

Bower Hill Elementary PTA
Regular Meeting: January 10, 2018
Minutes



1. Call to Order	The President, Karen Lingis , called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. There were 14 people in attendance.
2. President's Remarks	Karen Lingis welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes	Minutes from Nov 2017 were presented. Erin Helon made a motion to pass the reading of the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Michelle Adamshick. Minutes from Nov 2017 were approved as written.
4. Treasurer's Report	Treasurer, Julie Collins. The following items were presented by Treasurer Julie Collins. • Budget Updates: ○ Increased Educational Enrichment Fund from \$25-\$50/teacher. ○ Please refer to Summary on back of attached Budget Sheet for other changes. • Banking /Constant Contact ○ Proposed to increase Banking Budget by \$50 to purchase a new check book. ○ Proposed to increase the Constant Contact service budget by \$28 to pay for additional fees. ○ Motion made by Michelle Adamshick to make the above adjustments and seconded by Kristen Blum. • Recess Relief Budget – a new playground structure was proposed by Administration and has been discussed. See attached copy/picture. The cost of the structure would be approximately \$1000. The proposal would be to increase the Budget of the Recess Relief Budget by \$1000. ○ Motion made by Tara Matusuzki and seconded by Paula Potter to increase this budget item by \$1000. • School Tool Box Gift Card • The PTA is looking to purchase a Gorilla Cart (see attached). The cost would be approx. \$100. We received a Gift Card from the School Tool Box Kit company for \$100 and would like to use it for this purchase. • Motion made by Melissa Konggaard and seconded by Tara Matuzuski for the above to voted on. • Additional Budget updates discussed; expenses and income items as noted on the attached Budget. • Current Balance \$69,760.76 • Motion made by Melissa Konggaard to pay the bills, seconded by Tara Matuzuski
5. Teacher Remarks	Mr. Killen attended the meeting and had the following remarks: • Thank you for the Holiday cookie exchange. You don't know how much you brighten our spirits. • Thank you for the Holiday Parties. The games and crafts were so well planned and worked great. • Pittsburgh Day is February 2nd. There will be allergy letters sent out for any children who may be affected. The teachers have the day planned and ready to go. We will need parent volunteers for the day. Everyone in the school will wear Black & Gold. • In conjunction with Pittsburgh Day, the 3rd Grade is doing a canned food drive for the Building. All donations will go to the Peters Township Food Pantry. It is a great benefit to the Pantry because this time of year, is when the supplies get low because of the drop off after the Holidays.
6. Report of First Vice President	Laura Rohrbach gave a brief report on the following committees: • Area Council: ○ The last meeting, Jan 18th, featured the Building Principals.

