



Increase Miller Elementary School PTO General Board Meeting & Principal's Coffee ▪ Minutes

Co-President, Cassie Hollander
Co-President, Danielle Palermo
Co-Vice President, Jim Danalewich
Co-Vice President, Dina Borelli
Secretary, Barbara Accetta
Treasurer, Seth Christian
Member at Large, Inna Rabinowitz
Member at Large, Kathy Martin

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 9:30 AM
Location: IMES Cafeteria
Attendees: Principal Kerry Ford
Board Members: Cassie Hollander, Danielle Palermo, Jim Danalewich, Dina Ebolli, and Barbara Accetta

Meeting called to order by Cassie Hollander at 9:34 AM.

PTO Updates

- **Intro of PTO**
 - Cassie provided an overview of the PTO and introduction of members
- **Bond Vote**
 - PTO distributed literature detailing the upcoming Bond Vote and where funds will be allocated.
 - Jim explained Budget vs. Bond, the latter being for major capital improvements needed in all 5 district schools.
 - The PTO encouraged attendees to vote in favor of the Bond and explained why the organization believes it is crucial.
- **PTO vs. PTA**
 - Cassie explained the difference between the two types of Parent-Teacher groups, which stemmed from an attendee asking this question.
- **Eddie's Extra's**
 - Danielle provided an update on the status of announcing BSA & ASA programming, which has been renamed Eddie's Extra's.
 - Programming will begin on 10/3 and runs for 9 weeks, ending just prior to winter break.
 - Registration will open next week; expect it to be fast as sign-ups happen quickly.
 - There will be similar offerings as years past – arts, sports, theater, animals in nature, karate, music, mineraft, coding – with some new options such as magic and foreign languages.
 - Spring sessions will run a tad longer than 9 weeks.
 - Morning programming 8:10-9:10am; afternoon programming 3:34-4:45pm.
- **Enrichment**
 - Introduction of Natalie Samter, Enrichment Chair, to all attendees.
 - Natalie covers enrichment for all grades, including field trips and author visits. IMES will host a STREAM convention again this year.
 - Committee is always accepting volunteers.
- **Connect with PTO**
 - Reminders to register for Membership Toolkit (a great way to connect for playdates, parties, etc) and subscribe to Eagle Express.



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- PTO will always communicate events and important info in advance via Eagle Express.

Kerry Ford Updates

- **Welcome & Intro**
 - Kerry introduced herself and welcomed attendees to IMES' first General PTO meeting & Principal's Coffee
- **Current Schoolwide Theme**
 - Building Community has been the theme for the beginning of the school year; IMES speaks to the kids about their own identity.
 - IMES has used the book called What I Am and it's a way to build community in their classroom: culture, language, interests, etc. and they can find commonalities among each other and be more accepting of differences.
 - IMES has a committee for Diversity & Inclusion and makes a point to include cultures, different holidays, etc.
- **IMES Behavioral Expectations**
 - Kind. Responsible. Safe.
 - Teachers are talking about what are safe behaviors vs what are not and why it's important to be safe.
 - What does kind look and sound like? Etc.
 - IMES teaches this a LOT in Sept and Oct. The foundation is set now and is referenced over the course of the school year.
 - Kerry introduced Marlee Shwartz, IMES Psychologist.
- **Safety Drills**
 - IMES is required under NYS to discuss drills at each PTO meeting.
 - Parents will see email messages as the drills happen.
 - IMES tries to front load the drills at the beginning of the year so that we are set and children are prepared in case they need to be put into motion.
 - SERT - School Emergency Response Team. IMES has one here and Marlee is on it, Michael, Kerry, staff has walkie talkies, etc.
 - Kerry provides a reassuring voice on the loudspeaker each time prior to the drill to let the students know that it is only practice.
 - IMES has an Early Dismissal on October 7 per a practice emergency drill.
 - Kerry reviewed protocols for the dismissal.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.