



Kenneth Butz Elementary School

KBES PTA Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

1. **Call to Order at 7:00**

General Members in Attendance: Yana Kalmatsky, Kate Soporowski, Britany Christman, Audrey Kemmerer, Tara Willard, Jennie Loeper, Jamie Iorio, John Zarzycki, Craig Williams, Jessica Dieck, Katie Kline, Miranda Smith, Jennifer Franke, Crystale Williamson, MacKenzie Guyer, Savannah Stevens, Natalie Klockars, Erin Ferguson, Karen Janis, Alicia Carney, Jody Rutt, Angela Ferraro, Bonnie Baratta

School Representatives in Attendance: Kelly Apruzzi, Susan Klotz

Board Members in Attendance: Paul Soporowski, Susi Whitney, Renee Solderitch, Wendy Juniper, Melissa Curtis

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Principal Update - Mrs. Apruzzi**

- Everyone had a fantastic time at the fitness walk. It was nice to have the program back after not being able to hold it for 2 years. The kids had a wonderful time and it was really meaningful to them. Thank you to the volunteer who dressed up as the Blue Eagle mascot.
- This week is Fire Prevention Week. The Bushkill Volunteer Fire Department will visit with two firetrucks. Two classes at a time will go outside to see the firetruck and learn about fire safety.
- School picture day is October 13. A makeup day will be announced for those who miss the first date. A flyer from Christmas City went home with students today (Monday, 10/4) and information will be going out over Schoology.
- There is no school Monday, October 11
- STEAM Night is scheduled for October 21. Administrators are in conversation about how to make it a safe and successful evening with so many more students and families in the building. Parking is one of the issues yet to be worked out.

- The Book Character Parade and Party is October 29. KBES hopes to have a schedule for the date out soon. The current plan is to break the grades into two sections. One group (grades K-2) will parade while the other group (grades 3-4) has their party, and vice versa. That should help with parking shortages.
- Instrumental music lessons begin this week. Lessons are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays on a rotating schedule so children aren't pulled out of class at the same time each week. Lessons held in the large group room.
- Chorus for 3rd and 4th graders is meeting after school on Wednesdays. There will be a chorus concert later in the year.
- The Nazareth Area Science Project (NASP) is planning their fall fun run and train ride event for October 23. It will be held outside under the pavilion. A flyer will go out advertising it and inviting kids to enter a 1 mile run around the soccer field. Lanterns and festive fall holiday decorations can be seen on the train ride.
- A partnership with the Shanti project has been renewed for this year, through a grant they obtained. The Shanti project teaches students about mindfulness, emotional regulation, stress relief, breathing strategies, etc. This fall, the project will work with 18 of our 26 classrooms, including all of K-2 and two 3rd grade classrooms. Starting the week of October 18, two Shanti instructors will come on Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays for 20 minute sessions working with the students. In the Spring, the other third and the fourth grade classes will have an opportunity to take part in the project. It will be helpful for them at that time of year because that is when they take their PSSA tests. In early November, there will be a presentation for parents introducing them to the Shanti project.
- Mrs. Apruzzi opened up the floor to questions, and none were asked.

4. Teacher Representative Update - Mrs. Klotz

- Thank you to the PTA for the fitness walk's success. From the t-shirts to the volunteers at the event, it was great to see everyone back at the school and doing these activities again.
- Teachers and students are very excited for the Book Character party and parade at the end of the month.
- Teachers and administrators will be having data meetings next week to discuss the results from the STAR tests that were completed last week.

5. Be-Safe Director Update - Paul Soporowski for Mrs. Rossi

- Be safe is working on obtaining it's certificate of occupancy for the new classrooms, and is currently using alternate rooms.

6. Secretary Update

- Kate Soporowski approved the September meeting minutes, Yana Kalmatsky seconded.
- KBES PTA news and events are advertised on the website at www.kbespta.org, through Schoology, via the KBES PTA facebook page and through the Remind App.
- The 2021-22 KBES directory is nearly complete. It will soon go out to parents for final comment and editing, and the final version should be ready by the end of the week.

7. Treasurer Update - Renee Solderitch for Julie Kaniper

- Deposit Reviews
 - The Mum sale profit was nearly \$300
 - Fitness Walk raised over \$14,000 which is the highest amount ever raised through this fundraiser
 - Membership has brought in \$257 to date.
- Recent expense reviews
 - A handful of \$100 disbursements have been made to teachers through classroom grants
- Send any questions or concerns to Julie Kaniper at kbesptatreasurer@gmail.com

8. Vice President of Volunteers Update - Susy Whitney

- Committee Chair positions -Thank you to all who have filled the chair vacancies
 - Coin Wars now has a committee chair and co-chair. We may need additional volunteers to count money.
- Character parade and STEAM night volunteer opportunities are upcoming.
- Membership Updates: We currently have 86 PTA members.

9. General Vice President Update

- PTA Room organization & new location: The PTA has a larger storage room right off the cafeteria where there is plenty of space to organize our stuff.
- The RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program is happening this week. Each teacher will get a box of books in their classroom from which kids can pick a book they want to take home.

10. President Update - Paul Soporowski

- Volunteer recognition - Thank you to John Zarzycki for being the Eagle mascot at the Fitness Walk, and thank you to Amanda Strong and Angela Connell for the work they did to pull together the Fitness Walk event. Thank you to volunteers who gave their time that day.
- Current/Ongoing fundraisers - Melissa Curtis
 - Thank you everyone for your generous donations for the mums and the fitness walk. We raised a record amount of money at Fitness Walk, which goes toward funding class trips as well as to provide so many other opportunities and resources for our students.
 - Fitness Walk Ice cream party winners:
 - Kindergarten Mrs. Morris
 - First Grade: Mrs. Lipsky
 - Second Grade: Miss McCarron
 - Third Grade: Mrs. Koch
 - Fourth Grade: Ms. DeBoer
 - Gift card raffle winners are: Daniel Miller and Mallory Seigfried
 - The Spiritwear sale is coming up later in October.
 - Coin wars will be held October 18-22
 - A Cash Bingo event is scheduled for November 20 at the Bushkill Fire Hall
 - The Palmer Nursery Poinsettia Sale begins in early November.
- General PTA business update:
 - Jamie Iorio is our school board representative. She reports that the debate over masking is still going on at school board meetings. The board recommended reaching out to government representatives about mask policies in the schools. A new law firm has been hired and we have a new solicitor.
- Upcoming PTA programs
 - STEAM night:
 - The PTA will be sending out an interest form asking people about their plans to attend so we can manage safe distancing inside and parking outside.
 - An interest form went out to staff and 14 staff members responded that they plan to create a station for the event.

11. General Membership Comments

- Mrs. Klotz asked if we will be reaching out to the winners of the ice cream party to figure out a date, a question that was asked at the faculty meeting. Paul Soporowski responded that planning is in the works with food services and the teachers.
- Question - Is there a calendar of events and fundraisers so people can see what's happening each month in a given school year? Paul Soporowski answered that that

would be very useful but there isn't right now. All our PTA events are on the KBES calendar.

- Question - Crystal Williamson noticed that the variety show is on the schedule to be held in the KBES multipurpose room, and wonders if the variety show will be held here and not at the middle school anymore. Paul Soprowski answered yes, we are planning to use our own facility so we don't have the scheduling issues we've had in the past with the middle school. Our biggest problem will probably be parking

12. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28

- Britany Christman motioned to adjourn the meeting and John Zarzycki seconded the motion.

The Next General Membership Meeting
will be held Monday, November 1, 2021