



Kenneth Butz Elementary School

KBES PTA Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021

1. **Call to Order at 7:02pm**

Executive Board in Attendance: Paul Soporowski, Renee Solderitch, Susy Whitney, Melissa Curtis, Wendy Juniper, Julie Kaniper

School Representatives in Attendance: Kelly Apruzzi, Susan Klotz

General Membership in Attendance: Brittany Christman, Kate Soporowski, Amanda Strong, Kristen Kalapick, Yana Kalmatsky, Jen Costenbader, Craig Williams, Adrienne Kashner, Benedite Levron, Lauren Fortunato, Tara Willard, Amy Wolf, Miranda Smith, Susan Barrett, Jennifer Franke, Andrea Gashinski, Brian Massie, Kayla Chase, Crystale Williamson, Jennifer Componovo, Angela Connell, MacKenzie Guyer, Amy Sutphen, Jamie Iorio, Carolanne Carty, Natalie Klockars, Gina Baudoin, Tina Stauffer, Samantha Ondilla, Karen Janis, Meghan Jordan, Altynay Kanatbeko, Meghan Kurpat, Adrienne Norgrove, Nicole Liczbinski, Nicole Pile, Michelle Stouffer, Kristen McMullen, Stephanie Vasiliadis, Jessica Dieck, Kelly Crescenzo, Michael Mann, Sara Taff, Tanya Mazar, Rebecca Willock, Sarah Strubhar, Naya Tsang, Megan Cowell, Kathleen Burzynski, Melissa Napolitano, John Zarzycki, Lori Emery, Carmen Rodriguez, Rebecca Schoenberger, Mary Levesque, Kari Oswald, Nadean Cuff, Bonnie Baratta

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Welcome to New KBES Families & PTA Board Introduction**

PTA President Paul Soporowski introduced the board members

4. **Principal Update: Mrs. Apruzzi**

- Mrs. Apruzzi welcomed the general membership and expressed how happy everyone is to be back for the school year.
 - The first day was a bit of a shock when they really saw the change in size of the student body from 380 to 570 with the addition of 4th grade and the new students from Shafer. It was an especially big change from last year because of the hybrid schedule and so many students were in the cyber program.

- Students were excited to be in the building, and staff will do their best to keep the building open.
- Arrival and dismissal slowdowns have been ironed out. 10/11 busses now drop off students, which is a change from 8 in previous years. Parent pick up grew from 60 parents in the past to about 120 this year. Thanks to parents for following directions to come at a later time to smooth out the pick up process.
- Patriot Day Flags:
 - Last year, Mr. Craig Williams (who has a child at KBES) expressed interest in programs that display American pride at KBES. They came up with the plan to place flags around the perimeter of the walkways in front of the school to memorialize Patriot Day. Mrs. Apruzzi purchased the flags through her discretionary budget, and children placed the flags as part of age appropriate discussions about what it means to be a patriot, with a backdrop of patriotic music. The flags will come down at the end of the week.
- Class picnics to welcome students back to school
 - Students had a wonderful time at the class picnics and train rides last week. Picnics and train rides haven't happened for 2 years, so many students and parents had no idea the school even had trains behind the building.
 - Thanks to the many volunteers who helped out. The days went very well with a few interesting hiccups: A beehive that had to be sprayed, but still caused enough nuisance for kids to have to have their picnic on the lawn rather than at the picnic tables; the smell of a skunk who caused worry but no issues; and the trains broke down with 5 classes yet to ride, but Mr. Locke and Mr. Butz fixed them in time for everyone to have a ride.
- Social/Emotional Learning: We've all been through a lot this past year, and have experienced stress on a daily or near daily basis. The school is backing away from putting new academic programs on everyone's plate, and is instead focused on getting back to the basics of social and emotional learning as part of the school day. Taking time to check in with the kids, have morning meetings, and make sure everyone is being heard and creating a family community within the classroom. The picnic and train rides were part of that spirit of community as well.
- SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behavior Supports): Assemblies about SWPBS are coming up for each grade, in which students will be taught and reminded of the three R's at KBES: Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn. Rewards will be

different than in the past in response to guidelines for covid, but they will still receive train tickets and have plenty of positive rewards.

