
FLORHAM PARK PTA

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2017

RMS MEDIA CENTER

Executive Board:

Val Huang
President

Jennifer Gossweiler
VP Ridgedale

Alfie Zirpoli
VP Ridgedale

Kathy Henning
VP Brooklake

Jennifer Casola
VP Brooklake

Lisa Rossi
VP Briarwood

Alexis Seubert
VP Briarwood

Liliana Cannizzo
VP Arts in Education

Kristen Fox
Treasurer

Nicole Takla
Food Coordinator

Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary

Sarah Iodice
Corresponding Secretary

Call to order: President Huang at 7:02PM

- I. Welcome and Board Introduction
Val Huang introduced herself as the new PTA president and introduced the new and returning board members.
- II. School Safety and Recap of ALICE Program – Dr. Varley, Chief Orlando, Sargent Bartell
 - A. Dr. Varley and Chief Orlando provided an overview of the newly implemented ALICE safety protocol. This program gives teachers an option of whether to lock down or to evacuate to a safe location in the event of an emergency. This allows them to take action instead of passively waiting. Other surrounding districts, including Chatham are also implementing this plan.
 - B. Officer Johnstone and Officer Greenstein are currently assigned to the schools during the day. Four officers are working the roads around the schools during pickup and drop off times.
 - C. In Briarwood, Mrs. Glabb and Sgt. Bartell read the book I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared to each of the grades to help the kids understand what to do in an emergency. The protocol is that evacuation is the first best choice. However, if they are in a situation where the intruder is in their room, they are told to distract the intruder, make noise and spread out. It serves to confuse and disrupt the intruder and has been proven to be more effective than hiding and waiting.
 - D. There are phones in the classroom for teachers to alert the school in case of an intruder emergency. In addition, the magnetic strips installed on the doors can be easily removed by the teacher in case of a lock down situation. Interior and exterior doors must be closed at all times, but Dr. Varley did make an exception during the hot weather.
 - E. Florham Park has been randomly chosen by the state for a surprise safety drill this year.
- III. Principal's Update Briarwood – Sherri Glabb
 - A. Theme for the year is friendship and kindness. They read the book Blossom and Boo- A Story about Best Friends.
 - B. BWD Buddies- great start- getting to know you
 - C. FP Fire Department visit- this week
 - D. Week of respect activities– kindness bookmark, dance party, school expectations assembly
 - E. Next week- school violence awareness week- activities planned
Be a buddy- sock it to bullying- Silly sock day, No drama pajama day- jammy day, Show that everyone counts- wear a jersey

