

Minutes for PTO Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Attendees: 27

Faculty: 2

PTO Board Members: 6

7:01 PM **Welcome** - Co-Presidents Ankita Achra and Daniela Santana

7:01 PM **Pledge of Allegiance**

7:02 PM **Faculty Liaisons**

Mrs. Erin Ferrara – GBMS

- Veteran's Day assembly was held
 - Veterans spoke to the children
 - Veterans who work in the school and spouses of veterans who work in the school were both recognized
 - There was a display with pictures of community veterans
- Wellness Committee will be holding Wellness Day on 11/23
 - Parent volunteers are needed for the nutrition stations
 - Minimum of 8 parents are needed with a shift of 8:30 AM-12:30 PM (or you can split the shift with another parent)
 - Contact Mr. Mojta to volunteer
- Peer Leaders Update
 - Maximus Romeo and Morgan Torres are attending tonight's meeting
 - 20 peer leaders helped run the haunted bus at Trunk or Treat
 - Peer leaders workshop was held which included team building activities
 - Spirit Week was held the week of October 31st
 - Spirit days included costume day, jersey day, sweater day, throwback day and color day
 - Bingo was held during lunch periods
 - Pumpkin painting was conducted
 - Costume contest was held on Halloween
 - A pep rally was held
 - There was a super sonic dance in which a peer leader was paired up with a teacher
 - There was a student vs. teachers soccer game
 - canned food drive is ongoing with the food being donated to the Somerset County Food Bank
 - December Spirit Week is coming

Mrs. Debbie Rizzoli - IEF

- Thank you PTO for holding Trunk or Treat and for adding the hay maze
- From Mrs. Panico – teachers are in need of teaching tape

- SEL survey is conducted each Monday that talks about school and schoolwork
 - The teachers learn what it's like to be a student at IEF
 - A teacher training will be held at month's end to talk about the survey results
- 1/11 – picture retakes will take place
- November is kindness month
- December will be December of Fairness
- Nurses report
 - There were 2 covid cases reported in October and 3 flu cases reported in October and November
 - Feel free to wear a mask
- Grades 1 and 2 will hold their Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday at 9:20 AM
 - The kids will sing songs and eat a small meal
- Grade 4 will hold Balloons over IEF on Wednesday at 1:00 PM
 - The kids will create a balloon (using the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade as inspiration) and parade the balloons around the school
- Peer Leaders Update
 - Siyana Achra and Izabella Santana are attending tonight's meeting
 - They provided us the details of the qualities of a peer leader
 - To include and not exclude
 - Show kindness to others and yourself
 - Created the hay maze at Trunk or Treat and decorated their display
 - Made posters for Veteran's Day
 - Thank You Teachers will be held in November (snack cart)

7:24 PM

Board of Education Report – Mrs. Michelle Cruz & Mr. Andrew Zimmer

- *Mrs. Cruz and Mr. Zimmer were not in attendance, so Daniela Santana provided the report*
- The last Board of Ed meeting was held on 11/9 at GBMS
- At the 10/26 meeting. Testing results from NJSLA were provided
 - Grades 3-8 participated in ELA and math
 - Grades 5-8 participated in science
 - Green Brook scored above the state average
- The next Board of Ed meeting will be held on 11/30 at 7:00 PM in the GBMS auditorium

7:26 PM

Q&A for Administrators and Liaisons

- No questions were asked

7:26 PM

Upcoming Events/Activities

NOVEMBER

- Sunshine Committee
 - Thanksgiving gift cards were bought and given to Green Brook families in need
 - The amount of this year's gift card was increased to \$30
 - The PTO board approved a \$330 budget increase to accommodate the change in this year's gift card

- GBMS Wellness Day
 - Will be held on Wednesday, 11/23
 - Nutrition stations need parent volunteers (8 stations) – there are currently 8 volunteers
 - Emailed Mr. Mojta or GB PTO to volunteer
 - No speaker will be provided this year
- 4th Grade Moving Over Committee
 - Fundraising initiative ideas are needed to help decrease the cost for families
 - Trip will be held on Friday, 6/9 at either Branchburg Sports Complex or Iron Peaks
 - Moving Over Ceremony will be held on 6/13 with rain date of 6/14
 - Fundraiser for the class to take place at Chuck E Cheese
 - \$3,000 in revenue will provide a 20% cut to the class activities
 - Less than \$3,000 in revenue will provide a 15% cut to the class activities
 - A date of 1/13 was proposed
 - Chuck E Cheese will come to the school to promote the event
 - Fundraiser of a service auction is being considered
 - Fundraiser at Sky Zone in March is also being considered
 - These ideas were presented to the 4th grade peer leaders
- School Spiritwear
 - PTO is working with 1st Place Spiritwear
 - Spiritwear will be available throughout the school year
 - We hope to launch on Friday
 - When the link is sent out via Parent Square, scroll through the green bar at the top of the site to see more options
 - Order by 11/30 for arrival by Christmas
 - 10% of the proceeds go to the PTO
 - 1st Place Spiritwear can be used for bulk orders
 - Order of \$75 or above = free shipping