	● Assemblies: Melissa Mertz is the chair. ○ The next assembly is in February and will be the Civic Light Opera – Gallery of Heroes – The Roberto Clemente Story ○ The last assembly will be in May – Carnegie Science Center - Solar Quest Program ● Family Game Night – January 26th from 6-8 PM. ViaDale signups are out. They are looking for people to donate Cookies for refreshments. ● Homework Helpers – winter session is full but the next session is February. ○ McMurray Homework Helpers is open too for those with older kids
7. Report of Second Vice President	Sam McVicker gave a report on the following committees: ● Yearbook – We have reached our final price line at \$24. If you know anyone who has not purchased, please encourage them to buy one. ● After School Classes – thank you to Melissa Konggaard and Brittany Tate for all their work organizing and getting it all up and running. ● Run Club – Run club will start the second week of March and go for 8 weeks leading up to the Kids of Steel Fun Run. Day of the week not confirmed, but currently may be on Thursday. ● Beestro – The Beestro Date is April 27th. This is a school wide meal that we hold. Meal is provided by Pasta Too. You can eat in or take out. The Spring book fair will also be running on this night. ● Kindergarten Registration – will be March 14-15. ● Library Volunteers – Our library is always looking for volunteers. Please come for as little or as long as you want.
8. Report of Third Vice President	Deanna Gallagher gave a report on the following committees: ● School Pictures – will be on August 30th next year with retakes on Oct 4th. ● Spring Book Fair: There will be another Book Fair in the Spring on April 23-27. We did earn the Buy One Get One Free based on our Fall Sales (one of the MOST successful in the Region!). ● Box Tops/Tyson Labels: Please clip and send your box tops and your Tyson labels. Next box top drawing Feb 2nd. Please also remember to check expiration dates before you send them in. Our latest check for these is approximately \$1200 from Box Tops. ● Gratitude Committee: In December, the project was Winter Décor – the kids made snowflakes and snowmen at the Holiday Party to decorate the following places; Day School (part of the Children’s Institute), Children’s Home of Pittsburgh, and Bethlehem Haven. We received a thank you letter from Children’s Home and Lemieux Family Center; which was read to those in attendance. There will be another project with the Valentine Party –the kids will make Spring wreaths to be donated to Assisted Living places. ● Spirit Recognition – Thank you to Buzzer for all the Winter appearances. ○ Jan 26th next Red & White Day. ○ Buzzer does have a spirit gift t-shirt that will be given to all students. Shirts will have the Only One You Theme. ● Teacher/Staff Appreciation Thank you to all the parents who donated all the items who for the Cookie Exchange. Also, Thank You to the committee (Melissa Sobieralski, Deanna Campagna, and Stacey Henderson) who organized the exchange. We did receive a lot of Thank You cards from the teachers too.
9. Principal’s Remarks	Mr. Garvey welcomed parents and presented the following remarks: ● Thank you again for the Cookie Exchange, the parties, etc. everything is so well done and so appreciated. ● It was mentioned at the last meeting about our 98.6 School Performance rating; we were the highest rated school in all of Washington County. Regarding the number of proficient and advanced kids in 3rd grade, we were one of the highest in the State. In comparison to districts overall, Bower Hill is #2 in the State. ● Mrs. Good in the office asks if you have a Medical Excuse to please bring those in with your late arrival/early dismissal, absence, etc. The medical excuse will also be accepted late. ● The snow make-up day on Jan 15th, please complete the ETF for your child if you are not going to be here.

	○ We have done a lot of donation drives this year; toy drive, food drive, sock drive, coat drive; and the support we have here from our families is amazing and Thank You! ○ Also noted that Peters Township won the coat drive this year! ● District Volleyball game is Jan 25th – 6-8 PM. Please come and support the Bower Hill Team. ● After School Classes are up and running and going well. ● 100th day of School is Feb 5th; provided there is no more snow days!! ● If anyone is interested in being a recess monitor – we have 2 positions to fill. The time for the position is 11:15 – 1:45; \$13.60/hour. Noted that the kids DO go outside every day. ● PSSA testing question was posed; what do they do for kids with IEPs? ○ The test is a model of what we teach; and an indicator of “are we moving the needle”. They help to drive our instruction and the way we teach our children. ○ It was discussed about how the teachers and staff work hard to make it less stressful and light-hearted for the kids.
10. Old Business	● Question regarding Pop Tabs – yes they are still being collected! Please send them in with your child.
11. New Business	● None
Guest Speaker	Guest Speaker: Officer Dave Stanton form the Peters Township Police Department attended the meeting to discuss some relevant School and Community Programs and issues currently in our community. ● The DARE program that the PT Police Department presents to Bower Hill. The program is presented to mostly grades 1-3. The program is presented over 3-days. Topics discussed in the program are: ○ Helmets – seeing a lot of kids with head injury when riding hover boards. ○ Stranger Danger – the biggest place kids are meeting strangers is online video games. 13-14 yo boys are the most “at risk” age group. ○ Getting lost; if you do, how to find your way. ○ How to handle emotions – what to do when you get angry. ○ In 3rd grade they start to present the topic of Drugs; safe use of medications, poison/household items that can be poison. ○ 5th Grade – 10-lesson program with homework; ● Youth Commission – is a Rehabilitation – 1-time offender program. If someone is arrested for a non-alcoholic non-felony crime; they go through the Youth Commission. Includes volunteer time with a report – lasts over a 4-6 month period. ● DARE Model Railroad Club – meets every Wednesday from 3-6 PM at the old Venetia School. Started as a model building club and has evolved into a train building club. Ages anywhere from 2nd Grade and up. ● Citizens Academy – March 6th is the next Citizen’s Academy. In this program, people are taught the basics of criminal law. Program goes from March 6th – April 24; 6:30-8:45/once a week. ● Officer Dave also discussed other relevant topics that are touching our community; e.g. drug use, vaping.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52.

Submitted by: Christine Mullery
Christine Mullery, Secretary, 2017/2018

Date approved: 03/07/2018