

**Abbey Lane PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Call to order** by Gabrielle Herbert at 7pm, Quorum present. Welcome to all, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. **Recording Secretary:** Minutes from November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 were emailed to PTA members who submitted their email address and were presented at the meeting for review. Minutes were approved and to be filed as written.
- II. **Treasurers Report:** Report by Michelle Fielding, Treasurer's report distributed and filed for audit. Please refer to the filed budget. November Books audited by Jamie Mahoney and December Books audited by Amy Hoffman and were found to be in good standing. It was expressed that there has been few issues with checks bouncing, the committee will look into forming a policy and follow up with a proposal at the next PTA meeting. Motion made by Michelle Fielding to approve treasurers report - 1<sup>st</sup> by Amy Hoffman and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jaime Mahoney. All in Favor, None Opposed, Motion Carried.
- III. **President's Report:** New Year started with great performances by the Chorus and Orchestra/Band. Congratulations to all the students who represented Abbey Lane at NYSMA. Many activities are being planned for this new year including the Annual Fundraiser, which provides funding for the Cultural Arts program that the children receive. PayPal is up and running on the school webpage as another method of payment for membership and working to have the fundraiser as well. Reflections contest ended and we had two participants who were submitted to Nassau County PTA for consideration. One student was a Nassau County Reflections Finalist. Next PTA meeting on 2/24/15, all children who participated will be presented certificates. Islanders Game for Family Fun was on 1/19. Greg Bodkin is working on setting up more Family Fun dates at other events. Thank you to Dawn and those who attended Paint Nite, it was a huge success. Still in need of Chairs for Plant Sale in the Spring, Variety Show (obtaining medals & flowers), and Mother's Day Rose Sale. Calendar of the upcoming February events were distributed, and we will release other months so parents can plan on advance accordingly with the events going on in year. Last Board of Education meeting, the board approved the 2015/16 school calendar; School will begin September 2<sup>nd</sup>, before Labor Day, copies distributed. In addition, they indicated that the budget increase will be 1.7%, with a possible 1.7% tax levy, which is still under the 2% cap, draft was reviewed. Final number will be determined when the state releases its final numbers to the district. Athletes and Extracurricular Activities budget will presented at the next BOE meeting. Superintendent Toni McDonald, challenged the PTA council to come up with ways to encourage Levittown Community Pride. Division and MacArthur High Schools will be singing the National Anthem at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Mets Game. Information will be on the district website for tickets. Nutrition Day will still take place on 3/19; however we will not be providing any food and will plan a week of activities and an assembly, instead. PTA will look into applying for the Kohl's Community Service Program, where Kohl's employees come and volunteer their time for any school events and receive a \$500 donation from Kohl's.
- IV. **Correspondence Report:** Marie Adams thanked those who came to support the Blood Drive, Collected 20 pints and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders enjoyed the Little Doctors program and volunteering. There was one issue concerning the temperature of the All Purpose Room, but were able to move the event to the gym.
- V. **1<sup>st</sup> VP Report:** Reported by Dawn Marmo  
Vendor Fair was a success and able to raise \$470 and have each vendor donate a raffle basket to the Annual Fundraiser; Looking into maybe having it at another location for next year. Paint Nite was also a great success for its first event, raising \$840. Thank you to Trinity Galazera for chairing the Pie Sale and raising \$2,102. Children loved the Secret Store, and were able to bring in a profit of \$1,900, Thank you to Lori Edvabsky & Jen Pirozzi for chairing. Entenmanns Sale before Thanksgiving brought in \$101, Thank you to Jen Banfish for chairing.

## **VI. Special Committees:**

- Bling Apparel- Orders came in and few extra apparel are available for purchase. Another order will be placed, flyer will be sent out, adding scarves to the collection. *Please see Dawn Marmo – Chair for more information.*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Yearbook Packets and uploading pictures deadline has been extended to January 30<sup>th</sup>, another reminder will be sent home as some packets are still missing. *Please see Jamie Mahoney-Chair, for more information*
- PARP – Kick off will be on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and will have readers for the students and a Book Fair. Theme is “Wild about Reading”. February 9<sup>th</sup> we will have a Book Swap night and have Author Kary Carkner along with her husband NY Islanders Matt Carkner. Her book will be on sale the night of as well. PARP packets listing all activities and events will be sent home with the students.
- Family Fun – Greg Bodkin is working on organizing another Islanders Game in March and June; as well as a Yankees Game, Brooklyn Nets Game and possibly a NYCFC Soccer Game. These events are offered at a discount cost to the school. Information to follow as events are set.