- F. Red Ribbon Week- Oct. 23- activities planned.
Coloring sheets, Lesson on drugs and alcohol- school nurse, and Helping hands- trace hands
 - G. ALICE training has gone well.
- V. Principal's Update Brooklake – Steven Caponegro
- A. Smooth transition to the school year. New schedule is going well... new schedule provides a minimum of 120 minutes of ELA and 60 minutes of Math, three 30 minute periods of Science to assist with completion of lab work.
 - B. Pre-Assessments have been completed (Math, ELA, Running Records, etc.)
 - C. Happy to see reading logs consistently being completed
 - D. Importance of checking Wed. Flyers
 - E. Yankee Spirit Day at BKL School today
 - F. Climate & Culture Student Committees have started - socio-emotional component just as important as academics, largest number of students enrolled this year
 - G. ALICE training with grade level students took place - great conversations, very proud of the students.
 - H. ALICE Rally Point walk-through took place. Each ALICE activity was communicated to parents via email for discussion at home as well.
 - I. The Sign Up Genius for fourth and fifth grade teacher conferences have gone out.
 - J. Adopt-A-Cop program has been implemented with a cop assigned to each homeroom. They will visit their adopted classrooms periodically fostering a stronger relationship with the children and the police force.
 - K. Thank you to Mrs. Huang, Mrs. Henning, Mrs. Casola, and Mrs. Cannizo for all of their efforts thus far and their role with BKL.
- VI. Principal's Update Ridgedale Middle School – Peter Christ
- A. Kicked off the year with an emphasis on community and caring about others. They have started a class called I Care which is held once every 6 days to help focus on this initiative.
 - B. They have identified two charities they are supporting to reach out to others. They have a partnership with the Morristown Soup Kitchen. The children will hear talks about how to manage money as well as help to collect food and supplies though the month of October. In addition, they have adopted Liberty High School in Houston Texas which was impacted by Hurricane Harvey.
 - C. This year the ELA classes are now doing Reader's Workshop along with the Writer's workshop. New initiatives to also focus on science and math. Science classes are now held daily. On 10/18, the science classes will be skyping with a scientist who is volunteering his time. The curriculum for Computers has been rewritten and a STEM lab class has been created.
 - D. HIC environmental trip is tomorrow for the 7th grade. It is held at a camp for kids with cancer which helps to supplement the camp.
 - E. They have added a Dean of Students position which will focus on more immediate conflict resolution between the students.
 - F. Question was asked about when Mrs. Jane's replacement will be hired and what is being done in the interim. They are hoping to have a permanent replacement in the classroom by next week. They are currently completing the paperwork. If that person does not work out they have a second choice waiting. Mr. Christ and Mr. Silkensen have been working on the curriculum in the meantime.
 - G. Comments were made that they liked the new format of the morning announcements.
- VII. Special Education Update – Gary Pascal, Supervisor of Special Education
- A. Currently reviewing all IEPs to make sure they are being followed and making any adjustments
 - B. Therapists are finalizing their schedules
 - C. He is aware of some of the concerns regarding the pre-school rollout and will be addressing them.
 - D. The Special Services Parent Advocacy Committee will be meeting Wednesday, October 18th at 7pm in the Board of Education Office. There will be a presentation about Fostering Social Skills.

- VIII. There will be an Opioid Epidemic Presentation on Thursday, October 12th at 7pm at Ridgedale Middle School sponsored by the Florham Park Police Department, FP Board of Education and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office. All are welcome.
- IX. Committee Updates – Please see the attached Committee Updates for full information.
- A. Color Run-Will be rescheduled for the spring.
 - B. Box Top collection will be starting soon.
 - C. School Pictures-RMS retakes will be 10/30 in school.
 - D. School Kits-PTA is looking into new vendors.
 - E. Prize Party-Will take place in the spring. Volunteers are needed for both large and small jobs.
 - F. Book Fair-Will take place next week. Volunteers are still needed. Please check the sign up genius. PTA will double check that the sign up genius is on document manager for Briarwood.
 - G. Brooklake Yearbook-A new email address will be set up so that parents can send pictures that they take at school events to be included. Pictures should only be from school events.
 - H. 8th Grade Dance-Committee members/chairs are needed for a variety of positions. They made \$400 from their first fundraiser-a clothing drive. Currently look for a d.j.-suggestions welcomed. Two additional fundraisers, a Chipotle food night and a "Tape the Teacher to the Wall" event to be held during Spirit Week, are awaiting Board of Ed approval.
 - I. T-Shirt sales for the RMS pep rally have started. They can be ordered online.
- X. Lunch Program – Nicole Takla
- A. Lunch program has been running smoothly. Sixth grade lunch service has gotten quicker, but it is the grade that orders the most. Suggested that if a parent sends in a snack as well that the children eat those snacks first and then go to the line when it is shorter.
 - B. To help speed the process, parents should let their kids know in the morning if they are getting lunch and what they are getting.
 - C. Suggestion was made to let new students know that you have to pre-order lunch and that with the exception of the salad bar at RMS that they can't just buy lunch that day. PTA will add that information to the New Student Information packet.
- XI. Arts and Education Assemblies – Lilianna Cannizzo
- A. Gian Paul, a motivational speaker for the Giants, will be coming back again this year. He spoke last year to RMS and it was very well received. This year he will be speaking to the 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The presentation will be at RMS and the 4th and 5th graders will be bussed over. He will also be doing a follow up presentation to the 7th and 8th graders about "Staying All In".
 - B. The Brain Show will be coming back to Briarwood and Brooklake.
 - C. We are looking at options for a cyberbullying/texting assembly.
 - D. Any suggestions are welcomed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary

Committee Reports-10/11/2017 PTA Meeting

VP Reports

Briarwood – (Lisa Rossi, lisa.rossi29@gmail.com ; Alexis Seubert, alexis@zenweb.com)

- Parents and Kindergarten students are invited to "Kindergarten Fun Night" on October 18th from 6-7pm. The PTA has created a fun event themed around a favorite children's book, The Rainbow Fish. This is not a drop off event and all parents must attend with their child.
- The Pumpkin and Poems contest will take Place from October 25th-31st. All participants are winners by either submitting a Halloween poem or decorating a pumpkin. More details are on the event flier on document manager.

Brooklake – (Kathy Henning, kathyhenning@optonline.net; Jennifer Casola, jcasola@gmail.com)

- The Brooklake T-Shirt sale has ended but we have few extra shirts. If you are in a need of a Bobcat shirt, please email jcasola@gmail.com or kathyhenning@optonline.com
- The PTA will once again sponsor the Brooklake Pumpkins & Poems Contest from October 25 - October 27 with chances to win a Gift Certificate to the Brooklake School Store. Check next week's Document Manager for the flyer with additional information.

Ridgedale – (Alfie Zirpoli, zirpoli5@gmail.com; Jennifer Gossweiler, jenn4550@gmail.com)

The year has started off great with a very successful school dance and dodgeball tournament as well as the car wash fundraiser.

- Important reminders for the upcoming month of October:
 - **Tuesday, October 10th Chromebooks go home with 6th gr. students**
 - **7th Grade Environmental Field Trip Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th.**
 - **Opioid presentation Thursday, October 12th**
 - **Week of October 16th- School Violence Awareness Week**
 - **Book Fair Monday, October 16th**
 - **Pep Rally T-shirts are currently on sale. You can order online at the Ridgedale School Store 2017. Please see document manager for more information.**

Treasurer Report (Kristen Fox, kristenfox@optonline.net)

As of 10/8/17, the PTA bank account balances are as follows:

PTA Operating Account: \$43,272.34

PTA Savings Account: \$10,105.10

PTA Food Account: \$20,477.81

PTA Gaming Account: \$100.00

- The Food Account ended the fiscal year on 6/30/17 with a balance of \$18,115.44. Later this month we will transfer \$16,000 to our Operating Account.
- The Operating Account ended the fiscal year on 6/30/17 with a balance of \$49,545.92. \$30,000 of this money has been divided equally between our three schools. Briarwood and Brooklake have purchased Doc Cameras and books for the classrooms with the money and Ridgedale has purchased a speaker system to be used at outdoor events along with a mural that will be painted in their hallway later this year. The PTA will be paying for these purchases later this month. Our current Box Tops total is \$3,648.70 which is also included in our total balance.

Food Treasurer Report (Nicole Takla, florhamparklunch@gmail.com)

- The 2nd lunch session began Tuesday, October 9th. This session will run through November 21st. Be on the lookout for information on 3rd session ordering in the beginning of November. You can find the dates of all the ordering sessions on the PTA website.
- Helpful Tips:
 - It is always a good idea to tell your child what they are getting for lunch each morning. Sometimes mistakes are made and names are not heard correctly. Encourage your children to have the servers double or triple check if they think there is an error.
 - If your child finds themselves without a lunch the serving staff will instruct them to go to the main office or to see the nurse. In Briarwood they will be escorted by school staff. They can then call a parent to bring in lunch or have the school staff call me to confirm orders.
- If you have suggestions or something new you would like to see on the menu please send us an email and let us know, florhamparklunch@gmail.com.

