

**Bower Hill Elementary PTA  
Regular Meeting: October 3, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**



1. Call to Order	<b>The President, Samantha McVicker</b> , called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.
2. President's Remarks	<b>Samantha McVicker</b> welcomed everyone, thanked them for their attendance and mentioned it is great to see some new faces.
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes	<b>Secretary, Michelle Adamshick</b> , verified those in attendance had received a copy of the Minutes from the September meeting included with the handouts for today's meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made by Jessica Brodzinski and seconded by Laura O'Neill.
4. Treasurer's Report	<p><b>Treasurer, Julie Collins</b> presented the Treasurer's report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the current treasurer's report were distributed.</li> <li>• Read-A-Thon is underway but not in the money-collecting stage just yet. This money funds most of our programs so we're hoping for a successful Read-A-Thon this year.</li> <li>• Motion to pay bills was made by Angela Srsic and seconded by Jane Engel.</li> </ul>
5. Teacher Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
6. Guest Speaker	<p><b>Myra Oleynik</b> provided a summary of the Peters Township Library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wagon Card gets you access to 20 libraries in the area, can request materials from other branches to be picked up at Peters Township Library.</li> <li>• Tim O'Brien, fiction writer, coming to speak at the library in November.</li> <li>• The library is involved with Rachel's Challenge which just kicked off, provided a handout with uplifting reading recommendations</li> <li>• Fall Programming schedule handout for children, can always join mid-session</li> <li>• Work with kindergarten teachers here to promote early literacy. Express K pickup – can drop off form and librarians will prepare pickup order. Currently set up for kindergarteners but other grades will follow.</li> <li>• Scarlett's Sunshine Section – provides the community a place to go with materials about loss of a pet, grandparent, etc.</li> <li>• Veteran's Event called 'Welcome Home' coming up soon for kids and families.</li> <li>• Can use app called Key Ring, type in library card number and use the app to self-checkout books.</li> <li>• Please 'like' the library on Facebook and sign up to receive the weekly newsletter.</li> <li>• Night with QED coming up soon too.</li> <li>• Provided a review of the library website and online resources available - such as Book FLIX (great for young kids); Flipster (with magazines); Freegal (5 song downloads a week); Kanopy for kids and adults shows; Mango for different languages; Muzzy for foreign languages for kids; NoveList Plus includes kids, helps with book recommendations; OverDrive for audiobooks using app called Libby; TeachingBooks.Net provides books guides, vocabulary lists and more; World Book Online and much more!</li> </ul>

