

Minutes for PTO Meeting Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Attendees: 54

Faculty: 3

PTO Board Members: 6

- 7:02 PM **Welcome** - Co-Presidents Ankita Achra and Daniela Santana
- The 2023-2024 PTO Executive Board Introduced themselves to the PTO audience
 - Co-President: Ankita Achra
 - Co-President: Daniela Santana
 - Co-Treasurer: Miranda Konz
 - Co-Treasurer: Bethany Dziedzic
 - Corresponding Secretary: Michael Wiley
 - Recording Secretary: Tammi Wiley
- 7:05 PM **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 7:06 PM **Guest Speaker** - Sarah Pemberton from Café Nune
- Sarah is the owner of Café Nune in Dunellen which serves salads, smoothies, juices, and bowls
 - She has kids in 1st and 2nd grade at IEF
 - Sarah provided treats to share
 - Tonight's raffle winner will receive a gift card from Café Nune
- 7:09 PM **Superintendent's Report** – Dr. James Bigsby
- Dr. Bigsby praised the PTO executive board for being inviting to all
 - He credits parents for taking the time to be involved in the PTO
 - Dr. Bigsby presented the district's strategic plan which includes the values, vision, and mission of the district
 - Green Brook enhances human talents through collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and foundational characteristics
 - The strategic plan guides the work through operation, SEL, programs, and student achievement
 - The goals provide the focus
 - Action planning includes capital projects, sending and receiving contracts, budget management, and budget planning
 - Self-regulation is accomplished through the individuals and the organization
 - Engagement includes school wide enrichment, parent engagement, and teacher leadership
 - Achievement includes helping the staff with curriculum, prioritizing, assessment data, and revising the report cards
 - A concentration for this year will be professional development

7:24 PM

PTO Goals and Vision for 2023-2024

- PTO strategic planning for this year includes the PTO's values, vision, and mission (by-laws)
- PTO goals:
 - Promote closer connections between school and home by fostering parent involvement via various programs
 - Support all students by providing cultural learning experiences that expand student's knowledge and awareness of the broad spectrum of human experience
 - Enhance communication between district, PTO, teachers, and parents
 - Complement the district goals with additional opportunities for parents, teachers and students to learn, socialize, communicate, and grow
 - Provide resources/information and support for parents in the areas of mental health, education, and other areas provided by district

7:27 PM

Faculty Liaisons

Mrs. Erin Ferrera – GBMS

- Thank you PTO for breakfast on the 1st day of school
- The staff was treated to free tickets to the Rutgers football game during Labor Day weekend
- Enrichment courses will start this week
- Auditions for "Frozen" will be held on Wednesday and Thursday
- Sports teams have started practices and games
- Yearbooks are now on sale
 - Orders are due on 11/30
- A student in Ms. Tennent's life skills enrichment class from last year received a letter from President Biden as part of her letter writing lesson
- 9/25 – no school
- 9/26 – MAP Testing and Back to School Night
- 10/25 – picture day
- 10/6 – one session day
- 10/9 – no school
- Peer Leaders Update
 - Sonia Nikhil and Kavina Mahlorta are attending tonight's meeting
 - Leadership 2 composed letters to the police department and rescue teams
 - Spirit week was held and entitled "Game on GBMS"
 - The next spirit week will be held the last week of October
 - The peer leaders requested to be a part of Trunk or Treat
 - 9/20 – peer leaders will be attending a leadership workshop

Mr. Christopher Billman - IEF

- Thank you PTO for the breakfast on the 1st day of school and for holding the Tears and Cheers breakfast for the parents
- Classrooms are concentrating on SEL and wellness
- Responsive classroom curriculum has been added
- Pre-K is learning the school routine and concentrating on sharing

- Resource Room is learning about the math tools
- Ms. Wagner's 3rd grade class is working on building a class community
- In Phys. Ed the MVP Campaign will continue this year
 - Concentration is on teamwork, helping out, and positive behavior
- In Art, the classes are being inspired by books and working on the Back to School Night displays
- Counseling is focusing on friendship
 - An assembly will be held on Thursday
- Please remember to pack a water bottle for the day, charge iPads, and sneakers on gym day

7:41 PM **Board of Education Report – Dr. Beth Stanton**

- At the last BOE meeting teachers were recognized
 - Recognitions were for new staff, tenured staff, and Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023
- Curriculum updates were approved
- Ethics classes are coming to GBMS along with advanced photography classes