- Open house: Will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and have been moved online due to the number of people who would potentially be in each classroom. There could be upwards of 40 adults in each classroom, and leaving no room to socially distance. There will be other opportunities for parents to come into the school later in the year.
- Instrumental music lessons for 4th graders: A signup was sent out about a week ago for 4th grade students interested in instrumental lessons. They will be held during the day and scheduled over specials, social studies or science, so as not to interfere with core classes.
- Chorus for 4th graders: Mrs. Ruhf will be leading chorus which will meet after school. More information will be forthcoming.
- Fitness walk: Will be held on September 30, with a rain date of October 1. Parents will not be invited to watch fitness walk in person this year and grade levels will complete it individually so there isn't as much mingling between parents and students or students between grades. It's a great fundraiser and will still be lots of fun for the students.
- Fall picture day will be October 13.

5. Teacher Representative Update: Mrs. Klotz

- Thank you from the staff for chalking the sidewalks for the first day of school. It means a lot to the staff and students. Thank you to volunteers who were at the picnics, too.
- Teachers are excited to see our parents at open house.
- Star testing will begin September 27.
- Pylon will be up and running by October or November. It will be changed a little this year, and she is excited to share that information within about a month or so.

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PAUSED AGENDA TO TAKE QUESTIONS FROM ZOOM

Q: Please repeat, when is picture day?

A: Mrs. Apruzzi restated it is on October 13.

Q: What exactly is STAR testing?

A: Mrs. Apruzzi responded - Star testing is an assessment that students will take on an ipad. In Kindergarten, it covers "reading readiness" including questions about letters

and sounds. In grades 1-4, it assesses reading comprehension, including fluency and word skills. Grades 1-4 also take a math assessment. STAR tests begin each student a little below their grade level and raises the level each time a student answers successfully. Consequently, if a student reports that the test was really hard, it could have taken them way above grade level. The test takes about 20 minutes to complete. The school gets immediate data on each child's skill level in individual reading and math areas, letting teachers know what level of content individual students are ready for as well as for building reading groups, offering interventions, etc.

Q: When will Kindergarteners get ipads?

A: Mrs. Apruzzi responded - They are on their way.

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6. Be Safe Director Update: Melissa Curtis for Mrs. Rossi

- Be Safe is happy to be back and moved into their new rooms, which are bright and sunny. Today was the first day of school for the 3 day class. The after school program is using the LGI room for welcome and attendance and has snacktime in the cafeteria. It is very full with the addition of 4th grade back into the school. Currently, only 3 children are attending from the intermediate school, and their fees have been adjusted because of the change in school ending times. There is currently no space available in either preschool or afterschool, but there is a waiting list for the pre-school.

7. Secretary Update: Wendy Juniper

- Approval of May meeting minutes: Kate Soporowski approved the May meeting minutes and Yana Kalmatsky seconded.
- Information channels for PTA news, events and fundraisers:
 - Through Schoology via Mrs. Apruzzi
 - Our website at www.kbespta.org
 - The KBES PTA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KBESPTA>
 - Through the Remind App - find class codes by contacting us at kbespta@gmail.com or on the Facebook page.

8. Treasurer Update: Julie Kaniper

- 2021 – 2022 Budget approval
 - Amanda Strong approved the budget and Jen Costenbader seconded.

- Paul Soporowski clarified that the final amount in the account is misleadingly inflated because it also includes a memorial fund established for a deceased librarian (organized by Mrs. Rossi) as well as the account for the scholastic book sale.
- Recent expense reviews
 - A few teachers have submitted materials expenses. Paul Soporowski clarified that each teacher gets \$100 from the PTA for expenses, and specials teachers get \$250. We have a special grant to give more resources throughout the year for particular projects
 - T-shirts were purchased for distribution to each student. They will be provided before the fitness walk.

9. Vice President of Volunteers Update: Susy Whitney

- Volunteer Opportunities for 2021/2022
 - Fitness walk volunteer signup will go out next week.
 - Bingo in October
 - Book Character Parade in October
 - Reading is Fundamental
- Email kbesptavolunteer@gmail.com to be added to your child's volunteer list if you have not already done so. People on the list will receive signups for all volunteer opportunities.
- Committee Chair vacancies:
 - The signup for committee chairs will go out again.
 - We are looking for a NASP chair, and for a STEAM night head chair and co-chair.

