

Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2021

Attendees:

- Carol Waldman, Mayumi Brescia, Meghan Agatep, Jen Tesseyman, Laura McGrath, Valerie Auyeung, Anne McAskin, Jess Vartughian, Lisette Ramos, Colleen Tansey, Christopher Kanga, Sarah Traband, Kelly Krumenacker-Choong, Tara Adams, Peter Choe, Cori McHugh, Mark Kossick, BOE Candidates (Susan Madison, Sheila Brogan, Hyunju Kwak, Christopher Kaufman, Muhammad Mahmoud)

Welcome:

- The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 7:17PM. The BFHSA Co-President Carol Waldman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The September 2021 minutes were approved. 1st Approval - Meghan Agatep; 2nd Approval - Jen Tesseyman

Agenda Items:

- BOE Candidates Introduction - 5 Candidates running for 3 open positions that are a 3 year term. BOE Candidates introduced themselves and spoke to the BF HSA regarding their candidacy and their platform.. Candidates - Susan Madison, Sheila Brogan, Hyunju Kwak, Christopher Kaufman, and Muhammad Mahmoud.

- Student Council Report - Jonathan Tom
 - Homeroom Representatives - working on implementing a process for the Homeroom Reps to be more involved, more hands on with the Student Council, more responsibility and more engagement with the student body.. Creating Committees and asking Homeroom Reps to choose 2 Committees.
 - Friday - Pink Out - raise awareness for Breast Cancer. Selling pink masks and pink bracelets the week of October 18th. Money raised will go towards Breast Cancer Research Facilities.
 - Upcoming Thanksgiving Food Drive with the Social Services Club - Annual Turkey Trot.

- Principal's Report - Mr. Orsini
 - Thank you to the BOE Candidates for coming to the meeting and speaking about their platforms.
 - Mr. Wu - 6th Graders went on their 6th Grade Camp Field Trip in Hewitt, NJ. Franklin Students went today and Ridge will go tomorrow. 5 School Buses so each student has their own seat. Masks and hand sanitizer were used and each student brought their own lunch. Activities focus on team building and kindness. Three Ridgewood Police Officers joined and connected with the students throughout various activities. Very successful and the students loved it!
 - Checkout the BF Website for a full list of Clubs. Clubs are mentioned on morning announcements, the TVs in the halls, and posters on the walls. Some new clubs - Pokemon Club, Magic & Gathering, Star Wars.
 - Lunch is working well. There is an Outside option if it's over 50 degrees and we are using the Gym and Cafeteria. Continuing to plan for lunch as the weather is changing and as Covid numbers change.
 - Preliminary data is back from the Start Strong Testing. On average, there has not been learning loss; rather learning has been maintained; however, there are groups of kids who have experienced loss of learning and the Guidance Counselors are working with the Teacher Teams to match the testing data to the current performance in the classroom. Seeing some behavioral issues (i.e., lack of self awareness, interrupting in the classroom, etc.) Teachers are working to address behavior issues in a positive way.

- President's Report:
 - Federated Report - Mayumi Brescia:
 - Mark Kossick, Kohort Technologies, Inc., discussed GroupSpot and the online directory. Currently we have just over 400 members. Mark gave a quick demonstration and walked through how to navigate the GroupSpot App, how to navigate the online directory as well as the online calendar which you are able to sync with an external calendar on your device. GroupSpot is free to download/install. Once the \$35 HSA Dues are paid, you will have access to the online directory. Can search GroupSpot for other groups that you may want to also join and follow. GroupSpot would also be a great platform to house Club information, Student events, Merchandise sales and support School programs as well as support volunteer signups.

- Treasurer's Report - Valerie Auyeung & Laura McGrath
 - 350 Families have paid HSA Dues.
 - 218 Students have signed up for Spirit Night. Tickets will be sold at lunch through the date of the event.
 - Raised approximately \$1,200 from Varsity Hues Spirit Wear Sale. Items will be distributed by the end of next week.
 - Raised approximately \$300 from the Clothing Drive.
 - Raised approximately \$110 from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards; however, the program is being discontinued.
 - Reminder about the Free Raiser - Box Tops & Amazon Smile - designate BF HSA as the charitable organization.

- New Business - Meghan Agatep
 - Spirit Night - Friday, October 29th 6:45 - 9:00pm
 - November 3rd - Chipotle No Cook Fundraiser
 - Parents Night Out - possibly November 12th 7:00 - 9:00pm - stay tuned for more information.
 - Teacher Appreciation Breakfast- December 12th - stay tuned for more information.
 - Parent Questions to Administration and Other Discussion:
 - Ms. Kwak asked whether or not we would get more detailed information regarding the benchmarks used in the Start Strong Testing and are the behavioral issues being seen across all grades?
 - More information regarding the Testing Results will be available in December/January and will include disaggregated data by subgroups as well as comparative data to other districts.
 - The behavior issues depend upon classroom dynamics and seem to be more acute among the male gender.

Meeting was concluded at 8:16 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne McAskin, Board Secretary