

## Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting  
Date: September 30,2020  
Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
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- August 2020 Meeting:** Approved without any objections or corrections.
3. **Principals Report (Mrs. Drexinger):** Principal report attached.
4. **Assistant Principal (Mr. Firetto):** HIB legislation was reviewed and discussed
5. **Teacher's Representative:** No representative and no report.
6. **Presidents message / Announcements (Diana Ettinger):**
  - a. Agenda is on [www.saltbrookpta.com](http://www.saltbrookpta.com)
  - b. Cindy DePalo won the \$100 Raffle ticket, drawn through an online program by Kristina Yadlon.
  - c. Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, all PTA's in the district are hosting a Board of Ed Candidates forum for the coming election for the 2 spot on the board. Information on the zoom link is available on the website and can be seen under "Events".
  - d. Mrs. Spoerl and Mrs. Kral were awarded the Impact Teacher Award at the last Board of Ed meeting.
  - e. PTA membership have changed for this year due to Covid situation and is now open to all everyone. In spite of it being free we have 260+ paying families and also 75% class dues have been paid. The memberships are still open and any member who wishes to purchase can visit <http://www.saltbrookpta.com>.
7. **Treasurer's Report (Kathy):**
  - a. Report cover's August 2020
  - b. Ana Roth will be the new Treasurer
  - c. Most of the money this month has been spent on masks for teachers and students.
  - d. Unused 6<sup>th</sup> grade funds have been passed to middle school.
8. **Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee):**
  - a. Mrs. Kral thanked the PTA for organizing the car parade and the Goody bags
  - b. Mrs. Julie Townsend thanked Mrs. Drexinger and Salt brook staff for addressing each and every question in the August 'School Reopening' meeting and thanked the PTA for hosting it.
9. **Committee Reports (Kristina):**
  - a. Most of the PTA events on school property have been cancelled. Some activities are being identified and modified to provide kids

with some activities and also provide some normalcy to this situation.

- b. **Pumpkin Book Contest:** Run by Mrs. Demich where kids decorate a pumpkin based on a character. Coming soon! Pictures of the pumpkins can be uploaded and the information is available on the PTA website <http://www.saltbrookpta.com/pumpkin-book-character-contest.html>. Entries to be sent in by Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are participating, take a picture of your child with the pumpkin and submit it to the yearbook.
- c. **Volunteers Needed:** If you are interested in chairing the events or have ideas contact Kristina Yadlon to discuss.
  - i. **Grandparents Day and Veterans Day:** We need volunteers to chair Grandparents Day and Veterans Day. Contact Kristina Yadlon to know more details about the events.
  - ii. **Walk to School:** It's an incentive program for the kids to walk to school. Need volunteer to chair the event and also to provide with some fun ideas to keep kids motivated to attend.
  - iii. **Holiday Craft:** Monika Macaulay chairs the event and runs it for grades 3-6, she is looking for volunteers to expand the activity for grades K-2.
  - iv. **Fundraiser Party:** Looking for chairs and ideas for this year.
  - v. **Graduation Breakfast:** 5<sup>th</sup> grader parents hold breakfast for the graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Need a chair for that event. (*Jennifer Niederhoffer Volunteer*)
- d. **Fund Raising Event:**
  - i. Special Limited Edition T-Shirts for the school year being sold.
  - ii. Mabel's Labels
  - iii. Martial Arts for Life (MAFL)
  - iv. Amazon Smile
  - v. Box Tops: Online app available.
- e. **Plastic Bag Recycling:** Plastic bag collection will be held for a day on Saturday from 8:30 AM -11:30 PM in the NP Pool Parking lot.
- f. **Family Fun Night:** Looking for alternate options, new details to come out soon.
- g. **Open Forum:**
  - i. Jennifer N: Are we doing something in the school for the student that passed away before school started? *Mrs Drexinger confirmed that not at the moment Board is reviewing policies and unless that happens there are no plans.*
  - ii. Jennifer N: If anyone were taking ideas then I would love to

see a buddy bench? Which is in some schools but don't think we have in Salt Brook? *Mrs. Drexinger confirmed we have one in the lower playground; it was put there in honor of Maddy Midwinter and Alex Wu.*

- iii. **Kristina wanted to know what is a buddy bench vs a regular bench?** *Mrs. Drexinger explained that a buddy bench is either a place where friends can go sit and hang out or it's a bench for kids who don't have friends, can go sit on, and someone will spot them and invite them to play. So with two different strategies, our bench in Salt Brook is more a place for friends, because Mr. Firetto is always on the playgrounds and intercepts situation before it gets to the step where someone is all alone.*
- iv. **Diana Ettinger noticed some people question online if the school was thinking about expanding further or reconsider longer schedules.** *Mrs. Drexinger, expressed that while the school would love to open up but the state guidance on 6 feet distance prohibits schools to open longer especially because of space concerns, lunch and recess breaks without distance mandates, etc. She said we can consider opening longer when state relaxes guidelines but it might go on till end of flu season since Covid and Flu symptoms mimic each other.*