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PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS

Q: What is involved in the chair positions?

A: Renee Solderitch responded - Over the summer, we made a comprehensive list about what each position entails. That will be sent out with the signup genius link

A: Paul Soporowski added - Relevant to STEAM night chair: It's a lot of work for a short amount of time, until the event is over, but it's a very popular evening for students and families

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10. General Vice President Update: Renee Solderitch

- Volunteer Recognition: Thank you to Monica G for sizing students for class pride t-shirts and thank you to volunteers who came for picnics
- PTA-funded School Assemblies: Assemblies will probably be virtual this year, especially in light of possible shut downs, where rescheduling can be difficult.
- Pride shirts: Tshirts will be distributed to every student. Each grade receives a different color. They are worn on the first Friday of every month for spirit days, and for special events, like fitness walk

11. President Update: Paul Soporowski

- Membership:
 - We have 71 members as of today.
 - To become an official member, email kbesptamember@gmail.com or visit the website at www.kbespta.org and use the link to membership. Mrs. Apruzzi also sent out a link over schoology for signup, and the information is also available on the KBES PTA facebook page.
 - You must be a paid member to vote on executive board elections. There is no time commitment to becoming a member.
- **Current/Ongoing fundraisers: Melissa Curtis**
 - Savearound books are on sale for 2 more days, until September 15. There is a link on the facebook page and on the webpage to order books.
 - Back to school Family Fun Night was rescheduled for Friday, September 17 from 5-8pm. Kids can play on an inflatable obstacle course and a slide, both of which were selected because kids can stay socially distanced while using them. We will also have inflatable games, for which we need volunteers to staff in hourly shifts. Please see the signup that went out to volunteer. NASP (Nazareth Area Science Project) will be hosting \$2 train rides. The PTA is selling \$5 wristbands for all the obstacle courses and games. The festival will also include facepainting, a Christmas city photo booth, a dunk tank with teachers, a DJ and food will be available for purchase.
 - Mum sale: The Mum sale starts Thursday, September 16 and will run for 5 days. Reiger Family Farms, located in Bushkill township will be the pick-up place for the mums, which include an assortment of colors as well as hanging baskets. Keep an eye out for sale information on the KBES website, the KBES facebook page and schoology.

- Fitness walk: Fitness Walk is September 30, with October 1 as the rain date. This year we will reward the class in each grade that has the highest donation participation level with a free ice cream at lunch time. Any student who raises over \$50 will be entered into a raffle to win one or more gift cards. The volunteer signup will be out soon.
- We appreciate all your support and help this September. Please be patient as we try to use a different form of online payment for these fundraisers called GetButter. If anyone has any guidance for this new system, please let us know.
- Upcoming PTA programs
 - STEAM night in October
 - Coin Wars in October
- General PTA business updates
 - The only way we can really stay connected with our PTA members are through Facebook, Remind and our website, and while the best way is through Schoology - we try not to send so much information through Mrs. Apruzzi that it becomes overwhelming.

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

Q: The meeting was hard to hear over zoom, when will minutes be posted?

A: Wendy Juniper responded: Tomorrow

Q: I submitted my clearances, but don't know if they are on file or not?]

A: Paul Soporowski responded - We do not hold clearances, but you can call the district office to find out.

Q: Can you clarify - no parents at fitness walk?

A: Paul Soporowski - Only parents who volunteer will be there. No parents will be there as spectators because of concerns of parents and students congregating.

Q: Can you clarify - the entire school will meet in the cafeteria for an assembly?

A: Mrs. Apruzzi - No, each grade level will assemble in the cafeteria, similar to lunch.

Q: Are we going to have volunteer signups for parties next year? Normally it's done at open houses.

A: Paul Soporowski - Normally we have membership, committee chair and party signups at open house. It's difficult this year, because we can't capture those opportunities now that open house is online. That's why it's very important to get on the signup genius lists for your grade. Those lists are pinned at the top of our FB page. Once we know what the opportunities are, those will be pushed out to the community. Everything will be

scaled back this year - volunteer opportunities won't be as wide open as they have been in the past.

A: Mrs. Apruzzi - Assigned seats for parties will be the same as they are for lunch.

13. Adjourn: at 7:48

Next General PTA Meeting Monday, October 4th, 2021

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THE KBES PTA!