

**Green Brook PTO Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2014**

- 7:00 Meeting is called to order by Co-President, Renee Kusch.
Pledge of Allegiance by assembled.
- 7:35 Introductions of 2014-2015 PTO Board; Co-Presidents Renee Kusch and Kristine Scavo, Treasurer Lynn Beattie, Co-Treasurer Dawn Lynch, and Secretary Jolaine Moffitt
- 7:40 Lynn Beattie gave a treasurer's report.
- 7:50 It was approved that the meeting minutes from the June 2014 meeting and all future meetings will be posted online for review and approval
- 7:52 Maria Picciarilli, the Board of Ed liaison, reviewed the time and place of BOE meeting dates directed people to BOE website for meeting info and BOE agendas. She invited all to attend BOE meetings. She also introduced and welcomed the new Superintendent, Mr. Kevin Carroll.
- 8:00 Superintendent Kevin Carroll spoke and introduced himself as well as gave a background of his experience.

Principals Reports

- 8:10 Mrs. Pollard addressed the assembled regarding the following:
- Welcome back picnic was fabulous and well-attended.
 - Anyone in 5th grade interested in taking an instrument should contact Mr. Sorensen. He will have info table at BTS Night
 - BTS night 6:30pm in Gym 9.16.14 (Please make every effort to not bring students to BTS night)
 - Homework club begins 9.23.14
 - Halloween: 9am 8th party, 10am 7th grade, 12:30pm 6th grade in cafeteria, 5th grades in classrooms—no parade.
 - Author coming to school 11/11/14. Will have three grade-specific assemblies. Wendy Maas, popular young adult author will be the guest. She will sign books that can be preordered via a form on web backpack for GBMS. There will be a drawing for selected students to have lunch with author. Mrs. Phillip thanked the PTO for support in this event.
- 8:20 Mr. Lamberti addressed the assembled regarding the following:
- Complimented and commended IEF staff for their excellent work
 - Thanked parents for helping get school year off to a smooth start
 - Thanked the PTO for supporting the schools
 - Asked parents to email Mr. Lamberti if you are not receiving his emails
 - There will be a brief but respectful ceremony for IEF in the morning of 9/11. Parents welcome
 - Wed 9.17.14 IEF BTS night. Info is posted on gbtps.org website
 - Homework club begins Tues, 9.23.14. Random drawing will be held to be able to participate. Please get your forms in, in the provided envelope, ASAP.
 - Please feel free to contact Mr. Lamberti if ever needed.

8:28 Teachers Report: Mrs. Doane

- Thanks for all that PTO does for our schools
- Requests from teachers:
 - Writing workshop any \$\$ available for materials to support that?
 - Mulch for the playground
 - Sidewalk chalk
 - As per Mrs. Spencer: moving over ceremony decorations remain on the stage and need to be taken down
 - As per Melissa Noble: request from Mrs. Natkie that IEF library is in need of books from author who is visiting

8:35 PTO Co-President Renee Kusch stated that she and Co-President Kristine Scavo attended the GBMS Faculty Meeting and reiterated the desire for PTO to have an increased working relationship with the teachers.

Faculty that were present at tonight's meeting were introduced and thanked for attending: Mr. Fornale, Mrs. Phillip, Mrs. Doane, Mrs. Yanes

8:40 Calendar:

- Sept book fairs at IEF/GBMS 16-18th. Set up at GBMS this Friday. Call for volunteers to help with book fairs. Sign-up sheet at meeting or contact Lisa Couch
- Sept 19th IEF Family Fun night: Back to School Bingo run by Sue Ptack and Laurie Wighard.
- Oct 24th Trunk or Treat, Cathy Yanes chair (details later in meeting)
- Oct 17th "Bengal Tailgate" More relaxed than traditional "Bengal Bashes" of past and will have activities geared towards Middle Schoolers. Games, tailgate games, ping pong, etc.
 - Cost in budget is to offset the cost of running these, not fundraiser
 - Maria Picciarilli suggested getting high school kids involved to draw kids

8:50 FUNDRAISERS

- Kids' stuff coupon books going home shortly. 8th graders no longer using Kids Stuff books as fundraiser.
- 8th grade will now be doing fundraisers: Green Cow on specified dates.
- Innisbrook will return as PTO fundraiser. Hoping reinstating it will renew interest. Urged to participate. Forms will go out for K-5. 6-8 will have online ordering information.

