



Kenneth Butz Elementary School  
General Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2022

General Membership: Heather LaBar, Britany Christman, Audrey Kemmerer, Jamie Iorio, Jess Dieck, Craig Williams, Sarah Strublar, Tara Willard, Sam Schwarze, Karen Janis, Brianna Villani, Margherita Gallina

KBES Representatives: Kelly Apruzzi, Susan Klotz, Margherita Gallina

KBES Board Members: Renee Solderitch, John Zarzycki, Susy Whitney, Julie Kaniper, Courtney Fitch, Melissa Curtis

1. **Call to Order at 7:00 pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Welcome/PTA Board Members, Representatives, and General Membership Introductions**
4. **Principal Update**
  - a. The school year is off to a great start. Happy we are here in person and getting back to normal after the past few years.
  - b. Back to School Night: Thank you to all volunteers for Back to School night. It was great to have this event at the beginning of the year to welcome new families.
  - c. Patriot Day Flags: Thank you to Mr. Williams who initiated the flag placements in honor of the anniversary of 9/11. Patriotic music played and each of the students placed a flag to remember the heroes that day and those who died.
  - d. Open Houses: These are happening this week. Each grade has about an hour with a 15 minute buffer to help with limited parking. This year Mrs. Apruzzi will not give a talk at the beginning so parents should proceed directly to their child's classroom. It is preferred that children not be present so parents can pay attention and get the information they need. However, if that's not possible, preferred that kids come rather than parents miss the open house.
    - i. First Grade 9/13 6-7pm
    - ii. Second Grade 9/13 7:15-8:15pm
    - iii. Third Grade 9/14 6-7pm
    - iv. Fourth Grade 9/14 7:15-8:15pm
  - e. Calendar Updates (also available on website calendar):
    - i. September 14 – First of two bus drills
    - ii. September 15 - First fire drill, weather permitting.
    - iii. September 29 - Fitness walk, times by grade level.
    - iv. October 10 - No School
    - v. October 12 - Fall pictures

- f. STEAM: STEAM is a new special this year and stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Miss. McCarron was hired for this position that is a hands-on approach to learning that incorporates problem solving and critical thinking skills.
  - g. Mental Health Services
    - i. K-12 social worker: Our district has hired a social worker for mental health needs of students. The social worker is working with all Nazareth schools helping to connect parents with outside resources and questions about medical insurance.
    - ii. St. Luke's therapists: We have a continuing partnership with St. Luke's to provide each building with a therapist. Teachers can refer or a parent can initiate process the process. Services include a 20 min visit 1-2 times per week. There is a short waiting list.
  - h. Touch a Truck: The Nazareth library is sponsoring Touch a Truck on Saturday, October 1. Jack DaSilva, owner of Junkluggers of the Lehigh Valley, donated 200 tickets to the district and each elementary school will get 1/3 of those for children in need.
5. **Teacher Update** - Mrs. Klotz
- a. Thank you to everyone for chalking the sidewalks prior to the first day of school.
  - b. Star tests in reading and math to begin over next few weeks. Dates are set by grade level.
6. **Be Safe Director Update** – Margherita Gallina
- a. The new director of this preschool and afterschool program at the school is working closely with Joann Rossi to transition for the year. Some things will stay the same and some will change. There will be fundraisers coming up.
  - b. Technology Grant - over the summer they were awarded a technology grant that has enabled them to buy walkie talkies, Samsung tablets, and 2 new chrome books with headphones to incorporate technology into the program.
  - c. Currently working on updating the website as some information is not correct.
7. **Secretary Update** – Courtney Fitch
- a. Asked for approval for the May meeting minutes. Craig Williams approved and Susan Klotz seconded.
  - b. Communication Methods – We try our best to keep everyone up to date with news and events from the PTA. We understand that sometimes the methods of communication may seem redundant, but each member can choose what works for them. Schoology is for messages from the administration. We use the remind app and our facebook page to send messages directly from the PTA. Sign-Up genius allows us to keep track of all volunteers.
  - c. The PTA received a thank you card from Mrs. Rossi for her retirement gift and for our support throughout the years.
8. **Treasurer update** – Julie Kaniper
- a. Copy of the budget was provided and is available. Was able to remove a page of deactivated accounts.

