

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Attendees: Anna Salerno, Claudia Fortunato, Nancy Joachim-Ventura, Sarah Traband, Devletsah Ozcan, Kelly Nakasone, Laura Waismin, Kristin Massey, Marguerite Carmody, Rachel Yang, Ktayna Schuartzberg, Helen Cho

Zoom Attendees: Kathy Angelov, Rushika, Ali, Angela Lee, Colleen Tansy, Diva Yela, Jessica Vartughian, Joelyn Redmond, Kelly Ashford, Kim Ramirez, Lynn, Lei

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:

- **Guest: Dan Kilday, Supervisor of Wellness, Ridgewood Public District**
 - Spoke about a recent discussion at a department meeting with Middle School Wellness staff regarding social media concerns. Highlighted how the Wellness staff can be utilized as another resource to our children to help navigate and promote good decisions.
 - The school district is working with the Health Department to ascertain some grants that will focus on social media and wellness.
 - This includes 6th grade digital citizenship (which is currently in the Middle School curriculum) and some discussions of some future Courses.
 - Discussions of other programming related to wellness, such as bringing forth two documentaries, titled “Angst” and “Like”, that will bring forth an opportunity for discussion and the sharing of resources.

- **Principal’s Report - Stacey Wisniewski**
 - Principal Wisniewski gave an overview of New Jersey’s HIB Bill of Rights (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) . Mentioned it is on the district website with a plethora of resources available.
 - Website includes the form as well as full directions and procedures of how to report an HIB incident.
 - It will be up to the district to determine how to move forward with the report and whether or not to pursue further action (ie: investigate further, etc)
 - It is important to make parents aware that NJ’s HIB Bill of rights are accessible

on the website with an outline of rights, timelines, processes and contact numbers.

OTHER NEWS:

- Computer science for Grade 6 has been approved. It will be implemented either next year or the following year. Other courses being discussed are Dance, 8th grade Geometry Elective.
- Seeing Eye came to visit the school on 11/15
- BFMS has an upcoming board presentation on 11/19
- Highlighting upcoming events including a Chinese New Year celebration, Girls on the Run and a visit from the Bergen County Prosecutor's office in January.

- **Federated Report - Claudia Fortunato**
 - Superintendent Mark Schwarz spoke about the following in the Federated Meeting
 - improvement of social aspects Post-Covid
 - Highlighted some staff who went to visit Massachusetts to learn about AI and how it is unfolding
 - Ease of scheduling the Fields.
 - Highlighting DEI and goals fo strategic planning around DEI
 - University Partnerships with students going into education

 - Federated Presidents spoke about:
 - Parameters for Flyer approval
 - Group Spot: Privacy issues, pronunciation guide
 - Graydon Day
 - Leftover Wizards Money (This year's game will be a double header on February 25th)

- **Treasurer's Report - Helen Cho**
 - Frosty Friday - \$351 profit
 - Pink Out Shirts - Income \$2,541, Expense \$2000, Profit\$541
 - Spirit Wear Sale - Income \$3,209, Expense \$1260, Profit \$1,949
 - Music T shirts: Income \$2,448 Income, Expense TBD, Profit: TBD
 - Dues: Income: \$12, 640, Expense 0, Profit \$12,640
 - Spirit Night: Income \$14,706, Expense \$7.739.39, Profit \$6,966, 61

- **Student Council Report**

Old Business:

- Pink Out was a success! We sold a different T-shirt this year. We did try a golf shirt option but that did not meet the minimum. Think about whether we want to continue the tradition of a T-shirt or something different moving forward (like socks, hats, pj's, pants)
- Discussions about possible Grade Specific or BFMS specific fundraisers.
- Music T-Shirt sales will be gifted as supplies to the Music Department. Another sale is coming in January.
- We have \$1,500 in Scholastic Bucks left over. The HSA purchased 2 spinning bookshelves and a wall mounted book shelf for the Library. We also purchase a few miscellaneous items the library can use to give out as incentives (book market, etc)
- Discussion about getting shelves for the BF Players
- Spirit Wear
- Assemblies - speak to your kids about Assemblies

New Business:

- Old School Friday on 11/17
- Parent Book Club on 11/16
- Turkey Trot on 11/17
- 8th Grade Winter Wonderland. Dance is Friday, December 8th. Need all hands on deck for decorating. Please let HSA know if interested.
- 8th Grade end of year Trip: Discussions on how kids can fundraise for the trip
- BR Player's are performing Mamma Mia
- Anit-Vaping Assembly in February. Melissa Straub for Social Media
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OPEN DISCUSSION:

The meeting concluded at 11am. Next HSA meeting is 12/13 9:30am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Angelov, Board Secretary