## **PRINCIPALS REPORT**

### ***PTA MEETING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020***

- I. **GREAT OPENING!** Thanks to all: staff, students, and parents for preparing for this unusual new year! Welcome to new staff Ms. Corcoran, Mrs. Kane, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Vanadia, and Mrs. Freeman!
- II. **COVID Case** Due to confidentiality, can not share specifics. Notifications depend on the details of each case and the contact tracing. In this particular case, all parents in the class were notified. Working in conjunction with the Health Department, it was determined that the only other notification that was necessary at this time was the school-wide letter. Due to all of our safety protocols within the building, the remainder of the classes and staff members are not deemed at risk.

Things for parents to remember:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering; and
- [If you are waiting for COVID test results, please remain at home and monitor your health.](#)

### **III. CURRICULUM / CLASSROOM / ASSESSMENTS UPDATE**

- All teachers using Google Classroom and Zoom
- “Zoomers and Roomers”
- Common Templates “Daily Plans” and “Week at a Glance” posted in google classrooms to assist
- When teachers are not able to attend school?
- NJSL (has been cancelled for the 2020 - 2021 school year.
- iReady and Literably - NEW assessments. Parent evening: October 1st (K-3 6:00 - 6:45; 4 - 6 7:15 - 8:00 p.m.)
  - IReady - mathematics assessment designed to pinpoint a student’s ability level and identify specific skills students need to accelerate their growth in the area of math
  - Literably - online program that will assist us in assessing a student's guided reading level. Will complete 3 times this year (October, January, and May)

### **IV. PROCEDURES -**

- Attendance:

- Complete Attendance matters, reporting Absence Form on SB webpage.. Complete detailed reason for absence, indicate covid-like symptoms if appropriate
- When to stay home?
- Afternoon Zoom Attendance Session
- Temperature check stations working well. Will assess personnel when colder weather comes.
- 8:10 – 8:40 ARRIVAL
- No dogs on school grounds, unless it's a service dog.
- Parents please keep an eye on small children at dismissal time while waiting for students to be released, especially this year. Playground equipment can not be used.
- No parking at any time along the front circle. It is a fire zone.
- Arrival/Dismissal procedures – Dismissal procedures outlined by classroom teachers. \*\*\*ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE ASKED TO KINDLY LEAVE THE BUILDING PREMISES BY 12:30 PM EACH DAY! IF YOU ARE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD PLEASE BE SURE TO ARRIVE ON TIME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!\*\*\*
- Please follow parking procedures outlined with placement letters. No parent parking behind school or back by the maintenance facility is permitted.
- No idling of vehicles

#### **V. CHARACTER EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS / HIB LEGISLATION**

- Review of HIB Legislation
- Essential Core Lessons
- What is Bullying? - Completed
- Aggressive, Passive or Appropriate - Completed
- I Messages - Completed
- Telling vs. Tattling - Completed
- Win / Win Guidelines
- Bystander
- 2020 - 2021 theme.....coming soon!
- District-wide activities
- Week of Respect / Red Ribbon / Anti Violence Awareness Week – recognized during the month of October)
  - SB Week of Respect Evening activities
    - Monday - Yoga & Mindfulness, SB Parent. Mrs. Grzyb
    - Dance it Out, SB Teacher Ms. Marciano
    - It's Muffin Time, NPHS Teacher Mrs. Muraview
    - Strength & Conditioning, NPHS Wrestling Coach Mr. Mallory
    - Virtual Scavenger Hunt AWR and SB, AWR and SB Principals!

#### **VI. AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - Will run virtually this year beginning at 3:00 p.m.** Sign-ups will be beginning in October. Still finalizing lists of which clubs are able to run.

- STEM Club Grade 5

- Art Club
- World Language Club
- Broadcasters Club
- SWAG - Students with Attitudes of Greatness, Character Education
- SWAT - Students Willing & Able to Assist with Technology

## **VII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS**

- School Drills
  - One fire drill per month. Will complete with both A and B groups
  - One emergency drill per month. Will complete with both A and B groups
  - Phone Notification System in place for this year and ready to go when needed

## **VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- School Picture Days
  - October 28th, Group A 8:40 - 12:30 p.m. ; Group C 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
  - October 29th, Group B 8:40 - 12:30 p.m. ; Group C 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Halloween In School Costume Days - more details to come
  - October 30th, Group A
  - November 2nd, Group B
  - Group C students can dress up at home both days!

## **IX. THANK PTA AND PARENTS FOR SUPPORT!**

- Special thanks to everyone for helping to make the start of this school year a success!