- b. Asked for approval of the budget. Sarah Strublar approved and Craig Williams seconded.
  - c. Embassy Bank is our new bank. We are currently transitioning from Fulton to Embassy Bank due to excess fees we were being charged.
  - d. Disbursement Review
    - i. Jennings for school student trips from last year
    - ii. Classroom grant transactions for teachers
    - iii. Back to School activity
    - iv. Pride shirts
9. **Vice President of Volunteers Update** – Susy Whitney
- a. Upcoming Volunteer Needs
    - i. Fitness Walk sign-up was sent out today and is filled. However, keep checking as sometimes people back out.
    - ii. Book character parade in October will be the next opportunity.
    - iii. Committee Co-chair positions are available. We have list of openings and descriptions of each. Of note, a maximum of 3 positions can be held unless we are unable to fill. Highlights of availability are:
      - 1. Accountant to audit our books
      - 2. Bylaws and nomination teams
      - 3. Membership co-chair
      - 4. School board delegate
      - 5. Raise Right Co-chair
  - b. Of note, there are many opportunities available. If you have already volunteered for an in-school event, let others have the opportunity to sign up and only sign up for one slot per event. This reminder will be in each sign up genius. We do keep track of this. Other opportunities may also come directly from the teacher (not the PTA) and include mystery reader and help in the classroom in centers.
10. **General Vice President Update** – John Zarzycki
- a. Pride shirts are supplied by PTA to each student. Plan to have them before fitness walk and to be worn on special school spirit days such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. These were sized as best as possible but keep in mind it has to fit for the entire year. We have extras on hand if needed for \$5 replacement fee. Colors of the shirts are by grade
    - i. Kindergarten – Yellow
    - ii. First Grade – Purple
    - iii. Second Grade - Red
    - iv. Third Grade - Green
    - v. Fourth Grade – Blue Tie-Dye with students signature on back
11. **Fundraising Update** – Melissa Curtis
- a. Raise Right – Tara Willard- This program is a very effective way to raise money for the PTA. You purchase gift cards for things you would normally buy anyway such as groceries, gas, restaurants, travel. Cards for thousands of stores throughout the US are available. Physical gift card orders will no longer be sent to the main office, but rather to the home address. Cost of shipping is taken out

of the donation amount. There is a Raise Right app and gift cards can be purchased and used immediately. Highest percentages given back include LL Bean at 16%, Lands End at 15%, Old Navy and Gap at 14% and there are special days with extra promotions given. Other family members can participate. Enrollment code to set up account. These can be purchased throughout the year, including summer

- b. Upcoming Fundraisers
  - i. Fall fundraiser – Unangst Farms form should be sent home before end of week. We will get 10% of purchase. A paper with vouchers will be sent home with the kids and this can be copied. Of note, the paper voucher needs to be brought with you so they can keep track of the amount to donate. This will go for the entire month of October to make it easier for everyone’s schedule. Form will be available on our website and sent out through Schoology.
  - ii. Fitness walk
  - iii. Coin Wars end of October
- c. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas. Do not hesitate to reach out to us.
- d. Susy Whitney brought up that the number of fundraisers we do can be overwhelming. There is no need to participate in every single fundraiser. Do what works for you.

12. **President Update** – Renee Solderitch

- a. Thank you to all volunteers for Back to School Night and upcoming events.
- b. Upcoming PTA programs include houses and fitness walk
- c. Membership update – Karen Janis
  - i. We have 19 new members
  - ii. The class with the most new members will have an ice cream party
  - iii. Members must join each year. Can be any family members, not just parents.

13. **General membership comments/concerns/questions from the floor**

14. **Adjourn** – Adjourn 7:37pm, Renee Solderitch motioned to adjourn. Britany Christman seconded.

**Next General PTA Meeting, Monday, October 3, 2022**

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN YOUR PTA!**