

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES - December 13, 2023

Attendees: Anna Salerno, Claudia Fortunato, Dev, Lauran Carr,

Zoom Attendees: Kathy Angelov, Kelly, Diva Yela, Marguerite Carmody, Beth Pfeil, Joelyn Redmond, Colleen Tansey, Ha Lim, Lilly Farhang, Amanda, Nancy Ventura

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 9:31am. The BFHSA Co-President Anna Salerno welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Agenda Items:

Principal's Report - Assistant Principal Lauren Carr

- Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped during Winter Wonderland. Everyone had a great time!
- On 12/12 the District met with leadership teams to discuss the following:
 - Some courses may be coming down the pipeline. Updates will come as courses come to fruition.
- DEI Parent Committee Update
 - Have a Chinese New Year Assembly coming up
 - Planning for a global dance party (possibly early March)
 - Discussions of a food truck event coming. Tentatively looking at May 10th
 - Meeting with Pomptonian to discuss different menu options.
 - DEI is having a bake sale during the winter concerts. Need volunteers to drop off baked goods. A Group Spot sign up will come out for volunteers. Concert dates will be in E News.
- SEPAG met last week at Education Center
- Patterson Toy Drive was 12/13/2023. BF students visited two of the Head Start programs and gave over 500 presents to children. Student council attended. BF Voices performed. Other students also attended. There was a visit from Santa!
- A district wide meeting was held for mental health and social media.
- **Federated Report - Claudia Fortunato**
 - Superintendent Mark Schwarz spoke of a Federated survey coming out.
 - Spoke about the importance of chain of command. When to approach HSA and when to approach administration.

- Graydon will be getting back to us about whether it can be used as a venue for events.
- Richard Freedman, the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment spoke at the Federated meeting. Spoke about his career, his philosophy and focused on academic safety.
- Discussions about a possible 6th grade class that will teach students about what to expect in 6th grade.
- SEPAG President Jaimie Davis spoke about a program that happens once a month. It's a sensory friendly dinner with some local restaurants.
- Wizards game will be 2/25 on a Sunday. It will be a double header. Proceeds will go to the Federated HSA, which will vote what the proceeds will go towards. Reach out to Anna/Claudia if you have ideas.
- Discussions about the Municipal Alliance Grant. Money is given to keep kids off drugs and alcohol
- Spoke about NJ bullying and anti-bullying law.
- Anti-vaping presentations will be given throughout the district. The presentation will be at BF in February. These presentations are at request of the High School.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- No treasurer's report this month. More details to come in February.

- **Student Council Report**

- None this month

Old Business:

- Turkey Trot a great success. Was a wonderful experience for BF families. A shout out to the wellness teams. If you have any idea of how to make it a bigger or smaller event, please reach out to Claudia or Anna.
- Melissa Straub came back to BF on Dec 1st to discuss social media. Wanted to address proper behavior on social media and why it is important to learn what is appropriate and what is not appropriate to post on the internet.
- Phone Free Friday was wildly successful! Lots of students were in attendance and had a lot of fun. Next phone free Friday is 1/19. Theme is PJ's and Puzzles

and very low key. Need 8-10 volunteers. Murder mystery will be the 4th Phone Free Friday.

- YMCA assembly was on 11/22. Assembly addressed active lifestyle and fitness and how to have a positive lifestyle without drugs and alcohol. Another assembly scheduled for Jan. 5 and the topic around joy. The science around joy, how to receive it, how to share it. Great topic that addresses mental health.
- The Winter Wonderland dance was a success. There was lots of engagement. Thank you to all the parent volunteers. Got great feedback on it. Discussions on possibly hiring for set up and take down. Encouraging 6th and 7th grade parents to walk through next year to get involved so that these wonderful traditions continue on.
- Spirit Wear sale items sent to the main office for kids to be called in to pick up their things. There are a few blankets on sale and a few pairs of tech gloves.
- There are 8 chromebook carriers left if anyone is interested for purchase.
- Partnering with Ridgewood Junior Cheer to sell cozy Ridgewood slippers. Posting is on groupspot. Will drop off on your porch.
- Tesla light show 12/21 to celebrate winter solstice.
- Tic Toc - BF does contribute to the Tic Toc budget. A lot of the artwork on the first floor is through Tic Toc. The art work rotates monthly.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jan 5 - Joy Assembly
- 1/19 Phone Free Friday
- 2/1 7th grade Humdingers Social. A group spot will be put in January. There will be a pizza, drink and gift cards to play games. Humdingers is dedicated to just BF. There was a discussion to try to combine with GW but the space cannot accommodate. It may be something the following year to find a location to accommodate a joint mixer. If you need gluten free pizza, that can be accommodated just need to know in advance.
- Please check Lost and Found! There are a lot of items.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Open discussion occurred during the meeting

The meeting concluded at 10:35am. Next HSA meeting is February

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Angelov, Board Secretary
