

Minutes of the Meeting

Type of Meeting: SALT BROOK PTA Meeting
Date: March 10, 2021
Time: 9:30 PM (Zoom)
In Attendance: Mrs. Drexinger, Mrs. Kral.
PTA board members and parents of Salt Brook School

1. Call to order and flag salute

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

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

4. **Teacher's Representative(Mrs. Kral):** Addressing questions about Covid and Allergy season

a. Quarantine guidelines:

- i. School is following full 14-day quarantine, if there has been a known contact with Covid case.
- ii. A full 10-day Travel quarantine is a must. Even though State's mandate on some places may be different, parents should be transparent in their travels and adhere to quarantine rules.
- iii. Travel quarantine applies even if you have been vaccinated.

b. Covid Symptoms:

- i. If someone in the family are experiencing Covid like symptoms or has Covid, keep your students at home.
- ii. If there is a pending test due to some Covid concern, students should stay home till tests confirm otherwise.
- iii. If someone has a rapid test which is negative and PCR is pending treat you and family members has potentially infected till the tests clear you.

c. Allergy Season:

- i. Allergy season is starting and sometime allergy symptoms resemble Covid symptoms. Under abundance of caution from Health Care Department, will assume everything is Covid unless proven otherwise.
- ii. In case of above school will need a negative Covid test and a medical document from doctor that states the child has been diagnosed with allergies and also lists down the symptoms that we can expect to see. Parental reports will not be accepted.
- iii.

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

No message from the Presidents

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

Report for February

- i. We received a \$143 from Amazon smile rewards
- ii. Outgoing expenses of \$88 for celebrations- library book club related to last years project.
- iii. Gift card expenses \$35 for guest author contest
- iv. \$31 New Jersey annual filing

7. Correspondence Report (Urmi Mukerjee): Thank you from the OLP food pantry for the SUPER BOWL- canned food donations.

8. Reports:

- a. **Spelling Bee** (Urmi Mukerjee): Classroom bee is done and Spelling Bee is scheduled for March 30th. Word list will be sent out next week for the kids to prepare. Spelling bee will be virtual this year.
- b. **Talent Show** (Kristina Yadlon): Talent Show dates – March 19th 2021. 46 main acts. T-shirts are being ordered for participants. Students have been uploading videos.
- c. **Yearbook** (Kristina Yadlon): Glitches with the remote uploading process and the company has refunded money to parents who had issues. 80 kids don't have a picture this year, reminder emails were sent to the parents and about half have responded back. Yearbook sales start in the new few weeks and will be in the PTA blast. No waitlist for yearbook this year, no extras will be ordered this year because of company with new issues.
- d. **STEM Fair** (Diana Ettinger): STEM fair is happening on Thursday. Students are uploading video projects on padlet. Judging will happen in the morning and the zoom link will be sent out to parents and everyone can view the projects and leave comments.
- e. **Author Day**(Elizabeth Lee): Happened last Wednesday, there were three sessions divided by grades. Doreen Cronin was the author. Kids liked her presentations and she differentiated them by grades. Book sale is still going on and books can be ordered from PTA website and author will sign each book and books will be delivered to school and 20% of the proceeds go to PTA.
- f. **Celebration Book drive** (Emily Mellow): *An opportunity for the parents to buy a book and dedicate it to their child or someone else in the building. Last year we launched celebration. Mrs. Demich has sent out letters to last year contributors. We will launch Celerations for the spring as well,*

9. Open Forum:

- 1. **Question for Mrs. Kral/ Mrs. Drexinger: In case of a classroom Covid scenario:**
 - a. *Which close contacts can be expected to be sent home?*
 - b. *If you child is sent home do you need to get them tested?*
 - c. *If your child is then home, will the other children also*

stay at home?

d. Concerns also on mass break time?

Mrs. Drexinger: Answering all questions

- a. *School follows the seating charts and students sitting in front, behind and the sides, sometimes even diagonal seating is considered close contact based on the distance. Any student within 6 feet is considered close contact.*
- b. *Child should be tested 5-10 days after potential exposure. Even if they tested within the 5-10 days and tested negative they still have to wait out the quarantine period. Child has to stay in quarantine for 14 days.*
- c. *If your child has been quarantined as a close contact then the sibling can still come to school. The sibling is referred to as a “contact of a contact” or a secondary contact. Unless the student in quarantine starts to exhibit symptoms their siblings can attend school.*
- d. *Mass breaks are challenging, as the student are getting out for masks breaks, they snack and need to take off their masks. While teachers keep a close eye they need to keep a distance too. Similarly recess will be challenging if we ever get to that time. If we have a case we also ask teachers about who the children hang out with or around during the mass breaks.*

2. Question for Mrs. Kral: Any way we can send letters to the kids with seasonal allergies. My son has seasonal allergies but has never been officially diagnosed. It can be a tough spot for many parents who don't have an official diagnosis for seasonal allergies.