7:45 PM **Q&A for Administrators and Liaisons**

- No questions were asked

7:30 PM **Upcoming Events/Activities**

SEPTEMBER

- Pre-K and Kindergarten Walkthrough
 - Was held on 830
 - Parents were able to meet members of the PTO board
- Tears and Cheers
 - Replaced the previous Boohoo/Yahoo parent breakfast
 - Refreshments and drinks were donated by Duck Donuts and Dunkin'
- Welcome Back Breakfast
 - Was held for the staff at both schools on the 1st day of school
 - Sponsorship was provided by USA Karate
 - Refreshments were donated by Outback, Dunkin, and Duck Donuts
 - Teacher gifts were also provided
- Book Fair
 - Will be held from 9/26-9/28
 - Parent shop night will be on 9/28 during Back to School Night
 - This will be Christie's last year chairing this event
 - If you would like to chair next year, this is a great opportunity to shadow Christie for the year
 - Volunteer sign-up will be coming
 - Teacher schedules are TBD
- Homeroom Parents
 - Registration is open until 9/22
 - You must be a PTO member to be a homeroom parent

- Google form will be sent with additional details to those who have registered
- Back to School Night
 - 9/26 – GBMS
 - 9/28 – IEF
 - PTO will be present on both evenings
- Committee Chair Meeting
 - Will be held virtually on 9/21
 - Guidelines will be gone over for chairing events
 - A communication will be sent to the chairs prior to the meeting

OCTOBER

- Anti-Bullying Month
 - Bucket Fill Challenge will be held at IEF
 - Date is TBD
 - The challenge recognizes acts of kindness
- Homeroom Parent Meeting
 - Will be held on 10/3 in the IEF Medica Center
 - 1 homeroom parent from each class needs to be in attendance at each PTO meeting
 - There are new guidelines for this year
- Trunk or Treat
 - Will be held on 10/27 in the IEF parking lot
 - Rain date is 10/28
 - More details about the event to come
 - IEF Halloween parade will be held on 10/31 at 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM (split by grades)
- Scarecrow or Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest
 - Registration will open on 10/2 and will be open through 10/13
 - Winners will be announced the week of 10/16
 - A chair is needed for this event
- PTO Expo
 - Will be held on 10/17
 - It's an opportunity for the PTO board to meet vendors and get ideas
 - Ankita, Daniela, and Mirand will attend

7:57 PM

Fundraising

- Food Fundraisers to come
 - Calendar will be created with dates and locations

7:58 PM

Committees

- Mr. Billman and Ms. Walsh would like to collaborate on events with the PTO
 - They are thinking about a Fun Run with the community
 - Proceeds for the event will benefit the PTO

- The date is TBD but an October event with a Halloween theme is being considered
- They would like to hold a 2nd event in the spring (maybe a color run)
- Chairs and volunteers are needed
- Volunteering
 - We are happy to see you volunteer for as little or as much time as you can give
 - Family Fun Night is in need of committee chairs

8:09 PM

New Business & Updates

- New Portal
 - Future Fund is now being used to register and pay for your PTO membership
 - Contact the PTO with any questions on using the site
- Social Hour
 - Will be held prior to each PTO meeting from 6:15-7:00 PM
 - Use the time to socialize, ask questions, hold committee meetings, etc.
- Spiritwear
 - Provided by 1st Place Spiritwear
 - They help the PTO design items
 - Bengal wear will be introduced soon
 - PTO gear is also available
- Buddy Program
 - This is a program to match up new and veteran parents
 - Google form is available to sign-up
- Bright Minds
 - Will resume in the spring
 - PTO needs to work out kinks with the admin team about facility fees
 - These are before and after school programs
- PTO Volunteer Protocols
 - You must be a PTO member to volunteer
 - Check-in at the front office and pick-up a lanyard to wear while volunteering
 - Lanyards should be returned when leaving the school
 - No wondering around the school
 - No younger siblings and/or non-GBTPS children are allowed in the school during school hours

8:27 PM

Treasurer's Report – Miranda Konz / Bethany Dziedzic

- Items will be added to this budget and a vote will be taken at the October meeting to amend the budget
- There are 3 categories of the budget:
 - Fundraising, special events (these are no profit events), and expenses
- New treasurer email for this year – gbpto.financial@gmail.com
- The budget for the 2023-2024 school year was presented by Miranda Konz
- A motion was made to accept the 2023-2024 PTO budget. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

- 8:31 PM **Secretary's Report** – Tammi Wiley
- A motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the May 23, 2023, PTO Meeting was made. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.
- 8:32 PM **Q&A Session**
- Raffle winners were drawn and provided gift cards to Café Nune and Outback
- 8:35 PM **Adjournment**
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

Next PTO Meeting:

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

7:00 PM

IEF Media Center

Thank you for supporting the Green Brook School District!