

## **Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association**

### **Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2023**

#### **Attendees:**

Anna Salerno, Claudia Fortunato, Laura McGrath, Laura Waisnor, Maria Penava, Valerie Auyeung, Sarah Traband, Devletsah Ozcan, Rachel Yang, Christine Truhn, Jahae Kim

Zoom Attendees: Ada Young, Angela Atehortua, Heather Palmer, Jess Vartughian, Kate Freeborn, Kelly Ashford, Ktanya Schwartzberg, Zhenguo Wang

#### **Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM. The BFHSA Co-President Anna Salerno welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The March 2023 minutes were approved. 1<sup>st</sup> Approval- Sarah Traband, 2<sup>nd</sup> Approval- Laura Waisnor

#### **Agenda Items:**

- Principal's Report – Mr.Orsini
  - All eighth graders are eligible for their Boston trip from a behavioral standpoint
  - BF students will put together a school-based portfolio at the start of the school year with the goal of connecting schoolwork with habits of learning to growth. Mr. Orsini asks for HSA support and partnership in developing this new project.
  - Wellness Day will be May 19<sup>th</sup>, focus will be on eating, moving, sleeping, and how these healthy habits and self care can help students.
  - There was a security breach as a student ordered Starbucks and the delivery person was in the school briefly. There will be some clear procedures going forward as school security remains a top priority.
  
- Student Council Report- Joshua Tom, Waverly Noah, Julian Song

- Spirit week was a success and BF sixth graders won the week of champions awarded in the first week of June.
  - 
  - Also there was a fund raiser held called Penny Wars and raised \$1,708. Usage of proceeds to be decided at the next meeting.
  - Student Council organized multiple events including a fund raiser and Cards for Care showing support to schools and kids impacted by the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.
  - Student Council elections to be held in the same format as last year
- Treasurer's Report
    - Around \$20 was made from autographed book sale from the Author visit with Veera Hiranandani.
  - President's Report
    - Federated Report
      - The district hired a new superintendent of schools, Mark Schwarz.
      - Mr. Schwarz to meet with teachers on an open forum on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and later will schedule a meet and greet with parents later in May.
      - The preliminary budget was set for an 3.11% increase YoY, but the board voted on an 2% increase removing some redundancies.
      - The new budget will include three elementary world language teachers, a theatre teacher at RHS, two elementary PE teachers, and three special education inclusion teachers.
    - Nominating Committee for 23-24
 

The HSA Nominating Committee has finalized the lists of candidates for the BFHSA for 2023-24. The committee members are Kate Freeborn, Kelly Nakasone, Angela Lee & Kelly Ashford

- Spring Merchandise Sale

The delivery was held up due to one item so they will be delivered separately later. The rest of the items will be delivered by next week.

- Yankee Tickets

The game is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:05 PM at Yankee Stadium. About 30 tickets were sold.

- DEI Report

BF DEI Food Truck & Movie Night is on May 12, 6:30-10:00 PM. \$5 per family ticket includes popcorn and a movie. Food trucks will be on site for families to enjoy variety of ethnic foods. Food from trucks need to be purchased separately. This is a BF families only event. All students are required to be supervised by an adult.

- Tim Shoemaker Vaping Assembly

Anti-Vaping Assembly on April 25, 7:00PM. Parent presentation at GW Auditorium. Tim will review how to identify and address vaping issues with our children.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade parent meeting - April 26<sup>th</sup>

Anna Salerno and Claudia Fortunato to hold a Q&A session for Eighth Grade parents regarding the transition from middle school to high school

- Teacher Appreciation May 2

Please reach out to Laura Waisnor for any questions. Healthier menu has been added. Parents can sign up to make donations online.

- Toiletry Tuesday May 2

Toiletry donations will be accepted in a bin near the Nurse's Office. It is to benefit the residents of Ridgecrest Senior Housing.

- Book Fair - May 8-May 12

All students will attend at least one time during class and the fair will be open after school every day. Parents are also invited to attend and we will be open the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup> during our Melissa Straub Parent Assembly.

- Melissa Straub Parent Assembly - May 9, BF Library

Ridgewood middle school and 5th grade parents are invited to a presentation and Question and Answer session/discussion with Melissa Straub on social media apps and how to help your children navigate social media use.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade parent meeting - May 15, BF Auditorium.

BF is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents for an information session with the principal, assistant principals and HSA members.

- Wellness Day – May 19

BF Mental Health Awareness Day: students will participate in a Mental Health Awareness walk, various classes and presentations providing students with positive self care experiences and opportunities for discussion. In conjunction with the walk, classes and presentations, students will be able to attend a health and wellness fair in the gym.

Parents and outside vendors will be sponsoring tables in order to give students and staff information on health, sleep and proper nutrition. The HSA will be sponsoring a snack table. Please be on the lookout for a sign up genius link for snack donations.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade events update

There will be detailed communications regarding the promotion day and the post promotion event in May. Stay tuned for more information.

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip – May 30

- **New Business**

- Parent Social – May 18 7:30-9:30PM

All BF parents and guardians are invited to an all grade parent social at Claudia and Steve Fortunato's house - 460 Spring Avenue. There's no fee but please RSVP for there will be light fare served. BYOB. This is a rain or shine event

- Chair/Volunteer positions for 23-24

HSA is looking for volunteers. Please reach out to Anna Salerno & Claudia Fortunato for any questions.

- Phone-free Fridays

June 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30PM HSA is hosting a new event. Phone-free Friday where students will socialize in old school style. Fun and interactive games will be provided. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Open Discussion**

- Does HSA need to have a secondary meeting once every two months focused on open discussions where parents can provide ideas on what more can be done?
- Does the current E-news email need to be streamlined so that readership goes up?
- HSA can also have a special topic assigned to each meeting such as bullying and schedule management so that parents interested in the topic are encouraged to attend meetings. Parents could suggest topics to be discussed, and in the absence of suggestions, HSA can set the topics.
- Pickup guidelines to be emailed to parents when there is a lockdown to prevent congestion and confusion at the high school. Procedure to be included in the Eighth grade parent presentation. In a lockdown, the police owns the building. Has to be clear to parents that they cannot communicate special instructions for their kids and it is safer for their children to follow school/police protocol.

-

-

**The meeting was concluded at 10:55 AM**

-

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Jahae Kim, Board Secretary**

-