PTA Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019 8:45AM MPR

**Council Chair: Deya Warren**

Introductions of the council members, grade chairs, PTA president. Thank you to all the volunteers. Please consider volunteering.

**Superintendent’s Report: Roy Montesano**

Pillars of the Bronxville School Promise guide our work. We are looking to expand the promise to include student wellness. Need to look at the balance.

Construction around the school: Chambers field and track is completed. Flood pumps are complete – 5 pumps are operational. Pipes along Meadow are underway. Expansion of cafeteria is underway with work being done after 3pm. Third Floor learning commons and outdoor deck will begin. Some roofing work will be done. Asbestos abatement is a very small one day job that will occur after hours. High school meadow Ave. and guidance suite work will also begin this year. The Meadow Ave. entrance will be closed for much of the year. Please notify us if you have any concerns.

New Director of Security – Rob Lancia. We are looking at recommendations to improve and keep our students and staff safe.

**Board of Education Representative: Arlene Thomas, PTA liaison**

Has children that have graduated from Bronxville Schools and now in college. Excited to work on wellness for the students. Also, as a board member, overseas construction and budget.

**Bronxville School Foundation: Jennifer Lescott**

Almost 30 years have given 752 grants for $10 million dollars. Vital to keeping our school competitive. Please considering donating to support the Foundation. Please also share your ideas for grants and consider writing a grant if you have some ideas.

**High School History teacher: Bruce Meyer, author of Big Breath**

Meditation Club started 7 years ago in high school and inspired the book, Big Breath. The school has purchased a copy for every student. The book will in h

Wed. 7pm at Barnes and Nobles, Eastchester.

**Principal, Tricia Murray**

Welcome new Vice Principal, Rakiya Adams. She rose to the top because of her ability to work with staff, vision for new projects, and converse with students.

Rayika – I am excited to be here. I’ve met your students in class and recess and lunch. I am your go to person for any issues with recess or lunch.

**Goals for the Elementary School**

Full school social emotional program. Hired Dr. Joyce Vastola part-time psychologist.

CARE: Community, awareness, relationships and Empathy. Building this program from the ground up to train students in mindfulness, emotional regulation and relationship building.

Revise and refine Project Based Learning projects

Additional Program Highlights: Coding/Robotics, makerspace, Don’t wait to unmake a bully, new phonics program

**New York State Tests Overview:**

Overall test results are good. Full school results in Math are strong. ELA results fell down in some area’s. 5th grade seemed to lose ground in ELA.

Teachers have test data and can review the students test data and use it to make a plan for individual students. You can review you individual students results on Campus Backback and can make an appointment with Tricia Murray to see your child’s test.

Gone back to Teachers College to review the data and understand what may have happened at a state level.

Rachel Kelly added: 6th graders performed overall lower than in the past in ELA. Teachers are reviewing the individual results and working to undertstand why a student performed lower than expected. And, will then work with the students to improve.

Overall, this is a piece to the whole child puzzle. This is important but we also keep it in perspective.

Elementary School Council Committee Presentations:

* Beth Ahern: Membership Toolkit replaces MySchoolAnywhere, which will be closed by the end of September. Information distributed through, membership toolkit includes: Newsletter, athletic council, grade specific emails, council, bwell events and speakers, homecoming, memorial day.
* Grade Level socials: space available in 5th, 2nd and 3rd grade parties. Go on line to membership tool kit and STORE to buy tickets.
* Skating Club: starts Oct. 21 at Murray’s ice rink on Mondays at 3:30
* BASC: Dean Vanderwalker: 550 registrations, Matt Fisher is running it again and it starts next week. We are going to a tri-mester system: Fall, Winter and Spring. Math Olympiad starts next week.
* NPC: Oct. 14 at Library at 7pm
* New families: Daria Drew – welcomed new families to the school, match them with a buddy, party Oct. 2 at the Bronxville Field Club.
* Apparel: Mariana Mingo – Tues, Thurs and Friday before Homecoming Columbus Day weekend. Please sign up to volunteer to help with sales.
* Hopitality: Justine McEnerney. Please sign up K-2 families to donate refreshments for back to school night on Oct. 3.
* Yearbook: Rececca Todd
* Chess Club: Greg Gleason – impressed how much chess has helped his children to grow, learned to focus. Tournaments are stratified so students can play at every level.
* Book Fair: Meghann Paisley – will take place right before Thanksgiving. Please volunteer through sign up genius.
* Teacher Appreciation: Amy Krause - we do two events - one in the Fall and one in the spring. This fall it is Thursday, Oct. 24. Please consider volunteering.
* BOLD: Beata Farber create a community to help each other, share resources. Oct. 4 at 8:30am is the first council meeting.