9:00 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- BOOK FAIRS (Renee, Kristine, Lisa)
 - Lisa Couch introduced herself and stated is looking for co-chair for this committee and looking to hand this off to someone for next year
 - Seeking volunteers, esp on BTS night.
 - Would like IEF parent work GBMS Fair and vice versa
- YANKEE CANDLE
 - Chair will be transitioned to Gina Strong. Spring fundraiser.

- **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE**
 - Charlene Skylar and Lisa Couch co-chairs for GBMS
 - Middle school boutique aims to have quality items geared toward this age group
 - Called for volunteers.

- **TEACHER APPRECIATION**
 - Kathy Humphrey and Lisa Couch co-chairs
 - Themed-event and great way to thank teachers.
 - Called for volunteers.

- **CULTURAL ARTS**
 - Lisa Couch for GBMS: Author visit is first assembly. Excited first author visit in Middle School in over 12 years.
 - Call for volunteers to help for future ideas.

 - Melissa Noble for IEF: Dan Gutman, author, will visit K-4.

- **SCRIIPS**
 - Kim Grossman chair
 - Scrip is a fundraiser where the purchase gift cards generates a percentage back in purchases directly to the PTO
 - Info on online backpack and home in backpacks soon.
 - Link and directions are also on PTO website.

- **BAG BINGO**
 - Claire Holly and Kim Grossman co-chairs
 - Last year's was success.
 - Will take place at end of January
 - Location: Dunellen Fire Department

- **BOXTOPS**
 - Gina Strong chair
 - Participation has declined the past few years.
 - Described how program works.
 - Will be distributing sheets to fill with boxtops to make fun for kids. Sheets can be printed from PTO website and will have a table at BTS nights.
 - Please make sure BoxTops handed in are not expired
 - Discussed having an incentive 2 times per year for classrooms that bring in most boxtops (such as ice cream party, etc.)
 - Have students put names on the sheets/bags they send in so their class gets credit. Sheets preferred as they're easier to count.
 - Website for more info: Boxtops4education.com Register for IEF, can enter for sweepstakes. Online shopping through this site ending.

- **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**
 - Tracey Gelbstein chair

- Recognizes milestones for teachers through dedicating books to school libraries with person's name in book.
 - Birth, sympathy, etc. Also hosts holiday breakfast for both schools.
 - Thank yous to teachers and staff through gift cards
 - Help needy families by giving gift cards for Thanksgiving.
- FAMILY FUN NIGHT—IEF
 - Sue Ptack chair
 - Called for volunteers.
 - This year first will be bingo on 9.19.14
 - Other ideas may be game night, movie night, etc. Any ideas please contact Sue.
 - Volunteers get bingo entrance for free.
- TERRACYCLE
 - Lisa Couch, chair
 - Collecting empty glue sticks, juice pouches, for fundraiser.
- TRUNK OR TREAT
 - Chair, Cathy Yanes
 - Will be Sept 24th. Described event and surrounding activities that night. Everyone encouraged to participate. Homeroom parents asked to collect candy donations. Info will be sent home soon.

9:40 OLD BUSINESS

- PTO no longer able to provide yearbooks to 8th grade students due to budget.
- Co-Presidents stressed thanks to past PTO board members for staying on and being involved.

9:47 NEW BUSINESS

- Will be introducing Citizenship of the Month at IEF. Hopeful it will be fully funded by PBA (request for funding pending). There will be 5 children per class per month. All will be recognized at biannual breakfast.
 - There was concern that the children should not be rewarded with a monetary piece or food especially since GBMS students of the month get only recognition. Opposingly, some expressed that since GBMS has one it is only fair for PTO to support initiative at IEF. Open to further discussion.
- RIF at GBMS: Not well-received by students. Spoke with Mrs. Phillip and Mr. Mojta and agreed with replacing RIF with using current RIF budget for adding copies of digital e-books and audio books for the GBMS. Lisa Couch asked re: Scholastic Dollars she is currently holding onto. Will discuss with what to do with those dollars at later date.
 - There was discussion regarding ending RIF at the GBMS with concern for the kids that cannot afford books. It was agreed that the popular or "good books" are taken first and others left with not so desirable books, however, e-books allow all to have the best books for the student.
 - Can possibly use Scholastic Dollars to provide books to those in need.

10:05 Budget reviewed

- Request for bag bingo to have its own line
- Field day money will be used by discretion of the PTO and approved before this money can be spent. It was stressed that field day money should be spent to benefit all students.
- Budget approved

10:15 Meeting adjourned