<p>7. Report of First Vice President</p>	<p><b>Angie Glud</b> gave a brief report on the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>After school Dance:</b> Classes started and includes 41 Bower Hill students but more can still sign up. Class will be cancelled this Monday due to McMurray Open House.</li> <li>● <b>Area Council:</b> Area Council Meetings are held once a month on the third Thursday of the month and are a great chance to learn more about all the schools in the District. The next meeting is Thursday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15, with building principals speaking. Jessica Brodzinski relayed information from the past meeting – great feedback from Rachel’s Challenge; might ask Chris, the Rachel’s Challenge presenter that came into each school for the assemblies, to return in April; staff went through a tourniquet training and received Stop the Bleed kits in case of emergency; staff also received training by Police Officers to prepare them for gunshot sounds; East McMurray will be closed on October 26 for a District-wide Alice Training with all staff and local agencies; teachers will continue to be trained on the intervention program using Hive Time, resulting in 24% rise in grades, 50% drop in enrollment for intervention in 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Math Intervention and training is in the works (offered at Bower Hill currently for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders); attendance policy revision which now requires doctor’s excuse after 10 days or magistrate will be notified; students will not be informed about low lunch money balance here at Bower Hill; the District is still requesting parents update/confirm their contact info online using AtoZ connect, important to verify information for both Bower Hill and the District. Samantha McVicker requested those at the meeting pass this information on to others not at the meeting. The deadline is tomorrow 10/4; our school scored 100% compliance when our special education program was audited; additional special education training will be provided on in-service days; teacher’s contract was extended until 2024 which is great news; meeting planned for Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. with school board to discuss the future of the District and possible changes to school buildings in the District; used book sale at the Middle School will now be held every other year; Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> is a Wellness Committee Meeting and they are looking for new committee members; a Resource Officer has been added to the Middle School, he also took over the DARE program that involves 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Bower Hill; at the meeting Mr. Garvey’s excitement about Rachel’s Challenge was commended and the principals love receiving feedback emails from the parents</li> <li>● <b>The Book Fair:</b> The Fall Book Fair update was provided by Angela Srsic. It will be Oct 15 – 19 during the school day and during Open House hours. You can sign up to volunteer in AtoZ. A flyer will be coming home next week with more information about shopping with your child during the school day or at Open House. EWallet feature will be new this year. Teachers also fill out a wish list if you would like to purchase books for the teachers. Honor Society members are a great help by volunteering with the Book Fair. Bags will be donated by Giant Eagle for shoppers. Can round up to the nearest dollar to donate books. Currently looking for new ideas of where to donate books.</li> <li>● <b>Box Tops/Tyson Labels:</b> Please clip and send your box tops and your Tyson labels. Next drawing is this Friday. Can send them in on paper or in baggies, preferably in sets of 10.</li> <li>● <b>Character Counts:</b> Rachel’s Challenge community kick-off was held last month as Character Counts celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> year. Next meeting is Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at Trinity United Methodist Church. Fall award ceremony is on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>● <b>Membership:</b> Please sign up with AtoZ Connect to purchase your PTA Membership online. There are many volunteer opportunities on AtoZ and you must be a member to sign-up.</li> <li>● <b>Reflections:</b> Jessica Brodzinski, the Reflections Chair, spoke about the theme Heroes Around Me. All students are eligible and can enter for more than one category. This Nationwide PTA-sponsored contest includes many categories such as art, film, writing, photography, dance, etc. Submission boxes can be found throughout the school. Mr. Garvey relayed that Mr. Tupper has been helping with brainstorming ways to encourage participation; each Friday they will start to showcase some submissions on Bee TV.</li> <li>● <b>Spirit Recognition</b> – Buzzer Bee and Cat and the Hat greeted the kids on Red &amp; White Spirit Recognition Day this past Friday. Thanks to Chelsea Johnston for volunteering to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buzzer.</li> </ul>
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<p>8. Report of Second Vice President</p>	<p><b>Carrie Ace</b> gave a report on the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Art Volunteers:</b> Mrs. McAfoose has asked for donations of paper towel tubes, cereal boxes, shoe boxes, kid-friendly magazines, egg cartons, plastic containers, plastic bottles, and cardboard. If you're not sure, send it in anyway and she will recycle it.</li> <li>● <b>Beautification:</b> Mr. Killen went to a relative's farm to cut down corn stalks. Thanks to Julie Collins for helping to set them up outside of the school. Mrs. Piatt purchased mums from a school fundraiser. New kindergarten students will have their painted rocks added to the rock garden soon. Mrs. McAfoose has started sketching hallways to be painted soon.</li> <li>● <b>Gratitude:</b> Halloween candy collection of unused candy, the library and FitHouse will be drop-off locations and will then be distributed to City Mission, the VA Hospital in Aspinwall, and small bags will be made and dropped off at the Fire Station and Police Station.</li> <li>● <b>Library Volunteers:</b> Report given by <b>Michelle Adamshick</b>, the chairperson. Email was recently sent to all those who signed up to volunteer with the October sign-up calendar. If you're on the approved library volunteer list, you can now stop in to volunteer whenever but still sign up online in advance if possible.</li> <li>● <b>Open House:</b> Open House is Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Angela Srsic is the chairperson and said she has about half the cookie donations she needs so far but we're getting there. You can make or buy cookies. A sign up will coming out soon for volunteers to work the cookie table.</li> <li>● <b>Read-a-thon.</b> Report given by <b>Laura Rohrbach</b>, the chairperson. Read a thon is going well. Next raffle is tomorrow, ends Sunday night and last raffle is Monday morning. Money will be turned in next week. Medal ceremony is Oct. 17. Signs hung in the hallways display minutes read per class.</li> <li>● <b>Volunteer Coordinators:</b> Homeroom and grade coordinator have been selected. Online Signups are closed for parties but you can still reach out to homeroom parent.</li> <li>● <b>Yearbook:</b> Intro price has ended and next price increase will be Oct. 22. Replayit App is now up and running again so please upload any photos. If you have any trouble reach out to Chelsea, Carrie or Sam. Pictures should have only Bower Hill students.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Report of Third Vice President</p>	<p><b>Laura Rohrbach</b> gave a report on the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Homework Helpers:</b> <b>Carrie Ace</b>, the chairperson, provided the update. Sold out for the Fall session which ends in Dec. Sign-ups for next session start end of Nov.</li> <li>● <b>School Pictures:</b> Retakes are tomorrow. Kids will hear it announced over the loudspeaker.</li> <li>● <b>Spirit Wear:</b> Orders will come in at the end of October.</li> <li>● <b>Spirit Week:</b> Coming up Oct. 15-19.</li> <li>● <b>Teacher Staff Appreciation</b> – The Committee is looking for volunteers to donate/supply/make food for the staff for both nights of Open House. Sign-ups are available on AtoZ.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Principal's Remarks</p>	<p><b>Mr. Garvey</b> added information throughout the meeting and shared the following additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Alice Training for All Staff:</b> Will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> with all the local agencies</li> <li>● <b>Rachel's Challenge:</b> Connecting with our Hero Program, Red &amp; White Day will now be called Red White &amp; Kind Day with a new banner to be hung outside, a great idea by Mrs. McAfoose. New activities – kids will be signing the Rachel's challenge banner, kindness chain will begin and continue all year long, chains from each classroom will be combined on Red White &amp; Kind Day, Hero Lesson this month ties in with Read-A-Thon about Horton Hears A Who and The Giving Tree so kids will write on tree ring what they're grateful for and how to be kind, then the tree rings will be hung on the wall shaped like helping hands; exciting time!</li> </ul>
<p>11. Old Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>

12. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
13. Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>

Submitted by: Michelle Adamshick  
Michelle Adamshick, Secretary, 2018/2019

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_