Burr PTO Community Meeting

10/6/2021

7:30-9:00pm

Note Taker: Sonia Yung

**Attendees:**

* Pam Rajasekhar: Co President
* Amie Butler: Co President
* Sarah Barbrow: Education Support Coordinator
* Casey Kudesia: Treasurer
* Alyssa Haggerty: Community Coordinator
* Dave Lievens: Communications Coordinator
* Angie Kim: DEI Coordinator
* Jenn Reale: Past Co-President
* Sonia Yung: Secretary
* Spencer Poole: Past Co-President

**Guest Speakers:** Mindy Johal Burr Principal

Nicki Eastburn Burr Social Worker

**Other Attendees:** 17Aidee Ayala, Allison Kelley, Angelyn Larkin, Dena Snyder,

Elizabeth McBamee,Gina Medaglia, Hue Nguyen,Jon Spack,Kerry Lynch,

Lucy Galvan,Marie Andrawes,Shannon Derick, Spencer Poole, Xiaolei Ji, Penelope Hellman,Ruchi Bhasin, Mariko Wong

**Minutes:**

# 1. Nicki Eastburn Burr Social Worker

# Nicki spoke about ‘ Back to Normal” Strategies

* Nicki went over a presentation about creating routines and strategies to help your student and family return to school.
* Some takeaways were to build routines at home. Such asAcademic positive talk about school.Social and emotional playing games that support team work. Transition setting up consistent schedules, Stick to bedtimes.
* How to support our kids during these times.
* Social workers try to visit classes and teach curriculum. For k- classes rethinkers curriculum , mindfulness lessons to all grades, read alouds, new SEL books 75 for teachers to use or social workers to come in class and do learnings.

# 2. Welcome to Burr Community ( Amie Butler )

* Amie spoke about ways to get connected.
* Burr Buzz ( Weekly Newsletter ) <https://www.burrpto.org/>
* Membership toolkit ( School Directory) <https://burrpto.membershiptoolkit.com/>
* Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/burrschoolpto/

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## 3. Budget OverView and Vote ( Casey )

1. Review Pto Budget priorities for FY 21-22
2. Review PTO expenses budgeted for FY 21-22
3. Review PTO income budgeted for FY 21-22
4. Below are many of the activities that the PTO sponsors or funds. This is not a comprehensive list of events or ways the PTO supports the Burr Community, but it is indicative of the PTO’s FY21-22 priorities!
   * + - * **Community Building & Events**
         * Supporting the Principal’s Fund
         * 5th Grade Activities
         * Supporting FORJ
         * World Cultural Fair
         * Cultural Events

Diwali

Day of the Dead

Lunar New Year

Back-to-School Picnic

* + - * + End of Year Picnic
        + BooFest
        + Color Day
* *The PTO also organizes a variety of events that are fundraisers to continue these programs*
  + - * + **Education**

Creative Arts and Sciences

Child Abuse Prevention Program

Library funding for new books

Anti-Bullying Curriculum

Understanding Our Differences

Garden Classroom

Green Team

STEAM Fair

Teacher Supply Gift Cards

Teacher Appreciation

Technology

Playground Maintenance

1. **Quick View of Budget FY 21-22**

* **Expenses $74, 393**
* **Income $44,950**
* The PTO is using previously raised money to fund the **technology\*** purchases.
* **Playground\*** improvements are being funded through a combination of previously raised funds, reserves, and fundraising this year.
* Excluding planned spending of reserves and previously fundraised money, this year’s expense estimate is **$43,768**
* Some top Expenses are

CAS: $11,260

Principal Discretionary Fund $4,000

1. **Income Overview FY 21-22**

* The PTO generally raises and spends ~$40,000/year, and we aim to maintain a reserve that can support the following year’s events and purchases ahead of fundraising.
* Raise money through
  + Wolf Fund $24,000 goal
  + Online Auction $8000

**\*\*\* Voted to Approve Budget for FY 21-22.Motion made by Amie to approve budget**

**Approved unanimously**

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# 4. PTO Bylaws Overview & Vote ( Amie )

**This summer we reviewed our bylaws and operating policies and needed to make some updates:**

* Separated by laws from operating policies
* Cleaned up format, defined terms, modified the structure of the document, updated communication references, added governance provisions and aligned with statutory language
* Clarified necessary deadlines for elections and budget
* Provided additional flexibility for meetings, and board vacancies