Arts in Education (Liliana Cannizzo, lilianacannizzo@gmail.com)

Speaker on October 24th at Ridgedale Middle School for Grades, 4th, 5th and 6th:

Gian Paul Gonzalez has traveled across the nation as a motivational speaker for many corporate, athletic, government and educational institutions. His message of being "All In" has reached people across the world. Gian Paul earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and is founder of an organization called Hope and Future which is dedicated to helping inner city youth. During the New York Giants' 2011 Super Bowl run, much of their inspiration is attributed to Gian Paul's now famous "ALL IN" rally cry speech that he delivered during the team's chapel service prior to their Christmas Eve game with the NY Jets. The 4th and 5th graders will be transported to RMS for this assembly.

October 24th - 2nd assembly for Grades 7th and 8th - Ridgedale Middle School

Gian Paul's follow up program : "Staying ALL IN"

For the 7th/8th graders who heard him last year.... he has his follow up "PART 2" called "Staying ALL IN". Sometimes we refer to it as a leadership workshop because it is interactive.

"Staying ALL IN"

Many times in life we commit to change, only to be discouraged when we begin to experience difficulty adapting to it. An excellent follow up to "Going ALL IN", Gian Paul discusses how to react towards failures that naturally come along the path of an ALL IN lifestyle. He approaches the ideals that come along with failure, and isolation mentality which needs to be combated in order to staying committed through the tough times.

Gian Paul uses interactive exercises including an activity/demonstration with an energy stick where he illustrates working together to stay "all in".

He concludes with a powerful story of his grandfather father surviving political prison in communist Cuba, and how it impacted Gian Paul's life to achieving his ambition of playing in the NBA in Los Angeles and working with inner-city youth. As in all of Gian Paul's talks the audience is left with a physical memento to take home to help reinforce the message and stay committed to a lifestyle of ALL IN.

Assemblies for Briarwood and other grades are currently in the works. Please watch document manager for information.

Board of Ed Liaison Report (Tracy Hunt, tracylhunt@yahoo.com)

Board of Education Meeting

September 25, 2017

Enrollment: 972 Students

HIB Report: There were 3 reported HIB incidents and after investigated, all of which all were found not meeting HIB criteria.

PARCC Scores Presentation by Brian Silkensen and Christy O'Conner:

Studies were done and comparisons made after the 3rd year of taking PARCC exam. These studies found where there are needs in each grade level and action plans are being created so that we can target where instruction is needed for our teachers. Dennis Shearing, a published mathematics author and math supervisor in Chatham, is assisting us with this goal.

PARCC Scores Comparison Study link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vTQ1iGKooHmTmxSFrWGJ2S3gMDNdX2f2HQYMngCU85PLTbk62pAnQK84GMDk2tYLNjicfAz4Bjrbvc/pub?start=true&loop=false&delayms=60000&slide=id.p4>

They are currently looking into a new math series for the middle school.

The PARCC study found that two of the biggest concerns for our district were Reasoning and Literary Analysis. It was found that computer familiarity had an impact on Grade 3 and to help with this we implemented using Pixie starting in Kindergarten, which has similar features (drop & drag) to PARCC.

Board/District/School Goals Presentation:

- 1 - Create a STEM program for 6-8 grade
- 2 – Comprehensive review for 5-8 grade
- 3 – Improve community relations.
- 4 – Focus on ELA and Readers Writers Workshop

Charlie Malone – Community Concerns:

Member of the Town Councils Finance and Recreation & Facilities did a brief presentation to the Board showing why taxes in the borough do not decrease based on the amount of new taxes generated from new construction homes in town. There is a trail from Stobaeus Field to Brooklake School that was purchased using open space funds. This trail is a short cut that can be used instead of sidewalks for children to get to school.

Marlene Rinaldi will be retiring after 29 years and 8 months. Dr. Varley and the Board thanked her for her years of service to our district.

