

Burr PTO Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2021 7:30 pm - 9:00pm

Notetaker: Kyle Crossley

Attendees:

- Board Members:
 - Jenn Reale, Co-President
 - Pam Rajasekhar, Co-President
 - Jon Spack, Co-President
 - Amie Butler, Co-President
 - Sarah Barbrow
 - Lucy Galvan
 - Alyssa Haggerty
 - Kyle Crossley, Secretary
 - Leah Schwartz, Treasurer
 - Spencer Poole
- Burr School president Mindy Johal
- DLA Liaison - Al Olszewski
- ~15 other parents, some in and out throughout the meeting: Angie Kim, Ben Krikorian, Benny Lee, Christine Dutt, Cora Condon, Deborah McLoughlin, Elizabeth James, Ellen Chu, Gina Chaimanis, Jenna Poras, Jennifer Sulewski, Jill Hwang, Katherine Voxker, Krissy Munroe, Marie Andrawes, Marina Furman, Shannon Derick

Materials:

The Board used a powerpoint deck during the meeting (the "Board Materials")

Minutes:

- Intro, Agenda: Amie
- Wolf Fund Update - Pam
 - Received \$13,519 (up \$5,480 since January!)
 - 77% to goal
- Recap of Recent PTO Events - Alyssa & Sarah
 - Food Trucks - More than 65 Butter Ur Biscuit orders and 60 scoops of ice cream earned the PTO \$339.
 - Book Fair - 66 orders placed, including 114 books purchased for teacher wish lists! The Book Fair raised \$377 for the PTO.
 - While not an official PTO event, several parents stepped up to help schedule vaccinations for 15 Burr faculty and staff members in recent weeks!
- Budget Update & Vote on Reallocation - Leah (Spencer, please feel free to chime in on 5th grade needs if you want)
 - Total YTD Fundraising: \$18,439 from all fundraisers
 - Original Target to Cover Expenses: \$28,315 (67% to target)
 - % to Target: 67%
 - Total Spent YTD: \$12,681

- Vote to allocate additional \$1,500 (up to \$2,500) to 5th grade year end activities (APPROVED - 96% in favor)
- Online Auction - Jon
 - Currently have 33 items, but need to have about 20 more items
 - Will run from April 8-15
- DLA Update - Al
 - About 900 K-5 students Newton-wide staying in DLA
 - Hoping for smooth transition through end of the year and
- FORJ Update - Lucy
 - Thursday Book Club - So You Want to Talk About Race - Chapters 1-6
- Questions & Answers with Principal Johal - Jenn
 - Burr - 23 kids moving to in person from DLA
 - DESE requires 25 hrs/week learning time
 - April 5th and April 8th are 12:30 dismissals for teacher conferences
 - Arrival and dismissal will be current doors used by classrooms.
 - Blue zone will be strictly enforced again
 - Bus registration is available
 - Seesaw/Google classroom may still be used by specialist classes
 - One specialist added to each classroom's schedule
 - Music - focus on music literacy and appreciation
 - Lunch - still served in cafeteria - 6 ft apart
 - Pool testing
 - Voluntary participation
 - More information available on Tuesday March 30, 6:30pm webinar (see info from Superintendent Fleishman)
 - Look out for teacher supply requests
 - Should get headphones for students to bring in
 - Questions/Answers:
 - Close contact = within 6 ft for at least 15 mins
 - Yes supplies/work sent home if anyone misses school
 - What if someone shows signs of seasonal allergies - Mindy will clarify best practice with Nurse Best and will circulate in newsletter
 - Screen time will be reduced of course, but will still be using their devices
 - MCAS will likely have a new date - postponed, not cancelled
 - Just one additional school day added to account for Juneteenth holiday
 - Music materials for K-2 provided by the school
 - No lunch on Wednesdays - send large snack
 - Cafeteria will be half class at a time, and other half of class eats in classroom, and groups will switch Mon/Tues and Thurs/Fri to get change of space
 - Mindy will circulate tonight's slideshow so the photo of lunch time can be viewed by other parent to give them a sense of how it works
 - Singing likely will not happen, even outside, given that it requires 10 ft apart
 - Teachers will not be posting weekly lesson plans for in person classes
 - DLA families will have a transition time communicated to them, so they can meet the teacher and understand drop-off/pick-up areas

- Has Burr ever looked at a one-way street for blue zone during drop off/pick up? Yes, but neighbors didn't support the idea.
- Volunteer Opportunities - Amie
 - Current opportunities include:
 - Online auction committee
 - Spring Community Events
 - Website Editor
 - World Culture Event
 - Room Parents
 - School Directory
 - Burr Sign
 - Creative Arts & Sciences Coordinator
 - Understanding Our Differences Coordinator
 - Green Team
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Visit our Sign-Up Genius to learn how you can get involved!
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4dafaa23a0fb6-2021>
- Coming Attractions - Kyle
 - Thursday, March 25 @ 8pm - FORJ Book Club – So You Wanna Talk About Race, Part I
 - Friday, April 9: School Picture Re-Takes - let class teacher know in advance; DLA can let Jenn Reale know in advance
 - April 8-15: Online Auction
 - Sunday, April 11 @ 6:30 pm – Family Trivia Night
 - Thursday, April 29 @ 8 pm – FORJ Book Club– So You Wanna Talk About Race, Part II
 - May TBD – Virtual International Night
 - Sunday May 2 - Newton Serves city wide event - Burr families to help cleanup playground
 - May 3-7 – Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Wednesday, May 19 @ 7:30 pm – PTO Community Meeting
 - Thursday, May 27 @ 8 pm – FORJ Adult Education: Zoning & Housing Inequalities
 - June TBD: Stay tuned for details on outdoor activities
- Questions
 - Grade level playdates over the summer to help DLA students? Great idea if permitted! Will look for next iteration of PTO board to help plan for transition to next year
 - Reminder that many seats on the PTO board will be rolling off after two-year term this June. People who are interested in helping out at Burr should reach out to us!

Amie Butler closed the meeting at 9:00pm