## **VII. Standing Committee Reports:**

- Cultural Arts – Report given by Marion Renda.. On 1/30, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will receive an I-Robot Program, provided by Cradle of Aviation, using hands on activities and learn about robot programming. On 2/9, the school will receive an assembly from Story Faces, as part of PARP. On 3/10, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will have a workshop from Darren Sardelli, Children’s Book Author/Poet, creating poems with students using their ideas. On 3/20, all the students will see a Theaterworks Presentation of “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day”. On 4/30 – Kindergarten will have a Touch Tank Program from Waterfront Center, learning facts of marine organisms. On 5/11, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will do a “Bugging Out Workshop” from Queens Botanical garden.
- Membership – Currently at 242 Members, PTA Membership Drive ongoing – the grade with the highest percentage of PTA memberships by May 31, 2015 will receive an ice cream party at end of the year. Since each grade varies in size, results are being calculated by percentage versus the grade with most memberships. 1st Grade is in the lead with 49% membership! 2nd Place - 5th Grade 41%; 3rd Place - Kindergarten 38%; 4th Place - ABA 33%; 5th Place – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 32%; 6th Place – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade 31%.
- Annual Fundraiser is on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Verdi’s; Theme is “Abbey Lane’s 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”; Donations are being collected, Classes have chosen their theme baskets and will be on display on Tuesday Night, Wed & Thursday during the day before the event, anyone can win these do not have to present. Volunteers are needed the week of and night before to deliver the baskets to the location. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact *Dawn Marmo or Amy Hoffman - Chairs*
- Reflections – Reflections contest “The World Will Be A Better Place....” ended, there were 30 submissions. We had two participants who were submitted to Nassau County PTA for consideration. One student was a Nassau County Reflections Finalist. Next PTA meeting on 2/24/15, all children who participated will be presented certificates. Next year’s theme will be “Let Imagination Fly”.
- Honorary Life - This year’s Honorary Life recipient was Dr. Tom Shiel, Dinner will be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Crest Hollow Country Club for all Honorary Life Award Recipients, Fliers will be sent home for anyone who would like to attend. *Please contact Beth Lyons – Chair.*
- Nominating – Amy will be sending letters home, asking membership to submit their nominations for each PTA board position, review each position description and send letters back. Nominating committee will meet and present the proposed slate at the March PTA meeting and the elections will take place at the April PTA meeting.
- Audit – Mid-Year Audit will take place by the end of January.

## **VIII. Liaison Reports: District is in need of representation from all schools to attend these district committees. Please reach out, if you can attend and report back to Abbey Lane.**

- Levittown Schools Community Scholarships- Executive Board will meet on 1/28 to plan a committee meeting for February. Last year, a total of \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to 10 seniors from MacArthur and Division.
- Elementary/Secondary Curriculum: Will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Health/Safety – Will meet on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

- SEPTA- Currently has 250 members, there have been changes to the graduation requirements for children with IEPs, will be hosting a Family Fun Event at Mets Game on 5/3/15 for Autism Awareness Day.
- Transportation – District received new buses.

#### **IX. Principal's Report:**

Dr. Maurer stated that all the children enjoyed the Secret Store and buying gifts for their family members. Fifth grade classes have been going to MacArthur High School to work with the Science Research Coordinator there, where they will learn of the life cycle of animals and plants; Third and First Grade will be going shortly. Third Graders went to Safety Town. Blood Drive went well except of the room temperature mishap, but were able to move the event. In January, we will be having another "Get-A'Voice" assembly for the entire school, where the children learn of important character traits and have each grade wear a different color to represent each character trait. Student Council did a great job in holding a Toy Drive for the U.S. Marines, which unfortunately lost some toys to some flood damage. Adopt-A-Family went great and was able to give help during the holidays to families in need within our district. Giving Tree will take place, where we will collect hats, gloves and scarves. On the horizon, looking into planning the Montelione Sports Night again, for Grades K-2, will try to have in March instead of June. Physical Education teachers are looking into having a "March Madness" basketball event for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. Also, looking into having a Spelling Bee for grades 3-5. Spirit Club will be up and running again and plan a "Spirit Night", last year we had 80 kids involved. Writers Club will also come back this year.

#### **X. Old Business:**

Follow up from November's meeting, Tina Bodkin submitted her report from attending the NYS PTA Conference in Saratoga. Stephanie Gannon read her report: She expressed her thanks to the PTA board and membership for being able to attend. She attended workshops by different speakers, addressing many different topics from helping your kids with assessments, to trends in technology, to bullying, to internet safety, to underage drinking and drug use. In one of the workshops about assessments, they were told that learning is meant to be challenging and we should celebrate with what the speaker called "cognitive discomfort", that moment when there is silence when a difficult question is asked. It is in those moments that our children stretch and grow the most. That discomfort is a good thing and not something we should try and protect our kids from. They voted on all the retentions, updates and new resolutions that we voted on in our unit meetings. After some spirited debate on the new resolutions, they were all passed. Meryl Tisch, one of the NYS Board of Regents, gave the key note address, talking about things like Common Core and its implementation and the state's desire to see UPK standard across the state. Questions about the new pathways to diploma in NYS and the lack of diploma options for our special ed students were also addressed. A new executive board was elected and Bonnie Russell is the new NYS PTA president.

#### **XI. New Business:**

Stephanie Gannon brought to the attention to PTA membership that we are having difficulty on having members / parents attend committee meeting and council meetings, which is important in order to have that information presented to our Abbey Lane PTA membership meeting and be aware of what is going on in the district. Stephanie Gannon made a motion to review the by-laws regarding delegates in order to streamline this process better and form a committee of volunteers who can take turns in attending these meetings.

1<sup>st</sup> by Jamie Mahoney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Dwyer. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:10pm by Gaby Herbert**      *Minutes submitted by: Stephanie Gannon/ Recording Secretary*