Open Comments:

Two parents expressed concerns over the temperatures in the Brooklake School classrooms. Temperatures were over 78 degrees with 100% humidity is causing our children to overheat in the classrooms. NJ State law says classroom temperatures need to be between 68 and 79 degrees. Children are sitting in hallways during class time because it is too hot in the room. It was requested that Board members come and sit in the classroom just to see what it is like to work in these conditions. Children are going to the nurse's office because they are getting headaches and nausea. Parents have said they are willing to provide funds for oscillating fans.

A board member stated that they understand the concerns and in 2015 there was a feasibility study showing that there is no 'quick fix' because their electrical system needs updating. A bond referendum may be necessary in order to update electric in our buildings and replace 2 boilers and 2 school roofs as well as fund our repaving program. With a 2% flat tax rate, our budget is currently 'tapped out'. It was questioned that if New Horizons Camp can use window units, why can't we use them during the hot days in September? The response was that camp only operates a small portion of the school. The school doesn't have the electrical capacity to handle window units when its fully operational. Dr. Varley is aware of the concerns and will talk to facilities and continue monitor the situation. They are looking at long range plans to identify all issues. Charlie Malone encouraged the Board to discuss referendum discussions with Councilman Zuckerman.

10/17 is Florham Park Educational Foundation first meeting in the Board office.

Box Tops (Karen Corrao, kar4113@yahoo.com)

We will be starting to collect box tops for the 2017-2018 school year soon. Please send in any box tops to your child's classroom in a baggie with their name and classroom listed on it.

Color Run (Natalia DiRienza, mom2vc@gmail.com)

The color run has been postponed until the spring. Refunds have been issued to those who had pre-registered. Please watch document manager for the rescheduled date.

Thanksgiving Food Drive (Wendy Hahn, wendymatt.hahn@verizon.net)

The flyer and fundraiser request form as required by the BOE have been submitted for approval. The food drive will occur 11/1/17-11/15/17 for delivery of items to the Florham Park Food Pantry by 11/17/17.

Kids Stuff Books Fundrasier (BKL Jennifer Healey, hane123@yahoo.com ; BWD Dionne Rhodes, dionnerhodes08@gmail.com)

Brooklake -83 books have been sold thus far & 65 students still need to return their sales updates. The sale ended last Monday & "Urgent Reminder" notices went home at week-end to those students who had not yet returned anything.

Briarwood -The books were all distributed and due back on Monday 10/2. We are still in the process of collecting books or money from people.

School Pictures (Laura Domingues, laurad7207@aol.com)

- The 2017-2018 school pictures went very well this year. Countryside did an amazing job taking the pictures and getting the proofs back so quickly. Important dates were sent to each school informing parents how to order, due dates and retake dates.
- Briarwood picture due date whether it is the form or online is Friday, October 13. Retakes are on Wednesday, October 11 between 3:15 and 4:30 at Countryside Studio in Madison. Parents must sign for a time on the sign up genius provided by Countryside.
- Brooklake picture due date whether it is the form or online is Monday, October 16. Retakes are on Wednesday, October 18 between 3:15 and 4:30 at Countryside Studio in Madison. Parents must sign for a time on the sign up genius provided by Countryside.
- There was a little issue with the coloring of some of the proofs sent to Briarwood but the printing lab was notified and the problem would be corrected for the originals.

Holiday Gift Shop (Jackie Smith, jacquelinetbourne@yahoo.com; Janet Fritts, juanarace@aol.com)

Holiday Gift Shop is set for the week of November 27th. It will run 11/27-12/1. The contract with the vendor has been signed. Sign up genius for parent volunteers and class schedules will be coming out in early November. Flyers will be sent out with all students a few weeks prior to event.

Holiday Toy Drive (Jeannina Manias, jsolis01@hotmail.com)

The dates for this year's Holiday Toy Drive will be 11/27 to 12/15. We will collect in all 3 schools. Please watch document manager for information as we get closer.

