

Berlin Combined MS/HS/Elementary PTO Meeting

October 11, 2022

Present: Meeting was held virtually only with the use of Google Meet
Tracy Kent, Carrie Minkler, Kim Collen, Nicole Radliff, Rachel Turetsky, Courtney Sroka, Kimberly Brownell, Donna Kelly, Elaine Smith, Janet Haas, Kayla Vasilatos

Welcome: Thank you to those in attendance. Second meeting of the 2022-2023 school year. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help for the first book fair of the year and picture day at BES. Both were very successful. Sign Up Genius worked really well to organize and promote open time slots for needed volunteers. It was recommended that this continue to be used for upcoming events and volunteer needs.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Brownell MS/HS. Open house went well. Mrs. Brownell went around the school with the first Woot Woot Wagon and it was a hit. PTO was asked if they would like to sponsor a month of the Woot Woot Wagon items. She has been connecting with the local libraries to find out what resources they have to offer students and get that knowledge out to the kids at the MS/HS. There is a new Homework Club starting at the Grafton Library on Tuesday October 18th. Bus transportation has been set up to bring students to this homework club, they will need to get a ride home. Trying to promote this to the 7th grade class as this seems to be a grade that lacks this resource/homework assistance opportunity. There will be retired teachers helping at this club. She will also be reaching out to the Stephentown and Petersburg libraries. The Berlin Library has a book club going.

Mrs. Kent open house was very well attended. Staff continues to work on the Harvest Happenings Event that will be coming up on October 27th. There will be raffles and giveaways. The local fire companies came and gave a presentation for Fire Prevention Week. The character assembly tied into this and focused on the traits of responsibility and safety. PTO asked if there was any help needed for this event and Mrs. Kent will check with the staff coordinating and let us know.

Treasurer's Report: Not many changes. Deposit of \$40.00 was put in from yearbook sales last year, \$200 in additional donations in memory of Ruth Guthermuth (total \$930). There was a withdrawal of \$805 for change for the book fair. A replacement check was secured for Bank of America for the MS/HS funds.

Beginning Balance Main PTO: As of 09/12/22 \$7,778.37

Expenses \$805 Deposits \$240.59

Ending Balance Main PTO: \$7,213.76

Earmark Accounts:

5th Grade: \$0.06

Ambassadors: \$ 188.25

Band: \$68.00

Drama:\$454.25

Enrichment/Character Education:\$966.13

Helping Hands: \$ 4,070.42

Literacy Fund: \$148.80

MS/HS PTO: \$110.80

Playground: \$298.11

Upcoming: Laurie Madsen had suggested a chili/mac and cheese cook off as a fundraiser for February. The MS/HS fall fest is this weekend October 15th. Basket will be put together to be raffled off by the PTO. Candy will be purchased and put on the table to be given away. It was suggested that for the upcoming December Holiday Store at the elementary school, holiday store items be set at a flat rate of \$1.00 per item. This would help to cut down on time spent giving change and allow the students more access and time to purchase items. PTO would also again provide PTO Bucks so every child has the opportunity to participate in the Holiday Store. Trying to decide if the Holiday Cart with items should go room to room again or find a stationary area for the store that is out of the way of daily happenings during the school day. Elaine Smith offered to help with this as it is a big event and suggested items be purchased as soon as possible to cut down on cost. A color run fundraiser was mentioned as a fundraiser. This had previously been done and suggestions were offered on how to potentially make it a bigger event. Kim Brownell offered to look into details if this were to potentially be an option. The MS/HS Field Day will also take place in May of 2023.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8th at 6:30pm. Meeting ended at 7:15pm.