

# Park Brook PTO Minutes

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## In Attendance

- Scott Taylor - Principal
- Paula Biessener - Speech Pathologist
- Jake Engstrand - Vol. Coordinator
- Char Vecellio - Parent
- Joe Shah - Parent
- Patty Shah - Parent
- MiaKha Thao - Parent
- Robin Tousignant - Treasurer/Parent

## Principal's Report

- Recent school assembly focused on character theme of Living Life to the Fullest. Emphasized the importance of being involved, having hobbies, traveling, and other activities that enrich ones life.
- Park Brook is supported by various community organizations including:
  - CycleHealth — PB students recently received information about the Sweat Challenge. Also, on Saturday, February 27th, there will be an opportunity to participate in a Kidarod (obstacle course) at Eagle Lake Regional Park.
  - Loppett Foundation — They are currently sending coaches to PB to teach 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students XC-skiing during Phy Ed. They have also arranged for the older PB students to have the opportunity to participate in the Mini-Loppett. The Loppett foundation has not only significantly reduced our fee for this event, but they are paying for our bus.
  - Girls on the Run — Will be providing a social/running activity for 8-15 PB girls to participate in. They will provide the coaches and cover the participation fee. Emily Virant & Connie Milstein will also help facilitate the group. Will be help on Tuesdays/Fridays after school.
  - District 279 Foundation — Providing grant for 2-day field trip for 5th graders to Wirth Park
  - Allina Health — Continues to support PB in many ways
  - Twin Cities in Motion - Feb 6th Fun Run for students in Pre-K--2
  - Three Rivers Park District — Bike grant. Providing 30 bikes in a trailer, delivered to a Three-Rivers park to be used by PB to teach kids safe riding on the streets.

- YMCA — March Field Trip which will include both swimming and use of the climbing wall
- Current reading & math interventions at PB:
  - Math & Reading Corp for those students just under proficiency
  - Two foster grandparents working with students 1:1
  - Pre-teaching of math by Mrs. Beczkalo
  - Mrs. Orton - extra math teacher to make teaching groups smaller
  - Ms. Johnson - teaching 3rd grade guided-reading to decrease the size of the groups
- Joe Shah (parent) would like to see a dyslexia reading specialist with certification from Orton Gillingham at PB.
- Celebration of Cultures will be held in March during the school day. This will have an Olympic theme and feature games from around the world. There will be volunteers from Minnehaha Academy. This event is being planned with Ann Mock from Oak View.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

- Winter Funland
  - February 19, 2016
  - Our representative from Chip Shoppe is providing our inflatable for us.
  - Admission price voted on. Will charge \$6/child.
  - New this year will be a photo booth. Each child will have an opportunity to have their picture taken & printed.
  - Same snacks as last year. Wellness committee will make the popcorn & smoothies.
  - Already have 10-15 volunteers. Mr. Taylor would like to have a couple of dads out by the fire.
  - Will check with YMCA about the possibility of their providing a zumba instructor.
  - Allina will have 1 or 2 booths.
- Spirit Wear Fundraiser — Will be open to staff & students. Will have order forms available for families at conferences. In the future may try to offer this fundraiser in the Fall as well.
- Box Tops
  - Recently raised \$359 (included 2 separate submissions)

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

- Will provide collections sheets to students & use left-over carnival prizes as an incentive for students to return more box tops.
- There was 6 lbs. of cookie dough left unclaimed after our Fall fundraiser. This was purchased by a staff member & donated to PB. Patty Shah (parent) has volunteered to help bake the cookies for staff on conference nights.

### **Mrs. Biessener's Report**

- PB now houses an Early Childhood ECFE/ECSE classroom that currently has 37 students (AM session and PM session). This is a great program that focuses on having the students kindergarten-ready.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- PTO currently has over \$7000 their account