

ABBEY LANE PTA MEETING 9/14/2022

- **Call to Order:** Susanne Gallina calls the meeting to order at 7:05pm. She welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks everyone for attending our first meeting, especially with such busy lives. The executive board introduces themselves.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Janette Ruddy asks if everyone has had a chance to review the minutes from May's minutes. Asks for a motion to approve the minutes, Jenn Lohmann and Gabriella approve. The notes will be written as filed.
- Susanne goes over the upcoming picnic on Friday, it is one of our favorite activities of the year. Normally we would have been behind the BBQ's, to ensure we have the best event we are going to have 3 food trucks, pre-ordered chicken boxes, or you can bring your own picnic dinner. We still have games, apparel for sale, membership etc. It is going and still continues to be a great community event. We also encourage anyone who is bilingual, even trilingual to come out and help volunteer, as well as anyone else who would love to help volunteer at any of our events.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Amy Hoffmann goes over June, July and August budget reports. June we had an opening balance of \$35,236.17 income of \$13,565.15 and expenses of \$17,335.35 balance of \$31,465.97. Savings \$5,168.50 interest .42 ending \$5,168.92 July opening balance \$31,465.97 income of \$94 no expenses balance \$31,559.97 savings \$5,168.92 interest .44 ending \$5,169.36 August \$31,559.97 income \$5,169.36 expenses \$4,999.39 balance \$32,727.80 savings \$5,169.36 interest .44 ending \$5,169.80. Amy also asks everyone to look over the proposed upcoming budget. Amy asks for a motion to pass the budget. Jenn Lohmann and Jeff Szarejko approve the motion.
- **1st VP Report: Erica Kerr**
 - Apparel:** Erica reports for Lillie Conroy that our Abbey Red apparel is as always ongoing. You can order through our email abbeyapparelpta@gmail.com we will have an online form available shortly. Apparel will be available at the picnic. We need a co-chair
 - Specialty Apparel:** Jeannine Quigley reports that in addition to our red apparel we offer specialty apparel offered only online through LI Athletic. Items are fun and different. We offer hoodies, pullovers, sweatpants, zip-ups etc.. We typically do not hold stock but we will have some samples at the picnic.

- **Picture Day:** Rebecca McCrea is our chair, and picture day is 9/29/22 and forms should be going out either tomorrow or Friday. Volunteers are needed to help move things along and keep things organized.
- **Gift Wrap:** We are going through Meadow Farms, it is an online sale only. They offer items such as gift wrap, household items, snack foods and specialty gifts. Kids can make a webpage that can be sent to family and friends, items are sent directly to your home. Lori Albano is our chair for this
- **Cards for a Cause:** This is another great fundraiser. They offer a wide variety of amazing cards for any occasion for about \$1 a card. We will have samples at the picnic for you to look at.
BJ's: We haven't been able to do this since covid but a great fundraiser for our school. You can renew for a great price and even if your membership is not up it will take effect when it is up. Jessie Desmond is our chair for this event.
- **20th Annual Fundraiser:** We are so excited to have our fundraiser back in person for the first time in 3 years. The date is 3/24/2023 at Verdis' in Westbury. Our theme is the roaring 20's. That was supposed to be our theme in 2020, as this is our 20th year it only makes sense to bring it back. Please feel free to dress up, it is a great night out, adults only and it is just a great night. All classroom teachers pick a theme and create baskets to raffle. There are upwards of 200 baskets, from donations of outside vendors. It really is one of the most fun nights, we have past presidents, past parents come. You are encouraged to get the early bird special tickets. We are also looking for chairs for this event. Didi Vega is one of the chairs that has volunteered. There are so many areas where we could use the help.
- **2nd VP Laura Hickey:**
- **5th Grade:** We just had our first meeting, they are encouraged to get themes in for the theme for 5th grade banner, shirts. Parents were given QR codes for FB Page, remind and google sign sheets. If there are any 4th grade parents that are interested in learning the ropes please feel free to reach out.
- **3rd VP Jeanine Quigley:**
- **Elementary/Secondary Curriculum:** Holly Kennedy is our rep, there is nothing to report as they have not met. They discuss anything that goes on in our building
- **Food Service:** Jeanine Quigley is our rep. They have not met yet. If anyone has any questions, concerns about the food service in our building go to Jeanine

and she will bring them to the Food Service. They will address from there. Susanne brings up that if you have any concerns with the lunch aides that is a concern you bring to the classroom teacher first, food service is not a place to bring those concerns. As you now know lunch is no longer free, it is \$2.75. They are encouraging everyone to fill out the forms for free/reduced lunch.

