

**Prairie PTO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, February 9,  
2021  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
9:15 a.m.



**PRAIRIE CAMPUS**  
**BARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

**Call To Order** 9:17am by Stacey Tomczak

**Secretary Report ~ Stacey Tomczak**

- Motion to approve January 2021 PTO Prairie Minutes: Nicole Koviak First; Tracey Croy Second; all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

**Principal Report ~ Travis Lobbins**

- Conference committee meeting tomorrow – conferences will be done the same way as they were done in the fall.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation – Lots of ideas, plans are happening. There are limits and need to follow guidelines.
- Build 220 – Referendum plans/projects are beginning. Mobiles at Prairie will be taken down in June. Please refer to the district web page for updates <https://www.barrington220.org/build220>
  - Will discuss this in greater detail over the course of the next month on LOTP as well as at the March PTO meeting.

**Assistant Principal – Jen Ellett**

- MAP testing will be held next week
  - Group A February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Group B February 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Periods 1-3 Reading, Periods 6-8 Math
  - Remote students have the option to come into the building to test. If not, they will still test at the same time from home.
    - Will look at anomalies in the score if taking test at home
  - Asynchronous work will be pushed out to the students not in the building taking the test.
  - Periods 4 and 5 will be taught live.

**Assistant Principal – Brad Gillette**

- Getting started with athletics – boys basketball and girls volleyball
- Communication will be sent out with other sport opportunities when it is available
- The state athletic organization we belong to here at the middle school level is the IESA. Due to pandemic consequences they are virtually broke (not state funded). They are most likely not going to be able to function beyond April unless they receive donor contributions and/or the state mitigations are changed such that state series sports are able to be held at the state level where they might have a chance to make money.
  - Regional/sectional/state competitions would no longer be available. Sports at the conference level would still exist, but it would be more difficult and with less organization.
  - If interested in contributing to the IESA please visit this link:  
<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-campaign-to-save-iesa>

**Jill Fearday ~ Barrington High School Counseling Department Chair**

- Discussion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition to high school.
- High school day is made up of 8 periods each 46 minutes
- First period begins at 8:30am and 8<sup>th</sup> period ends at 3:22pm
- 5 core classes recommended (math, science, language arts, history, and world language)

- Option to drop from an honors class to a regular class
- If you think your child is stronger in a subject than was recommended (decided by MAP scores, teachers) you can request a change by discussing it with their current teacher and a conversation can be had. Needs to be a compelling argument.
- Contact counselor at the high school if changes need to be made ASAP as class formation is underway.
  - A-CI: Joan Bell
  - Cm-F: Melanie Silvestri
  - G-Ki: Bryan Tucker
  - Kj-Mi: Dana Parenti
  - Mj-Mz: Monica Barreiro
  - N-Ri: Marla Engleman
  - Rj-St: Tim Martin
  - Su-Z Kiersten Tinkoff
- If your child is struggling once the school year begins, changes can still be made in the first 2 weeks of school.
- The other 3 periods of the day: PE, lunch and then an elective course or band/orchestra/choir
  - Recommendation is to keep the lunch for a good break and social time
- Project lead the way – Priority is given to freshman. National curriculum. Engineering focused. Year long class. 4 year sequence. Civil engineering, design engineering.
- Food lab – 1 classroom so only 8 classes available. Space is a hurdle.
- Many paths post high school. Will determine what classes, and rigor of classes your child needs to take.
- Summer School
  - Business class that we normally offer will be an online class this year through Illinois virtual school.
  - Video production – in person
  - Ceramics – in person
  - Full schedule will come out in March
- Lunch is included with a freshman advisory with 2 senior mentors and counselors (4 days a week at the beginning of the year -20 min lunch and 20 min advisory time), don't have that on Wednesday. That allows for make-up work/see a teacher/etc. That tapers off as the year goes on, by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter only have freshman advisory 1 day a week.
- Rarely happens that your child doesn't get into any elective he chooses.
- Harper Promise scholarship. Parent and student both have to say they want to participate. For freshman it starts second semester. 5 service hours need to be completed during the second semester. Attendance/service hours/rigor as the years go on. Can't have a D or F on your record. It is Harper's scholarship not BHS. Please visit Harpers website <https://www.harpercollege.edu/about/promise/index.php> for more information. Can sign up during the registration process in May (a box you check).
- Blended course – Asynchronous work days mixed in with live teaching. Not too many blended classes for freshman. Don't see anymore classes being incorporated even though the kids are more familiar with this learning from the past year.
- Distance learning impact on testing/grades/college admission – some colleges have gone to a no test option. Transcripts will be highly looked at and compared to other BHS students (rigor, grades, participation in school etc.). Have to remember that some kids will have still taken the tests too and those schools will look at those scores.
- Summer school sports camps – Still in discussion. End of February/Beginning of March will have all the information. There will be camps, just don't know what they will be or what it will look like.
- Counselor involvement with students – will reach out during advisory time. It is very easy to reach out to counselors now because of Zoom. Counselors are primarily working with seniors during the first semester to make sure they are on track. So incoming freshman would need to reach out if they need help.

