

## **BUTLER PTA Board Meeting Wednesday September 28, 2016**

Minutes taken by Parul Garg & Molly Arnason, Recording Secretary

**Attending:** Rola Baghdady, Kathleen Conneely, Mita Das, Gitanjali Rege, Danielle Betancourt, Britany Caruso, Kate Weinstein, Kate Bowen, Katie Auffinger, Laura VanderHart, Noriko Tonomura, Molly Arnason, Sabrina Tan, Parul Garg and Katie Dunks.

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks by President, Rola Baghdady and Kathleen Conneely**

Rola along with Kathleen, welcomed everyone and our new principal, Danielle Betancourt and made opening remarks. Attendees introduced themselves.

### **SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW**

#### **Summer Kindergarten Playdates and Picnic**

PTA hosted 3 play dates on August 16, 24 and 29<sup>th</sup> to welcome new families and students. All events had great attendance. Special thanks to Katie Auffinger, Shonool Malik for summer play dates, Karen Lilla and the group of butler Alumni students who helped during picnic and to William Like (our new hospitality coordinator) for welcome coffee.

Looking for someone to replace Karen as she is moving to Chenery Middle School next year.

#### **Trex Recycling**

So far we collected 5 bags full of plastic for TREX recycling contest. Collection box will be next to doors of Butler gym for the rest of the year until April 2017.

Thanks to Paul Aloisio for organizing this event.

#### **Fall Picnic and Contribution Drive**

53 Families Signed up and raised \$4550 so far. Still have more people signing in.

Another \$350 from Butler T shirts.

Annual fundraising goal is \$36000.

Thanks to Sabrina Tan and Kate Weinstein for organizing this great event.

#### **Moozy's Day**

Friday Septemeber 23<sup>rd</sup> – Butler Moozy's Day -store gave back 20% of sales between 3-7pm. PTA made \$248.70,

Kids enjoyed seeing Moozy the Cow, Great weather, Fun Day!

Thanks to Rola Bahdady for organizing this.

Another one planned in May 2017.

#### **Directory**

Karen Lilla volunteered again to organize data from the town to prepare the Butler Directory (including PTA officers). It will go home in next few weeks. Looking to get

printing quote from Staples and Urinting.com and then decide if it is worth making copies.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Danielle Betancourt**

- Happy with the start of the year beginning in summer of 2016.
- First thing she did after becoming the principal was to send out a survey to parents and Staff asking few questions and got 63 responses
  - 1-“what do you cherish most at Butler”
    - Response: Staff said students*
    - Parents said they cherish the community
  - 2- the biggest “problems”
    - Response: Overcrowding and Building*
  - 3- Lastly for any “Advice”
    - Response: communicate and smile*
- Butler has kids from 26 countries, 365 students.
- Filled lots of new positions- Special Educator- Sandy Manzella
  - Nurse
  - Art Teacher
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher- Ms. Elizabeth Zevallos
  - 3rd grade Teacher- Samantha Marcin
- Rough start with the lineup and the Cone system until Mr. Trodden had the idea of putting names of the teachers on the wall in front line up area.
- This year we have way less Tardiness among students (until now)
- Staff responsive to and excited about learning new Google Software. Principal is organizing training and help before and after school.
- Building and Grounds update- town's responsibility.
  - Danielle, met with Gerry Boyle (Town Director of Facilities) and Fred Domenici (Supervisor of building maintenance).Gerry let her know that he met with the landscaper (former selectman, Andy Rojas) regarding Butler playgrounds. She also plans to form a subcommittee for landscaping needs.
  - Bathrooms- Converted to universal bathrooms but caused cleanliness issues. Danielle met with superintendent to figure out solutions. Some ideas are to rip out rugs in hallway, fix tile work, and increase ventilation.
- Social Emotional Learning-
  - Kids are very excited and filling up buckets in classrooms fast. Very positive behavior.
  - New Bucket in cafeteria as well.
- Test score from last spring released today
- Butler won the **BLUE RIBBON AWARD**
  - Danielle feels honored to be a part of Butler Community.
  - Butler one of the 3 schools in the state to get this.
- Belmont is also **Level 1 district** (1 of the 5 districts in state to get Level 1)

This means all subgroups (by race, special needs and social economic status) got adequate growth in whole Belmont district.

- Looking forward to move from PARK to **Next Generation MCAS** next year.

Also, Kate Bowen asked for some clarification in relation to what it means to be a level 1 school, and are we expected to maintain a continuous growth?

Principal Bentencourt relayed that she didn't have a complete answer to that, as the calculation was fairly complex and the tests have changed two time (MCAS, PAARC) and now, MCAS2. She said she would share more as it became clearer.

### **TREASURERS'S REPORT/BUDGET – Gitanjali Rege**

Budget- \$36000

Top 3 events to raise money are

-Membership drive- we did well with \$4550 but still need about \$1500 more.

-Fun Run- coming up (Oct 21st)

-Recycling Electronics budget \$2000. (May 13<sup>th</sup>)

- Need to find someone to do grant writing and matching. Several members indicated they may know of a parent who would be a good volunteer for this activity.

(This item should be included in next agenda.)