- Health/Safety: This is something that only comes up as needed. If there is a concern they will call a meeting. We are looking for a chair for this.
- Septa: Holly Kennedy is our chair, Amy is our past president and Susanne sits on the board. Septa is a PTA that encompasses all the buildings. It is for your child, or a friend or a friend of your child that may need special education services or they may not. We offer great educational speakers that offer a lot of information that may relate to many different areas. 10/5/22 we will have our first speaker
- Transportation: This year these meetings are still going to be held via zoom. They are typically held the second Tuesday of the month. The first meeting is 10/12/22. They will report on any busing issues throughout the district. We are looking for a chair.
- **Corresponding Secretary:** No Report
- Delegate Report: Jenn Lohmann reports that Food Service and curriculum are having their first meeting 10/19/22 at 9:30am. Beth Lyons reports that Honorary Life is starting to fundraise at PTA Council for their event which is being held in April. They are increasing the nominees, and papers should start going out in November
- Cultural Arts: Holly Kennedy is chairing. They bring in assemblies that come into the school. They vary from year to year. The first one that is scheduled to come in is for the 4th graders and that is Journey into the American Indian Territories coming 12/12/22 and 12/13/22. There will be many more great things to come
- Membership: Holly Kennedy chairs also, so far we have 89 members. It is \$10, it puts you on our email list and you get all our information. You can sign up in the back, on our FB page at the picnic or ask us. We have a raffle for membership, Sebastian picked Helen Vicari Congratulations!! We have another incentive friday.
- **Principals Report:**
- Maurer welcomes Ms. McCauley to our meeting as our new teacher as well as our PTA representative. Welcome Mrs. Grand who is a key player in our building. She is a point person for you should you have any concerns either at school, at

home please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Grand. She is amazing around the holidays, and goes above and beyond to make sure everyone in our community is supported and feels safe. Introduces Mrs. Ferrari our Asst. Principal who is split between Abbey and East Broadway. Dr. Maurer thanks the PTA for doing what sometimes can be called a thankless job and really has had such a pleasure working with this PTA. You will come to see what the PTA does starting on Friday with the picnic, all the great events they put on. Please make sure you have filled out the emergency contact forms and send them in. Please make sure you have a photo ID when you come to pick up your child. We send out robocalls, emails and text messages that is how we largely communicate to our parents. We will also start to use Virtual Backpack, some things will go home on paper. We use Google Classroom as well, the teachers, specials as well as club use Google Classroom. Back to school night is 9/22/22 for ABA and grades 1-5 not for Kindergarten. They had theirs on 8/29/22. If your child is out sick or changing dismissal plans please call, or write your classroom teacher a note. Please park in parking spots when on school property, do not block neighbors' driveways. Safety is our first priority. Please walk on the painted walkways. We are a "team". We are a large community. Sometimes things happen between kids, adults. We "have the best interest" of the children we swear by that. If there is a question or a concern please email me, please reach out to me. I will also ask people to give us the benefit of the doubt, your first email should never be to the Superintendent. I can guarantee if you do they will ask you to reach out to the classroom teacher, and follow the "chain of command". If you feel your concerns were handled properly then you can email anyone you like. We met with every grade level last week and talked about expectations. It is nice to be back in the building without masks, however some of our students due to COVID may not have had the opportunities to have playdates or birthday parties. This may have left them with having "hand problems" or "saying not nice things". We also talked about being responsible. We talked about being good, kind citizens when they leave here. We really talked to the kids about being friendly, being a good friend, using kind words, trying to help people, being the best you can be and helping others. We understand they are kids, they are going to make mistakes. We are excited to have everyone back, and all the events. Welcome back and look forward to a great year.

- **Unfinished Business:** No New Business

- **New Business:** After our picnic we are shifting our focus to our Fall Festival which is on 10/28/22. We are still brainstorming ideas and welcome suggestions. This is an all hands on deck event as well. We bring this up now because our next meeting is not until 10/22/22.
- **Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned 8:03

Notes written by: Janette Ruddy