



Kenneth Butz Elementary School

KBES PTA Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2022

General Membership: Audrey Kemmerer, Kate Soporowski, Jess Dieck, Karen Janis, Courtney Fitch, Nicole Pile, John Zarsycki, Craig Williams, Britany Christman, Samantha Ondilla, Margherita Gallina, Yana Kalmatsky, Michelle Stauffer, Katie Burzynski, Natalie Klockars, Kristen Kalapick, Mike Ondilla

KBES Representatives: Susan Klotz, Kelly Apruzzi, Mrs. Rossi

Board Members: Melissa Curtis, Renee Solderitch, Julie Kaniper, Paul Soporowski, Susy Whitney, Wendy Juniper

1. Call to Order at 7:00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Principal Update - Mrs. Apruzzi

- Thanked the following people:
 - Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Strubar for the teacher luncheons during conference week. Teachers appreciate the support during that busy week.
 - Thanked the PTA members who pulled together the Variety Show so quickly. It was great to see the kids bravery and skill in performing, and it was nice to have the show back in the building again.
 - Thanked the PTA for sponsoring the Mad Science assembly. There was great feedback from the kids.
- PSSA testing is coming up. Two grade levels is a big undertaking this year.
 - Both 3rd and 4th grade are taking 3-day ELA and 2-day Math PSSAS.
 - Only 4th grade takes the 2-day Science test
 - Staff and teachers keep test preparation very low key to discourage anxiety. Students have been adequately prepared for these learning tests since Kindergarten.
 - Breakfast will be supplied each day during PSSA testing for tested grades. A letter went home on 4/4/22 about the breakfast options.
 - 2nd and 1st grade classes each adopted a 3rd or 4th grade class and are making signs of encouragement for the test takers which will be posted in the classroom and will cover materials on classroom walls that can't be seen during the test.

- 4th grade is going to Jacobsburg Park April 5 and 6.
- Kindergarten will be going to see the play “Matilda” at Zoellner, 1st and 2nd grade will be going to the Lehigh Valley Zoo, 3rd grade will be going to Quiet Valley Historical Farm, and 4th grade will be going to the Franklin Institute.
- April 28 is Take Your Child to Work Day.
 - It unfortunately always falls during the PSSAs, so 3rd and 4th graders cannot participate because it would be an unexcused absence.
 - K-2 grades can go to work with a parent. To participate, they need a letter from the employer and they will submit a writeup of what they did during the day.
- Kindergarten enrollment is open and is currently at 66. This is pretty normal compared to previous years at the same time.
- Kindergarten Parent Orientation is April 5 at 6:30. Specialists will be on hand to talk to parents.
- Music concerts and the Art show are coming up.
 - Fourth graders involved in band will participate in a concert in which students from grades 4-12 will play together.
- KBES is Closed for Election Day on May 17.
- Early dismissal is on May 20
- Field Day is also in May. Students will enjoy Rita’s and the PTA will sponsor lunch under the pavilion, catered by NASD food services.
- Memorial Day program: Mrs. Ruhf has been preparing patriotic songs with the kids. She will hold two programs this year divided by grade level (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) to accommodate the larger school size this year.
- Moving Up Ceremony for Fourth graders is June 3. It is a celebration of our students who are moving on to the intermediate school. Students will be allowed to leave after the ceremony with their families.
- JumpStart and Full Steam Ahead programs:
 - JumpStart is for incoming K and 1st graders, and will preview material and review skills.
 - Full Steam Ahead is for incoming 2nd through 4th graders, and will focus on STEAM related themes and critical thinking.
 - The charge will be \$30 per student and will run Monday through Thursdays from 8:30-11:30 during the first 2 weeks of August.
- Send any questions via phone, email.

4. **Teacher Update** - Mrs. Klotz

- Thank you to the following people:

- Those who helped with the teacher luncheons. It may seem like a little thing, but knowing they don't have to worry about lunch with the crazy schedules of that week is a huge help.
- Thank you for the variety show - it was a really nice evening and turned out wonderfully.
- Thank you for the PTA parties that are happening this Friday, April 8 - The students will love the treats and the crafts.
- Kindless Squad had a table in the front lobby during conferences, and received great responses for their outreach. The group will be getting t-shirts on Monday and have a few more surprises to unveil as the school year continues.
- ESU students are doing an advocacy project involving photography and have created a club called the "Say Cheese" club. The goal for the ESU students is to create a program that involves students, parents, volunteers and staff working together. Thanks to the PTA for supporting the ESU student projects. This isn't the norm across other schools.

