

## **Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association Zoom Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2020**

**Attendees:** Carol Waldman, Mayumi Brescia, Meghan Agatep, Jen Tesseyman, Laura McGrath, Valerie Auyeung, Anne McAskin, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Wu, Mrs. Stovall, Sheila Brogan, Stacy Malmborg, Kelly Krumenacker, Yishane Lee, Laura Waisnor, Lisette Ramos, Tomoko Lee.

### **Welcome:**

- The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 1:32 AM. The BFHSA Co-President Carol Waldman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The October 2020 minutes were approved. 1st Approval - Meghan Agatep; 2nd Approval - Laura McGrath

### **Agenda Items:**

- Student Council Report - Jack Sherman, President ; Dan Loughlin, Vice President:
  - Pink Out Update - raised \$500 for Sloane Kettering Breast Cancer Research Center from the pink masks that were sold for \$1 each.
  - Teaming up with Ridgewood Stigma Free Committee to create Cards of Joy to bring holiday cheer
  - Patterson Gift Drive (Social Services and Headstart) - Information to be sent home to families from Mr. Orsini regarding how the gift drive will operate this year. BF Voices may perform virtually
- President's Report:
  - Federated Report - Mayumi Brescia:
    - Dr. Fishbein announced that Dr. Gorman has been named the Acting Superintendent until a new Superintendent is hired. Basil Pizzuto and Jeff Nyhuis will manage the High School.
    - Schools have been able to remain open when there have been Covid Cases as the cases were either unrelated or involved an individual not located in the building. Close contacts are notified and given a date as to when they can return to school
    - School will close if there are multiple Covid cases within 14 dates of each other and linked together by activities within school.
      - GW Middle School has gone all Virtual for 14 days beginning November 17th.
- Principal's Report - Mr. Orsini
  - Fully supportive and happy that Dr. Gorman has been appointed the Acting Superintendent.
  - BF has shared Staff with GW. None of the shared staff had contact with the GW individuals who tested positive for Covid so they are allowed to continue working at BF
  - Covid remains a big focus. Mr. Orsini and Nurse Reilly debrief each day to discuss possible cases/situations. They are in constant contact with Dan Kilday, the District's Director of Wellness.
  - Q1 Feedback:
    - Teachers and Students have provided positive feedback regarding Q1
    - Teachers feel that they are pretty close to the same spot in the curriculum as they would be in a "normal" year.
    - Have seen equal performance among the students.
    - Larger 6th grade class - approximately 250 students
    - Questionnaire went to 125-130 students. Data supports that the more connected the students feel to each other and to their teachers, the better the performance and the lower the stress level.
    - Mr. Wu will be targeting an approach for hybrid students regarding self care, and staying connected. Notice that the hybrid students seem to be thriving both days (in school, and remotely) because there is a connection and accountability with seeing teachers in person.
    - Mrs. Stovall will be focusing on all Virtual students and reaching out to work on ways to help them feel more connected, understand/address their needs, act as a liaison between the students and guidance, help the students be successful and make connections.. Have seen some Fully Virtual students having a hard time being on time to google meets, engaging online with the class, and not following up on school work.

- 30 Students have changed from Virtual to Hybrid
    - 35 students have switched from Hybrid to Virtual due to increase of Covid in community
    - Increase in the number of hybrid students that are calling in remote (about 20/day)
    - Report Cards should be available Friday, November 20th.
  - Mr. Wu - discussed Clubs:
    - We have approximately 16 active clubs that meet virtually
    - 6th Grade Fundraiser - approximately 20-25 students participated. Sales of approx. \$2,300. 30% of sales given back to the student. The top sales winner received a 5lb Hershey Bar.
- Treasurer's Report - Valerie Aeyueng & Laura McGrath
  - Directory - raised \$9,000. 36% of Families have paid the dues. Goal is 50%
  - Six Sponsorships for Directory Adds
  - Holiday Spirit Wear Fundraiser - just ended November 17th.
- Sheila Brogan - BOE:
  - Amazing how well our schools are doing and how long we have managed to remain open. Reflect on the positives from this Covid experience - opportunities for learning how to do things differently.
  - Monday, November 16th BOE meeting - Basil Pizzuto and Lauren DePinto did a Mental Health presentation on how to make sure the kids stay connected, discussed interventions for support, etc.
  - Hired new General Council that begins in January
  - Looking to hire new Professional Architect/Engineering
  - Formally announced Dr. Gorman as the Acting Superintendent. Dr. Fishbein's last day is December 10th.
  - BOE just held its last meeting with Business Administrator, Antoinette Kelly whose last day is today. A new Business Administrator has been hired , Scott Bisig.
  - A Search Firm has been hired to help search for a new Superintendent and bring candidates to the BOE to interview. Adds have been placed for the position. A survey will be sent to parents/students to help gather a vision and develop a profile of what type of educational leader the community would like as a Superintendent.
  - Super Science Saturday - will be virtual in March. There will be a menu of programs offered to participate in virtually. More details to come.
- New Business - Carol Waldman
  - Pandemic Response Team -
    - New information website link located on the BFMS Website
      - Updated daily
      - Includes information on how to switch the model of school, Nurse Reilly recommended protocols, contact tracing, etc.
  - Virtual Book Fair - begins Monday, November 23rd. Books will be delivered directly to the homes.
  - Holiday Spirit Wear Sale - just ended November 17th. Items will be mailed directly home.
  - Coach Stroker & Allie Stroker - Virtual Mental Health Assembly. Videos to be distributed soon to all students.
  - Chipotle No Cook Fundraiser - December 17th 4-8pm. After \$150 in sales, 33% will be distributed back to BF. Information to come.
  - Parent Questions:
    - Stacy Malmborg - Thank you to BFMS and Mrs. Stovall for initiating efforts to help better support all Virtual Students. Mrs. Stovall will reach out to Mrs. Malmborg to understand the challenges, and how to better support these students.

**Meeting was concluded at 2:08 PM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne McAskin, Board Secretary**