drexinger also encouraged everyone to attend the Board Meeting on Thursday. Megan Avallone (Director, Westfield Regional Health Department) will be in attendance and will be able to answer questions and provide clarity.

Mrs. Kral thanked the parents for working as a team and being fantastic. Even if it may have inconvenienced some parents to have their kids sent back home with minor symptoms, and have received positive communications.

3. Can you clarify, if the child is sick and fills out the Google form, do I indicate that the child will do virtual or will be totally absent?

Mrs. Drexinger- Form has to be done regardless if the child is not coming to school. The best way to do it is to fill out the form and then mail the teacher to let them know of the situation and also mark a copy to attendance secretary. This prevents the school from having to make the phone call to the parents/guardians. Students are encouraged to zoom in if they are well enough. It WILL not be appropriate for a child to zoom in just because they don't want to go to school.

4. For Group D, there is no option to remote in as Group C. So if student is unable to get to school, then they will just

be off for the day unless it is for extended period of time and then in which case move to Group C.

Mrs. Drexinger- While the school has the capability to do virtual for Group D students but for a day or two it would not be done, unless it is extended and then the school certainly would.

4. Week of Respect activities were really good and appreciated the school for doing those.

Mrs. Drexinger- School is trying to do more family engagement activities and keeping all students and families engaged. Hopefully there will be more to come.

**PTA MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2020**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83186619498?pwd=TWxFOStoaWNIWFQ4UnExVWR2eWVoUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 8661 9498

Passcode: 894823

CHARACTER EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- New Theme Announced - Stronger Together
- School-wide video and district-wide videos launched
- Beginning to incorporate this overarching theme into our daily activities. We will have new monthly themes that correspond and support the overarching theme.
- As parents, you can assist us by reinforcing this message at home.
 - Help your child to recognize that their community of family, friends, and teachers are here to provide support.
 - That being part of a community requires empathy and patience with others and with ourselves.
 - To understand that each one of us is unique in the world and has something special to contribute to a community.
 - That by working together, embracing differences, and focusing on one's own self worth our community will be **“STRONGER TOGETHER”**.
- All elementary teachers attended Social Emotional Learning training prior to school beginning. It was a wonderful training session filled with great ideas! We are seeing many of these principles integrated in our classrooms. This will continue to be a focus for our school this year.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS –

- Sign-ups will open shortly.
- All clubs will be virtual this year
- Limited club offerings this year
 - Art Club - Grs. 1 - 6
 - STEM- Grade 5
 - World Language and Culture Club Grs 1 - 5
 - SWAG - Students with Attitudes of Greatness - Gr. 6
 - Broadcasters - Grade 6
 - SWAT - Grs. 5 and 6
- We will try our best to ensure that all who wish to participate can. However, in order to keep the club participant size conducive to learning we may not be able to accommodate all. A “wait list” will be made for all students who were not able to participate

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER EVENTS –

- Group C Parent Forum - 10/22, 1:00 p.m.
- School Picture Days - 10/28 and 10/29
- Halloween Dress-up Days - 10/30 and 11/2
- Halloween parade - Virtual. Prior to October 30th, please upload a short video of your child(ren) in their costume (5-15 seconds) to our school FlipGrid: <https://flipgrid.com/0576f17b> .
- Parent- Teacher Conferences: Virtual for Grades 1 - 6 (Kdg. in December)
- American Education Week - No visitations permitted this year :(
- Book Fair - Virtual

TECHNOLOGY - Mrs. Spoerl, Setting up [Screen Time](#)