5. **Be Safe Director Update** - Mrs. Rossi

- American Rescue Stabilization Grant was given to Be Safe so they could continue to provide services to children through covid. They were able to spend it on goods, services, personnel, and programs. Any funds not spent by May must be returned.
 - They will be using the grant to replace the carpet in the modular as well as the heating system after a pipe burst and flooded it. They will be fixing the ramp leading up to the modular as well.
 - Be Safe went on a few trips with the money as well: roller skating and bowling. They also brought in a magician and juggler in the after school program, and invited the preschoolers to see these programs as well.
- Incoming kindergarten families can bring their paperwork back at Kindergarten Orientation on April 5 to register for after-care. There are only 5 spaces left.
- The 2 and 3 day preschool classes are full, and there is a waiting list.
- Reenrollment papers for 1-4 grade have not been sent out yet. There is already a long wait list for the afterschool program.
- The Be Safe Steering Committee will hopefully be meeting again in the near future. They will need another parent from the preschool program. Renee Solderitch and Sarah Strubar are current representatives on the committee.

6. **Secretary Update** - Wendy Juniper

- Craig Williams approved the March meeting minutes and Michelle Stouffer seconded.

7. Treasurer Update - Julie Kaniper

- Deposit and Expense Review
 - Deposits:
 - Ritas card fundraiser profit of \$1970
 - Maple Syrup profit \$700
 - Chocolates on Broadway profit \$7500
 - We are waiting to cash checks until all of them are in.
 - Please reach out to arrange pickup if you haven't done so
 - Expenses:
 - Field trips
 - Mad Science assembly
- The 990 will be complete in May

8. Vice President of Volunteers Update - Susy Whitney

- Thank you to the volunteers for the book fair and luncheons
- Upcoming Volunteer Needs
 - Field Day
 - Art Show - setting up and breaking down
 - Memorial Day Ceremony
 - Moving Up Ceremony

9. General Vice President Update - Renee Solderitch

- Assembly Review - Mad Science went well. Renee will send out links about available Mad Science summer programs. Planning is in the works for an afterschool Mad Science Program in the fall.

10. President Update - Paul Soporowski

- Volunteer recognition
- Current/Ongoing fundraisers
- Fundraiser outcomes
 - Coin Wars: Yana reports about \$2018.
- Upcoming PTA programs
 - Field Day Lunch: Karen Janis reports that students will receive Hotdogs, chips, and juice cups through the cafeteria on Field Day.
 - The PTA will be helping Mrs. Donaldson decorate for Moving Up
 - The PTA is sponsoring a senior through the "Adopt a Senior" program
 - PTA Scholarship winner is currently being decided and will be announced at the end of the month.

- RIF: each teacher will get a box of 40-50 books and the kids can choose from it.
- General PTA business updates
- Elections for SY2022-2023 PTA Board
 - Every position is open, the nominations committee has put together a slate of nominees based on nominations they received, and is as follows:
 - President: Renee Solderitch
 - General Vice President: Samantha Ondilla, John Zarzycki
 - Vice President of Volunteers: Susy Whitney
 - Secretary: Courtney Fitch
 - Treasurer: Julie Kaniper
 - Both nominees for Vice President gave speeches before the vote was held.
 - Election Results are
 - President: Renee Solderitch 22 votes
 - General Vice President: Samantha Ondilla, 9 votes; John Zarzycki, 14 votes
 - Vice President of Volunteers: Susy Whitney, 21 votes
 - Secretary: Courtney Fitch, 22 votes
 - Treasurer: Julie Kaniper, 23 votes

11. General membership comments/concerns/suggestions from the floor

12. Adjourn. Britney Christman motioned to adjourn and Samantha Ondilla seconded.

Next General PTA Meeting Monday, May 2nd, 2022

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN YOUR PTA!