Mrs. Kral: It's a tough one for sure. If you go to a pediatrician and want a letter for allergies the doctor will ensure they give you a letter only if they have confirmed it.

Children typically don't get sick with Covid but their symptoms are vague, like a student's symptom was they napped more than usual. This year we are going to stay more cautious to protect everyone and while it can be difficult for families and children, we have had so many situations where a student's symptom looked like allergies, but we aired on the side of caution and assumed it's not, we later found that was the right call.

We can work on sending out a communication to the parents about the allergy season.

3. Question for Mrs. Kral: If a student has a medical diagnosis and does start to display symptoms, will that note from the doctor be enough or will she still have to get a test.

As long as it is a note from this season, can't be from previous years. We do need documentation that the doctor has diagnosed the allergy, listed the symptoms to look out for. Also as a parent

you know your child's allergy symptom, if the symptom is not like your child's typical symptom its probably something else. Also in case of cold, assume its Covid first and then cold, we have had almost no cases of cold and flu this year!!

If the child has runny nose, because of allergy or not, to the point that they cannot even keep their mask on, then it might still be a day to stay at home.

4. Question regarding Middle school assessment test. Will in-view still be a factor in this years assessment tests?

Mrs. Drexinger: No it won't be.

5. Question to PTA- Talent Show: Can the link for the talent show be shared with other family members like grandparents?

Yes, you can share. We are not posting it publically but the link we send to parents can be sent to other family members as well.

6. Question about iReady. Can parents access test results. What is the process for this type of tool implementation is there room for parent feedback? Concern it is very long and wondering what forums are available to get more answers? Are results of the test follow the students by grades? How does this assessment coordinated with the teacher assessments?

Mrs. Drexinger: iReady is a diagnostic assessment tool under discussion for about two years before implementation. The first year or two of any new implementation is a pilot. Pilot implementation are to try and assess the new tool, evaluating results, if the children are able to work with it etc. . We are still trying to interpret the iReady results and evaluating it's benefits for the school and students. No results are still being released to the parents. The state needs schools to submit data in language arts, math and science. iReady breaks down by subject and topic and teachers can know the students strengths and weaknesses. It's a diagnostic tool used internally to see patterns and trends. This will follow the students going forward; say in geometry if the whole class is somehow scoring less in grade 1 then in grade 2 a lot of emphasis will be on geometry. So we looking are patterns and trends in the building and also in individual students.

iReady is used for diagnostic purposes. All other assessments still work in the same way. This is more like a state test- a standardized formal test. This test is used to see how students compare in school or against other schools and also nationally

with other districts. iReady will work much better next year under teachers guidance, this year it has been a definite challenge but we still have to do the states testing's.

Comment by Parent: with three kids in K, 4th and 6th. For 4th and 6th graders it was all right but for kindergarteners it's a bit much. Computer throws questions at them and it keeps harder. As a general feedback, it might not be the best test and took a few days to get through the test.

Option for the kids to say "I don't know" should be incorporated. If you want to give feedback, please give it on the company website under the parent comment section.

PTA MEETING
March 10, 2021

I. TEACHER OF THE YEAR – Mrs. Feliciano-Allen, Grade 4

II. PHASE 2 /HEALTH OFFICE UPDATE

- A bit of history - last year at the March meeting we were discussing potential plans for an upcoming closure of in person learning!
- Next re entry date for in person learning is March 15th
- Additional Transition Dates - 3/29, 4/19, 5/3 and 5/17
- With respect to travel - please be transparent and let the office know of any travel plans for Spring Break and your return date. The travel 10 day quarantine is still in effect and must be followed.
- **Health Office Information - Lynn Kral**

III. KINDERGARTEN / INCOMING FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION

- Incoming Kindergarten - 34
- Incoming First Grade - 11 (64 + 11 = 75)

IV. UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

- In View - Grades 3 and 5, March 24 and 25
- 7th Grade Placement Test, Gr. 6 March 22-23 (ELA) and 29th and 30th (Math)
- NJSLA - Grs. 3 - 6. Still scheduled, Week of May 10th

NOTE: The In View and 7th Grade placement tests must be taken in person. Group C students will enter through a separate entrance and be tested in a separate location. We are still waiting guidelines on the NJSLA

V. SEL (Social Emotional Learning) EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- Wiz Fit Slime Event, Friday, March 12th. Zoom link sent home
- March Madness - Brackets are open! Click on links for activity ideas. This week focusing on
 - Perform a Random Act of Kindness
 - Color Online
 - Mid-day Walk
 - Family Movie
- International SEL Day - Friday, March 26th - This will replace afternoon academic zoom sessions for that day. Teachers will be guiding students in a variety of fun SEL activities.

VI. END OF THE YEAR

- Memorial Day, Additional School Closure Days added 5/27, 5/28, and 6/1
- 6th Grade Promotion - Tentatively scheduled 6/24 outside