Book Fair (Christina Clark, clark41704@gmail.com)

- The fall book fair this year is a Wild West theme and is scheduled the week of October 16-20
see document manager for schedules

- Help Build our Classroom Libraries - Once again this year, we will be requesting a donation of \$1-\$3 per student for their teacher to go shopping for books to help build their classroom libraries. Participation is NOT required. If you choose to participate, please send your donation in a separate envelope with the teacher's name marked "Classroom Library Donation". Thank you in advance.
- New this year, Evening Book Fair Shopping! The book fair will be open at Brooklake and Briarwood schools on Wednesday, October 18th from 6-8PM for parents wanting the shop with their children.
- We are still in need of parent volunteers. Please see links below.

Please use the following link for Briarwood:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084ca5af2ba75-briarwoods>

Please use the following link for Brooklake:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084ca5af2ba75-brooklakes>

PTA Membership (Alisa Laudicina, alisa.laudicina@gmail.com)

- Thank you to all class moms who collected membership dues at the various BTSNs. We also had two opportunities for parents to join via My Food Days.
- We currently have 403 paid PTA members emailed their cards. Another approximately 50 paid members to be entered into the system once I receive email addresses from the class lists that are coming in.
- I continue to drop by the schools weekly to collect membership dues from the PTA mailboxes. If anyone still wants to contribute, please tell them to leave a check in the PTA mailbox with their child's name and class in the memo section and a note with the parent name and email address.

Prize Party (Jamie McGough, fppta2018@gmail.com)

Planning is now underway for our biggest fundraiser. Please consider helping out this year-we have big and small positions available! For more information please contact Jamie at fppta2018@gmail.com.

Back to School Packs (RMS-Tracy Granata, tracytg@optonline.net; Brooklake-Beth Haberman, bethhaberman@me.com; Briarwood-Meijie Diskin, dmeilie@yahoo.com)

There were a number of delivery and other vendor related issues with the back to school packs this year. The PTA is currently reviewing our options and other vendors to continue this service in the future.

RMS - RMS supplies made the PTA \$691.72. The company had a big problem with their delivery service, and although RMS received many of their kits, some were missing supplies or entire boxes.

Brooklake -- All supplies were finally delivered. One kit was missing so a full refund was issued. All families in grades 3-5 received a 40% refund of the kit price. All 4th grade families also received a refund for the cost of the zipper binder which was never delivered. The PTA received 20% of sales from the company for our troubles. This amount was about \$1800.

Briarwood –This was the first year for Schoolkidz school supplies ordering for Briarwood. There were problems with the delivery process by Schoolkidz with the kits being delivered a week later than expected, some kits and some items were missing. But problems were resolved within two weeks after school started.

Eighth Grade Talent Show (Kathy Bridge, kathybridge01@gmail.com; Marsiel Marquez, ruvalcabamarquez@gmail.com)

The talent show committee leaders will be holding a meeting soon for volunteers. They will begin sign ups in November.

Eighth Grade Dance (Lynn Kahn, kahn97@optonline.net; Lynn Ten Broeck, lynntb@optonline.net)

8th Grade Dance – June 8, 2018

- Dance Committees: We are in the process of setting up a sign-up genius for parents to assist with the dance. Some Chair positions have already been filled but additional volunteers will be needed for each committee.
 - a. Overall Dance Chairs – Lynn Ten Broeck and Lynn Kahn
 - b. Decorations – Kathy Henning and Heather Schubert
 - c. Bake Sale – Cara Irwin and TBD
 - d. Favors – Deena Peterson and TBD
 - e. Fundraising – TBD
 - i. Clothing Drive was held in early September and had a profit of \$ 400. Another clothing drive will be held in the Spring
 - ii. 2 additional fundraisers are being presented to the BOE in the near future and if approved will be held in November 2017
- Theme – class was given three options (Winter Wonderland, Luau, and Willy Wonka). Class voted in early October and decided on theme.
- Gym has been secured all day 06/06/18 – 06/09/18
- Researching potential DJ's