DECEMBER

- Holiday Boutique
 - Will be held at IEF on 12/5-12/9
 - Kids will shop on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (class list is TBD)
 - Volunteers are needed (you must be a PTO member to volunteer)
 - Same company as last year will be used
 - Envelope to send money in will be sent home after Thanksgiving
 - Online shopping can be done for anyone who misses their shopping day
- Holiday Express
 - Will be held at IEF on 12/15
 - Theme will be the Grinch (2018 version of the movie)
 - Cookies and milk may be served

- Donation Committee
 - Mitten tree will be available for donations at Holiday Express
 - Donations will be made to the Somerset County Food Bank which services the North Plainfield Food Pantry
- Holiday Baking Contest
 - Will take place in December
 - It will be a gingerbread house competition with different categories
- Winter Homeroom Parties
 - Parties will take place the week of December 19th
 - Work with your child's teacher to confirm the date and time
 - Advise the PTO of your scheduled party date and time

7:59 PM

Old Business

- Fall Contest
 - Ciccarella and Farrell classes won the pumpkin decorating contest
 - Holmes/Taylor class won the scarecrow contest
- Bucket Fill Challenge
 - Class winners were announced
 - Guidelines for next year need to be refined
- Spooktacular Fundraiser
 - \$95 was received from USA Karate
- Trunk or Treat
 - Huge turnout with lots of sponsors
- Halloween Homeroom Parties
 - Food was not allowed but it could be introduced back at a future party

8:06 PM

Chairs Still Needed

- Harlem Wizards Game
 - 1 co-chair is still needed
- Teacher Appreciation Week
 - To be held on 5/1-5/5 at GBMS and IEF
 - Chairs are needed for each school
- Parent Fun Night
 - If no chair volunteers soon, this event won't take place
- Middle School Night Out
 - Bring a dance to GBMS
 - Mrs. Subervi advised to be prepared for any scenario to take place
 - 1 additional chair is needed
 - Date is TBD but consideration is being given to 3/10

8:16 PM

New Business

- Enrichment Programs at GBMS & IEF
 - PTO is looking to bring back after school programs in the spring
 - At the GBMS & IEF 11/28 faculty meetings, the PTO board will present the objectives and goals of this initiative

- The faculty will be presented with a survey requesting their talents and availability
- Teacher volunteers will be compensated for their time and PTO will profit
- Youth Commission Committee
 - PTO has a seat on the committee
 - Can apply for grant money

8:20 PM **Reminders**

- There is no December PTO meeting

8:21 PM **Member Vote on Bylaw Amendment**

- Add in Point #9 Under Article X - Committees:
 - All Committee and Subcommittee members shall be paid members of the Green Brook PTO. Additionally all volunteers on school grounds or at PTO sponsored events must be paid members of the Green Brook PTO.
- A motion was made to accept the bylaw amendment. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

8:22 PM **Treasurer's Report – Andy Chen / Miranda Konz**

- Andy reviewed the Statement of Assets, Revenues & Expenses for the fiscal period ending YTD October 2022
 - Total Assets: \$54,072.58
 - Total Fundraising: \$ 1,492.59
 - Total Overall Expenses: \$ 1,483.74
 - Total Profit: \$ 8.85
- Harlem Wizards game deposit has been paid
- A motion to accept the reading of the budget was made. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

8:28 PM **Secretary's Report – Tammi Wiley**

- A motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the October 11, 2022, PTO Meeting was made. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

8:29 PM **Q&A Session**

- No questions were asked
- Committee Chairs – inform the PTO board of potential dates for your event

8:30 PM **Adjournment**

- Stephanie Stankiewicz was the winner of the raffle prize
 - She won a gift card for Just Subs
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

The next PTO Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the IEF Media Center.

Thank you for supporting the Green Brook School District!