**PTA Elementary Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019 8:45 AM**

**Deya Warren, Council Chair**

* Welcome
* Minutes can be found on the PTA website

**Rachel Kelly, Assistant Superintendent**

* Tenure and Probationary teachers - a letter was sent this week with information on teachers that are begin considered for tenure. Please share your feedback.

**Dan Carlin, Facilities**

* MS and HS Library is close to completion. Thank you to the PTA.
* New storm drain system is working well. We had two high water events in the last month and the 4 pumps came on and kept us dry.
* Brick pointing underway.
* Elementary roof is complete for now. Playground will be available going forward.
* Meadow Ave. work will commence next week. Asbestos abatement, old boiler room. Atrium entrance will be closed starting next week.
* Scaffolding will be erected on the front entrance as we begin roof and parapet restoration.
* Bond referendum. The Board of Education is proposing a $3 million bond to address items that were not able to be included in the original proposal. One of these items is the curtain wall along the elementary school playground. Please vote on Bond proposal on December 10.
* Rob Lancia – new head of security
* Lighting project: Exterior Lighting improvements and LED lighting inside.

**Bronxville School Foundation, Eddie Sulimirski**

* Please consider donating to the Bronxville School Foundation
* Foundation - 30 volunteers who raise money, review the grant proposals
  + Coordinate with teachers, administrators, students and vet grants. 12-member grant committee who rigorously evaluate grants.
* Areas covered: Program and curriculum, professional development, facilities and equipment.
* Every penny we raise goes into the school to fund innovative programs and improvements quickly.
* You can contribute to the general fund or direct your donation to some specific areas including special education, performing arts, endowment for language arts

**Social/Emotional Curriculum, Dr. Vastola, Dr. Thomas, and Dr. Lewis**

* ES Wellness program: CARE – Community, Awareness, Relationships, Empathy
* Children are at all time levels of anxiety and depression. Particularly in high income communities. What can we do to mitigate this in school? We need to teach social emotional learning and skills for life: mindfulness, dealing with distress, emotional regulation, having good relationships.
* A mindfulness activity called attitude of gratitude was completed by meeting attendees. This activity is being done in the elementary classrooms. Mindfulness can help one stay in the moment and be thoughtful - right here, right now.
* Highlights of the skills being taught in our wellness program:
  + Mindfulness: Three states of Mind: emotion mind, wise mind, fact mind. The wise mind is the intersection of emotion and fact. Use positive scripts for themselves.
  + Distress tolerance: acknowledge feelings, self-soothing, distract skills.
  + Emotion regulation-: staying positive, accomplishing goals,
  + Having good relationships: what is a good friend, self-advocacy, how to communicate in a manner that is most successful, build community through kindness and empathy.
* It is critical to practice social emotional skills at home.
  + Model response to dealing with distress at home. Mindfulness can create a space between impulse and behavior. Model the value of breath. Before you say it, breathe it.
  + Adopt morning rituals- start the day with a bear hug or find your own calming ritual. Kids love rituals.
  + Model your wise mind.

**Trisha Murray, Principal**

* Some security changes:
  + K-2: orange lanyard badge for pickup
  + Visitor badge – green lanyard badge
  + Blue lanyard – Blue Lanyard
* Christine, the Security Guard at the Midland Ave. entrance was in a minor car accident but is doing well and will return soon.
* Morning announcements have been introduced over the PA system. Students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and student council members lead the announcements for the day.

**Non-partisan committee (NPC), Beata Gocyk-Farber**

* Volunteers who vet and recommend school board members.
* Meeting: Nov. 14 7at pm at the Bronxville Library – meeting is designed to promote a dialogue between the community and the Board of Education.

**Committee Presentations, Deya Warren**

* Thank you to picture day committee, teachers appreciation day committee, character and community committee for organizing candy drive, apparel committee, 5th grade Philadelphia trip volunteers.
* Memorial Day Logo Contest, Bona Hong
  + Winner was selected
* Theatre Arts Committee, Lisa Rao and Anabella Davis
  + Emails have gone out with registration instructions. Registration begins next week using Membership Toolkit.
* Book Fair- Meghann Paisley
  + Week of November 18
* BOLD- Beata Gocyk-Farber
  + Meeting: Nov. 13 at 7pm in high school boardroom
  + How to transition after high school

Upcoming Events

* School Closed Superintendent’s Day- Nov 8th
* School Closed Veterans Day- Nov 11th
* BOLD Council Meeting- Nov 13 7pm
* ES Book Fair Nov 18th-22
* Nov. 27th, Emergency Dismissal Drill
* School Closed Thanksgiving – Nov 28th and 29th
* ES Council Meeting- December 5th 8:45am