

**Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes - September 15, 2021**

Attendees:

- In Person: Carol Waldman, Mayumi Brescia, Meghan Agatep, Laura McGrath, Valerie Auyeung, Anne McAskin, Betty Ghadimian
- Zoom: John Rizzo, Katie Freeborn, 2016986498, Anastasia Warden, Alexander, Elizabeth Mazzurco, Jessica Vartughian, Hyun Hee Park, Sarah Traband, Colleen Tansey, Perna Desai, Suraj, Tessa Noah, Ada & Rob, Janine Gulya, Surbhi Kapadia, Amy Baird, Cori Mchugh, Anson, Kelly A., Marijana, Crystal Kaufman, Laura Waisnor, Young Hwang, Jenny, Oh, Yoon-Hee Kim, Andrew G., Lisette, Min-Hee, Jenn, David M., Kelly Krumenacker-Choong.

Welcome:

- The In-Person and Zoom Meeting was called to order at 9:42AM. The BFHSA Co-President Carol Waldman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The May 2021 minutes were approved. 1st Approval - Meghan Agatep; 2nd Approval - Laura McGrath
- Introduction of all Board Members.
- Quick Summary of the HSA:
 - Help Support our Students, Families. Teachers and Staff through our advocacy, community building, fundraising, volunteering, and working with Principal Orsini to determine the funding needs of BFMSI.
 - Please contact Meghan Agatep and/or Jen Tesseyman if interested in volunteering for a specific event.

Agenda Items:

- Student Council Report - Jonathan Tom and Jalyn Yang
 - Discussing the pros/cons of Locker Use
 - Homeroom Representative elections will be held next week. Student Council is developing new guidelines so that optimal students are running for election.
 - October - Pink Out - planning fun and exciting activities.
- Principal's Report - Mr. Orsini
 - Meeting with the Student Council and Teachers to discuss Locker Use. Adjustments will be made so that lockers will become available to students.
 - Lunch is operating safely.
 - 7th/8th grade - 138 seats outside and inside the students are spaced out well. Students can sit where they choose.
 - 6th Grade - sits by House and take turns as to who is eating first.
 - Recess Outdoors is no more than 10 minutes and ask students to self monitor distance
 - Administration will continue to monitor and adjust accordingly.
 - Quarantine:
 - A few students are currently quarantining either because they tested positive or have been a close contact to an individual who tested positive.
 - If quarantining, the students are put into the attendance as "virtual"; however, if the student quarantining is not feeling well, it is considered an "excused quarantine"
 - A Close Contact is someone who is within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more and not fully vaccinated.
 - Encourage testing if you have symptoms or have been a close contact.
 - Ms. Rothschild, Media Specialist is looking for parent volunteers. If a parent will be volunteering over a certain number of hours, the parent must show proof of vaccination.
 - 6th Grade will be going on a Team Building Field Trip in West Milford in early October..
 - Approximately \$60/day
 - Partnering with the Police Department who is always there in the community to support and help families and students

- We have 5 buses and the plan is to have one student per seat
 - School Goals connect with the District's Strategic Plan
 - 1. Equity in the Classroom
 - 2. Expand Portfolio Program
 - Teachers utilize a portfolio assessment (reflect on work, justify growth, involve parents)
 - No current set plans for a Spring 8th Grade Trip; however, hoping to do an overnight trip to Boston or Philadelphia.
 - State Testing - October 4th - 7th.
 - 1 hour Language Arts
 - 1 hour Math
 - 6th Grade - 1 hour Science.
 - Tuesday, October 5th - Picture Day (no testing this day)
 - Back To School Night - Tuesday September 21st 7pm.
 - Intention is to also provide a livestream option for each Teacher's classroom. A link would be sent via email for a Google Meet.
 - Email Teachers with any specific questions,
 - One parent per Student
 - Students will bring home a written schedule; however, their schedule is also available on Skyward.
- President's Report:
 - Federated Report - Mayumi Brescia:
 - Dr. Gorman mentioned that we are looking for instructional and lunch aides. Apply with the BOE via the link sent in the Sept. 1st email
 - Aides- application online, \$65.05 for a criminal history review and preferred but not required to also apply for a substitute license so that they can oversee children alone in a classroom setting.
 - Substitutes - application online with a fee of \$125, must have at least 60 college credits, and a criminal history review (fee is \$65.05). The process can take a month to complete and must be approved at the BOE meeting.
- Treasurer's Report - Valerie Auyeung & Laura McGrath
 - Reminder about the Free Raiser - Amazon Smile - designate BF HSA as the charitable organization. Easy way to support BF each time you shop on Amazon at no additional cost to you.
 - Tax Return has been filed.
 - Dues - 156 Families have paid to date.
 - Yearly Dues are \$35 and can be paid online via Community Pass. Dues also allow access to our Groupspot Online Directory.
 - HSA Dues help to support our students, families, teachers and staff by helping to provide assemblies, speakers, exploratory, supplies, etc.
 - Bxotops - Enroll at www.bxotops4education.com. BF School iD is 220622. Scan receipts and submit.
 - Reminder to reach out to Valerie and Laura if you are chairing an event. Budgets are set for events and the Treasurers can assist in letting you know how much was spent last year, the current budget for the event and can help with reimbursement of expenses.
- New Business - Meghan Agatep, Carol Waldman
 - Clothing Drive was a success....thank you! Sponsored by Clothing Donation Services. Help to support Strengthen our Sisters which helps homeless and battered women.
 - Open Chair Positions:
 - BF Parent Book Club - year long club that meets monthly
 - Library Aides
 - 8th Grade Events - looking for Chairs and Committee members:

- Winter Wonderland - February
 - Beach Party/Luau
 - 8th Grade Promotion - looking for 7th Grade Parents
 - 8th Grade Cruise
- Spirit Wear Sale with Varsity Hues - September 15th - 30th.
- Goffle Brook Farm Plant Sale - September 19th - 30th. Goffle Brook Farm will donate a portion of sales back to BFMS. Mention BFMS when you order.
- Spirit Night - Friday, October 29th 6:45 - 9:00pm
 - Tickets on sale on Community Pass starting around October 15th
 - Need about 75-100 Parent Volunteers
- Parent Questions to Administration and Other Discussion:
 - If Student is Vaccinated but comes in close contact with another student who tests positive for Covid, the vaccinated student is still contacted as being a close contact; however, there is no quarantine requirement for the vaccinated student.
 - This year, with the exception of 1 case, our Covid cases have been vaccinated students who tested positive. No severe cases.
 - Parent Request/Suggestion to have a Club Fair in the 1st or 2nd week of School.
 - Clubs are currently included in morning announcements and listed on the School website.
 - Adding 6 clubs this year that should be approved at the next BOE meeting and then will be added to the list of clubs included on the school website.
 - Will consider a Club Fair for next year

Meeting was concluded at 10:28 AM
Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne McAskin, Board Secretary