**\*\*Reviewed by laws and updates 13 approved. Motion made to approve the PTO bylaws Approved unanimously**

# 5. Wolf Fund Kickoff 2021-2022 ( Pam )

* Pto plans to spend per student this year $212.00.
* Only raised $16,000 in 2020.
* Didnt have as many events in 2020 due to COVID.
* Goal this year is $24,000 through the Wolf Fund. Will bring us back pre pandemic levels and get us to a place for this year and following year.
* Last year 266 students at Burr how many donated to Wolf Fund? Only 59 people donated out of 266 families thats only 22%.
* **Looking to double our participation rate this year. Encouraging the community to share and give as a family.**
* Exciting playground improvement is proposed this year Gaga Ball pit!!! All the kids are excited . Community event to raise money and build gaga pit! Different ways to help. Giving, every dollar counts. Tax Deductible and employer matches welcome. Talk about your giving to the Wolf Fund share your thoughts! Need a Fundraiser Chair still. Please consider
* Start campaign this month .
* All the Wolf Fund money goes to the Village Bank account and use that to fund our education programing,events. We try to keep 1 year of funding in reserves so we can fund ahead of our funding. This Sept we started spending money and needed to have it reserves. There are no investments or special reserves and try to keep 1 year of funding in reserves.

# 6. Education Support (Sarah)

* **CAS** is in all Newton public schools. Volunteers and fundraising is important to run this program.
* Have grade level coordinators for all the grades right now.
* We are looking for a Co chair role. We currently have 1 person.
* Fundraising for CAS is essential and makes a 3rd of our budget.
* **UOD** understanding our Difference Grades 3-5 starts in spring.
* Have a chair and grade level coordinators for this.
* UOD starts in Jan or later. Most likely all virtual programs**.**
* **Safe Routes from School**
* International walk, bike and ride day. Allison Kelley and parent volunteers helped run this day .
* **Blue Zone:** Looking for volunteers to help in the morning.
* Email Sarah at [Sarah@burrpto.org](mailto:Sarah@burrpto.org)
* **Book Fair**
* Virtual Book Fair new vendor.
* Date TBD late November

# 7. Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAC) Angie

* **What is SEPAC?**SEPAC is a volunteer group of parents of children with disabilities, who partner with the School, Committee, and District to provide feedback on special education programs and policies.
* We also offer information to the community on a range of issues,
* Including basic rights for parents of and students with disabilities.
* **Who is SEPAC for?**
* Parents of children with disabilities, and parents interested in learning morabout and supporting the special education community.
* **Who is our BURR SEPAC Liaison?**
* Contact Eliza Spaulding ([Treasurer@newtonsepac.org](mailto:Treasurer@newtonsepac.org)) *Burr SEPAC Liaison & SEPAC Treasurer*
* She is your go-to person who will be a great resource & support to help navigate your special education journey
* **Contact Info** [**WWW.NEWTONPAC.ORG**](http://www.newtonpac.org) for more Newton SEPAC information
* **What is ElPAC? English Language Parent Advisory Group supports ELL families districtwide & collaborates with schools & districts to improve ELL programs.**
* **Contact Info:** [**www.newtonelpac.org**](http://www.newtonelpac.org)**,** [**NPSELPAC@gmail.com**](mailto:NPSELPAC@gmail.com)
* **Facebook NewtonELPAC**
* **What is FORJ? Burr Families Organizing for Racial Justice**
* We are parents, guardians, grandparents, administrators, teachers, staff, neighbors of Burr School children who care about raising children with social awareness. We want to learn more about issues surrounding race. We want to make sure that within the Burr community that ALL feel welcome.
* **How to join?**
* If you would like to receive emails about events,

send a request to [BURRFORJ171@gmail.com](mailto:BURRFORJ171@gmail.com)and they will add you to the emailing list.

* **Contact Information**
* Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/burrforj/>
* Email: [burrforj171@gmail.com](mailto:burrforj171@gmail.com)
* Newton FORJ Citywide: <https://forjnewton.com>
* BURR FORJ Co-Coordinators: Deanna, Kyle, Lindsay,and Lucy

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# 8. Community Events ( Sonia )

* October 18th Paddys Fundraiser night. 15% back mention Wolf Pack
* Looking for a Dine out coordinator interested? Email [alyssa@burrpto.org](mailto:alyssa@burrpto.org)
* Boo Fest Oct 23rd 430-6pm, Trunk Or Treat
* Volunteers needed <https://bit.ly/BooFest21>
* Election Bake Sale: Nov 2, 7am-6pm
* Diwali Dia De los Muertos Nov 7, 2-4pm
* Performance music and storytelling, food crafts, ofrenda

**Meeting adjourn at 8:55 pm by Pam and Amie**