

Brewerton Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2021
via Zoom

1. PRINCIPAL REPORT

- a. **Covid update:** Brewerton has had very few positive Covid cases. School is really focused on social distancing. Lots of teachers are willing to eat lunch with their kids which has kept quarantines down. Zero quarantines out of the cafeteria since this has started. Only quarantines are from school bus exposures. The nurse has been busy. Every symptom you could possibly have is a covid symptom. There is a new web link that gives staff and students experiencing covid symptoms a fast pass to Pulaski Urgent Care to get tested with about a 2 hour turnaround time. Oswego county has worked this out for CSSD. You can ask the nurse for help to try to get you in. You might have results that day and be able to get your child back in school that day.
- b. October Fall Fest - The kids really enjoyed it. Lots of students referring to “the best day ever,” a little piece of Disney at Brewerton. Possibility of a winter event?
- c. Parent-teacher Conferences are in person. If there are parents who are concerned about coming in and would like to do a zoom, let the teacher know and they can set it up.
- d. Nurse is new. She is outstanding- calm, cool and knowledgeable.
- e. Halloween will be celebrated at school Friday 10/29 which is a half day. There will be classroom parties first, no volunteers. Afterwards, weather permitting, we will have an outdoor parade. Students will exit the building from one of the doors and go all the way around the parking lot towards Miller, and back in the other door. Anyone who wants to take their child at the end of the parade can use pikmykid. There will also be a regular half day dismissal with pikmykid as well.
- f. Possibility of a community snow sculpture contest during the winter. Slideshow of photos sent in. Kids decorate paper snowmen around the school (talk with Mrs. Derschang, similar to the pumpkin decorating happening now). Winter Wonderland at Brewerton

2. BUDGET REVIEW/TREASURER REPORT - the budget was reviewed and approved

3. Fundraisers/PTO sponsored events

- a. Thank you to Jessica & Greg Brewster as well as Emily Bush for putting together such an awesome Trunk or Treat! Looked amazing and everyone loved it.
- b. Unfortunately, we will not be holding a Fire Dept. visit this year. There were a few different factors that played into this. We will look into it earlier next year to see if

we can make it happen for the students. The West Monroe FD held an event this past week and people said it was great.

- c. Cheri DaRin and Emily Basile started purchasing for the Holiday Bazaar. They are 85% completed.
- d. Square 1 Art is all done and sent in. November 2nd: School receives packets back to distribute to students. November 16th: Students Orders return deadline. November 19th: school ships orders. December 13th: School receives product
- e. Amazon Smiles flyer sent to families by Mr. Bowden. Also, posted to our Facebook page. Mr. Bowden will try to send out a text with the information as well.
- f. Wreath sale by Mrs. A. Burns has been approved and copies will go home soon. \$5 of each wreath sold goes back to the PTO. Orders need to be returned to school by November 12th.. Pick up will be Monday, November 29th from 3:00-5:30p.m at Brewerton Elementary, or she will deliver it to your home.
- g. Food Drive: Need to find out from Mr. Bowden if it is district wide. If not, we will definitely do one to support the Brewerton Food Pantry. Brent suggested a Venmo drive - cash is most valuable to the food pantry and it will save the logistics of collecting food items in school. A parent suggested that kids will not understand what we are trying to accomplish if we are just doing a venmo drive. Perhaps we could hold the food drive at the food pantry again like last year's drive thru. We also need to get our check to the food pantry for the Thanksgiving baskets. Patty can call to arrange to drop that off to her. Also every year we hold a toy drive to support Divine Mercy's Christmas Adopt a family program.
- h. **November meeting date** - The currently scheduled one (11/17) was in conflict with parent-teacher conferences. November 10th was suggested and approved.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

- a. **What is the Holiday Bazaar?** The PTO purchases items from Dollar Tree for kids, men, women, pets (dogs and cats) and holiday items. The students will receive a shopping list that they fill out and bring in money, \$1 for each item. The classroom teacher signs up for a time that their class can come shop. This is not a fundraiser for PTO (the items cost us \$1 and we sell them for \$1), it is simply an exciting holiday event where the kids can shop for their families. All children can shop regardless if they bring in money or not due to our Santa bucks fund.

Next PTO meeting is November 10th at 6:30pm