### **FUN RUN (Oct 21<sup>st</sup>) - Laura VanderHart**

-Everyone from last year back on committee.(Kate Weinstein, Katie Dunks, Jen Connelly, Gitanjali Rege, Sabrina Tan, Mita Das, Laura VanderHart, Rola Baghdady and Kathleen Conneely)

-Goal: \$15000

Kick off Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – 5 min talk at the end of lunch

- Fun run Bracelet and packet in kids bag

- Principal will talk about it at curriculum night

-looking for photographer

-Kate Weinstein and Laura VanderHart are looking for more sponsors other than banks and law offices

Watertown savings bank is our biggest sponsor- \$1000

-superheroes theme again

-Rola announced that she spoke to **Becca Pizzi**, our Belmont Marathon winner and she is will do the warmup and will bring a friend to help as well.

### **CALENDER- Rola Baghdady**

-2 general meetings in morning combined with morning with Principal (April and December)

-New date for Ice Skating Night (Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>)

-Fall Cleaning and Planting on Columbus Day (Oct 10th) - Kate Bowen

Will be putting bulbs in the front of the building. It's on Belmont Serve now so the community can come and help.

Looking for bulbs, daffodils, tulips for donation. Donation Boxes to be kept outside main office and lost and found table.

-Volunteer appreciation breakfast moved from end of the year to Beginning of the year (Oct 13<sup>th</sup>) in a hope of more attendance and welcoming people who may be potentially interested in joining the PTA.

-Clothing swap changed to 10/29 (10 am to 2 pm). Other dates conflicting with second soccer and spelling bee. Discussion to promote it more as Green Recycling event to draw more people. Also suggestion to do some add blurs like "if you don't have clothing, donate a Gift card"

-There was some discussion and concern that the move to more consolidated emails has resulted in people not getting the news - BASEP numbers were very low, for example.

Kate Bowen suggested to potentially get a Weather proof Bulletin board for PTA events to get people's attention for important dates and events that people might miss in weekly newsletters.

### **Motion to approve calendar for SY16-17**

Laura moved, Rola seconded, all approved

### **Approval of Minutes from June's board meeting**

Rola moved, Molly seconded, all approved

### **Motion to approve fundraising plan for SY2016-2017**

Rola moved, Kathleen Seconded, all approved

### **In School Enrichment Plan - Noriko Tonomura**

-Teachers have gotten a Field Trip Checklist for budget, field trips and in school enrichment programs detailing teachers and PTA responsibilities. Teachers need to respond if haven't already.

-Bus prices go up \$10. The cost for field trips is \$330 for 5.5 hrs and \$85 for each additional hour.

-Teachers have been told to try to stick with the 5.5 hr time limit.

- There is a potential help with bus grant for field trip. Cara Cogliano offered to write a grant for the buses, anticipating it would bring \$300 to \$500 to support the costs of busses. Rola to follow up on that.

-kindergarten and First grade are going to stay within or under budget.

-Gitanjali suggested to do kite making on our own instead to getting someone from outside. Maybe an engineer parent can come and give more perspective to kids about it.

### **BASEP UPDATES AND PLAN - Katie Dunks and Britany Caruso**

-18 classes offered.

-Only cancelled 1 class (Film Critics) due to low enrollment. 200 registrations. 20 scholarships applied and awarded for a total of \$1127 (including multiple children in same household)

-5 children received 100% financial aid

-7 children received 50% financial aid

-Most popular classes- Chess wizard, Cartooning, Mad science, Lego robotics

All these classes have a wait list and the teachers have been asked to think about having another time slot on a different day as well to accommodate all the kids.

### **QUESTIONS by Rola**

-Ms. DeLorio wants to come to PTA meeting and talk about Charter school given that the question is on ballot this year.

All members denied any political discussion and PTA involvement

-Barbara used to organize butler Red Sox Night or Bruins night but no one is talking it on this year. So far so Rola opened it to the floor for any takers but everyone suggested to put a blurb in weekly newsletter for any fan/parent to take it on. Rola can pass on all the information.

-Rola announced that our next PTA general meeting is on Wednesday, October 26 and we will have FBE speaker, Wendy Conroy and Superintendent John Phelan as our speaker.

### **Contribution Membership Drive**

Sabrina Tan said even though PTA made \$4500 but it's still low so we need more ideas. Some ideas were:

-setup table at all PTA events, especially at Curriculum Night.

-All board members are requested for 100% participate on.

-Mita Das suggested more emphasis on **Any** amount rather than \$50.

-need a PTA banner to potentially use at events such as Moozy's day etc.

-once an event happen, let the principal send a thank you note to PTA to let the parents know that a particular event is successfully held and sponsored by PTA.

- Suggestions to put a Blurb "sponsored by PTA" on the permission slip for in-school enrichment and field trips.

-More sale of T-shirts.Maybe design more butler shirts to sell.

-Sell pizza after soccer games.

**Kate Weinstein reminded everyone to adhere to and stop people from doing campaigning on playgrounds.**

### **Upcoming Events**

Walk to School Day – 10/5

*(also launching 7 walking Wednesdays starting on 10/5)*

Bottles & Cans Collection - 10/03

International Walk/Bike to school Day-10/5

Curriculum Night – 10/6

Box Tops - 10/13

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 10/13

Picture Day- 10/14

Fun Run (rain date 10/28) -10/21

Movie Night – 10/21

Coffee with the Principal -10/26

General Meeting -10/26

Fall Planting and Clean Up – 10/10

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.**