- Online summer school – need to pace yourself and check in. These classes are not designed to be done in 2 weeks.
- Life science – Biology, human biology, AP biology, environmental science, maybe horticulture count for life science
- 1 half credit class can be taken during summer school. 1 full credit is the absolute max you can take. Wouldn't push more than 1 class.
- Club information – memos/opportunities will be sent out in the fall. Student Council will work with the sponsors at the middle schools this spring to get a list by May. Can get involved in freshman class board in August.
- Placement process: mostly MAP scores and current grades/classes. Taking into account what teachers are saying about their students. There are on/off ramps and just because they don't take an honors class freshman year they can definitely take those more challenging classes the following year.
- Freshman year it is good to dabble in things to figure out what they are interested in. Questionnaires that can be done. Career pathways book is a good tool to take a look at.
- Study hall – Open period, allows student to do extra work. Time to see a teacher, study for a test.
- 20.5 credits to graduate
- Encourage your kids to get involved in clubs/activities, sports, band etc. Want your child to be well-rounded.

### President Report ~ Aimee Tanking

- Presidents Council
  - School Board Election
    - Candidates forum (12 candidates for 4 open positions)
      - Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00-11:00am via Zoom
      - <http://tinyurl.com/2021forumbarrington>
  - Referendum/Building Plans underway. Check school website for latest information.
  - POP (Packs of Plenty), formally known as Blessings in a Backpack, is packing once a month. If interested in helping pack please reach out to Aimee Tanking for details [prairieptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:prairieptopresident@gmail.com)
  - Be Strong Book Club – The Permission to Feel
    - We will be starting the 3-part book clubs (one in English and one in Spanish) on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm via Zoom.
    - Learn how to become an emotion scientist able to recognize, understand, label, express, and regulate your emotions through an evidence-based approach to emotional intelligence.
    - The *Permission to Feel Book Club* and *Permiso Para Sentir Club del Libro*, will follow the teaching of Yale University professor and founding director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Marc Brackett, PhD, for how to become an emotion scientist at any age, able to use the important information that emotions provide to change our lives and our families for the better. *Permission to Feel/Permiso Para Sentir* is a blueprint for understanding our emotions and using them wisely so that they help, rather than hinder, our success and well-being.
    - [Register for the book club in English.](#)
    - [Register for the book club in Spanish.](#)
- 2021-21 PTO Volunteers
  - Working on the slate for next year. Please contact Aimee Tanking [prairieptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:prairieptopresident@gmail.com) if interested.

### Second VP ~ Nicole Koviak

- Valentine's Teacher Coffee Cart
  - Thursday February 11 – coffee/tea and chocolate bars will be served to the teachers by Travis, Brad and Jen. A thank you/Valentine's treat from the PTO.

- Spring Teacher Conference Dinner
  - Wednesday of conferences at 6pm. More details to come.

### **First VP ~ Alex Rodda**

- Snowflake
  - Registration is closed.
  - Dates:
    - Hybrid Group A: Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:10-6:00pm
    - Hybrid Group B: Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:10-6:00pm
    - Remote: Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:10-6:00pm
  - Donation was made to help with the shirts and the snack
- Amazon Smile
- Heinen's

### **Treasurer Report ~ Chris Bradley**

- Budget Update
  - No expenses in January
  - Review snowflake in March
- Dues – PTO Dues have been added to the IC Store for those that still need to pay.
  - To pay your PTO dues:
    - Log on to infinite campus
    - Choose “school store” from the menu bar
    - Click on Shop for Prairie Middle School
    - Click on Prairie PTO 2020-21 dues
    - Choose your student
    - Add to cart and check out

**Community Events:** none

**Old Business:** none

**New Business :** Next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:04am Nicole Koviak First; Stacey Tomczak Second; all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

Respectfully submitted

Stacey Tomczak

Prairie PTO Secretary 2020-21