



Kenneth Butz Elementary School

KBES PTA Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2021

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm

- **General members in attendance:** Craig Williams, Kate Soporowski, Brittany Christman, Jess Dieck, Audrey Kemmerer, John Zarzycki, Yana Kalmatsky, Samantha Ondilla, Jennifer Franka, Katie Smith, Melissa Napolitano, Amanda Strong
- **Board members in attendance:** Paul Soporowski, Julie Kaniper, Wendy Juniper, Melissa Curtis, Susy Whitney
- **KBES representatives in attendance:** Mrs. Apruzzi, Mrs. Klotz

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Principal Update – Mrs. Apruzzi

- **Holiday Shop** looks fantastic and Mrs. Apruzzi recognizes all the hard work that goes into it.
- **Chorus Holiday Concert**
 - The concert will be held December 16 at 6:30 pm in the gym. Bleachers and chairs will be set up so viewers can be as spread apart as possible. Masks are recommended, but optional because it is an after-school event in which people elect to come. Each participating student will get 4 tickets. We will ask for families to send unused tickets back to be redistributed to families who would like to invite more guests.
 - The chorus will perform a dress rehearsal on December 15 during school hours for the 3rd and 4th grade students. K-2 will be able to watch a recorded version in the classroom. Polar Express - unable to have it last year for first graders so they will be participating as second graders. Therefore, grades 1 and 2 will be participating. Kids wear their pajamas, go out to the caboose and hear the story, they have hot cocoa and cookies. They go out by class
- **Winter Celebrations**
 - Will take place over 2 days, December 21 and 22

- Dr. Shoemaker is unavailable, so Mr. Butz and Mr. Locke will run the 2 trains for the students' train rides.
- Fourth grade will get to experience a longstanding KBES tradition - the yule log celebration. A log is spray painted on one end and is hidden somewhere in the environmental center. 4th grade classes go out to find it, and the one that does will tie a rope around it and drag it back to the firepit where a fire will already be blazing. The log is then cut in half and half is burned at the celebration and half is saved to start next year's fire. The classes will all learn about the history of the yule log.
- The high school chorus will be coming to sing carols at the end of school so kids can hear them as they leave for their busses and at parent pickup.
- **Christmas Break:** Early dismissal on 12/23/21; No school 12/24/21 through 1/2/22; School resumes 12/3/22

4. Teacher Representative Update – Mrs. Klotz

- Huge thank you for staff luncheons over conference time. It made their days much easier to not have to plan for lunch.

5. Be Safe Director Update – Melissa Curtis reported from Mrs. Rossi

- Kids are enjoying being back in the Be Safe room.
- They have an inspection to renew their license.
- January is their superbowl salsa sale.

6. Secretary Update - Wendy Juniper

- **Approval of November meeting minutes** and current communications - November meeting minutes were unavailable due to computer failure. Craig Williams approved the reason for absence of minutes.
- **Read Thank You letters**
 - Michele Danyi and Tracy Walker thanked membership for the staff luncheons
 - LouAnn Fehr thanked membership for volunteering at the Scholastic Book Fair.

7. Treasurer Update - Julie Kaniper

- Deposit and Audit review
 - The official write up was in November and there were 3 issues to work on this year. Minor changes were all discussed by the board

- An extension was filed on our 99 filing (a regulatory document that must be filed 3 months after the close of our budget in July) because Michelle had to leave the country. Michelle and Julie are meeting Wednesday to go over it.
- Recent expense reviews
 - \$4430 profit for coin wars, 4th grade won
 - Holiday shop: The deposit for day one was \$2156, which accounts for 7 classes.
- PTA received a check for \$260.90 from Nick Apruzzi in thanks for the use of his printing company for our spiritwear and pride shirts.

8. Vice President of Volunteers Update - Susy Whitney

- **Upcoming volunteer needs:**
 - Polar express on December 17: First grade will be in the morning from 9-10 am, Second grade will be in the afternoon from 1-2pm
 - Winter Celebration volunteer opportunities will be December 21 and 22
 - If you volunteered for Book Character parade in October, please hold off on volunteering for Polar Express or the Winter Celebrations to give other parents an opportunity to come into the classroom
- **Thank you to all the volunteers** who came in for the Book Fair and the holiday shop.

9. General Vice President Update - Paul Soporowski speaking for Renee Solderitch

- **Assemblies** - Now that our school population is over 500, costs go up significantly for assemblies. We are working with the staff to ensure that we get the best use of our funds be it in person or virtual assemblies
- **Field Trips**
 - PTA will support a trip to the Franklin Institute for the 4th grade. We are getting quotes for transportation right now, looking at school or charter busses.
 - Third grade will go to Quiet Valley, which is their traditional field trip.
 - The VP is looking into other assemblies or trips that can be shared among the classes. Traveling Trunks from the Moravian Historical Society is currently under consideration.

10. President Update - Paul Soporowski

- **Volunteer recognition** - We had excellent turnout for Holiday Shop, Giving Tree, Book Fair and Coin Wars. Thank you for coming together to make these efforts such a success.
- **Current/Ongoing fundraisers - Melissa Curtis, Fundraising Chair**

- **Fundraiser outcomes**
 - **Square 1 fundraiser:** Families purchased \$7479 in products, which means the PTA will earn about \$2500. The final number may increase if it turns out we advance into a higher return bracket based on sales after all is calculated.
 - **Bingo:** Bingo brought in roughly 52 participants and was lots of fun. We brought in \$770. We will try to do one in the spring, but maybe at a different location.
 - **Coin wars:** Coin Wars brought in \$4340. The volunteers did an excellent job, and the kids have so much fun.
- **Upcoming PTA programs**
 - January is a quiet month. We will have Barnes and Noble Night later in the month.

11. General PTA business updates

- **Holiday shop** - We have a good inventory, but it's not going to be enough to support the shop going forward with the number of students in the building. The board voted to raise the budget by \$1000 to \$4500. We shop for holiday shop items just after Christmas for the following year to get the most out of our money.

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

- a. Samantha Ondilla: has lots of contacts for different STEAM related assemblies, theater and art programs that she got during her work pulling together STEAM night. She's going to send it to Paul in case they are programs and groups that we might want to have at the school.
- b. Susy Whitney: Thank you to Mrs. Klotz for increasing our membership though the families of students in her class.

13. Adjourn at 7:22pm

**Next General PTA Meeting Monday, January 3rd, 2022
THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN YOUR PTA**