

Bach Elementary PTO

General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, & Location: October 15th, 2015, 6:30-7:30pm in the Bach MPR

Meeting called to order by Co-President Laurie Nutt at approx. 6:40pm

Attendance: (Attendance will be taken and recorded at future meetings)

Guests:

Minutes: (Minutes will be read by one of the Co-Secretaries for approval at future meetings)

Principal's Report given by Alison Epler

- COFFEE CHAT
 - This event was well-attended, and the November one scheduled Nov 10th evening- 5:30-6:30pm (or later) There will be a recap of Q&A in a newsletter for those who cannot attend.
 - Items discussed – The amount of communication via FB, Twitter, Newsletter, etc.
 - What is the 1 place to get the info? The PTO Newsletter is the primary source, and the Bach Weekly (out each Sunday, w/current events for weeks to come) is also a good source.
- LUNCH HELPERS
 - Lunch helpers (paid positions and volunteers) are needed.
 - Hours are 11:40am -1:20pm.
 - Those interested should call Ms. Epler or Kim Kauffman.
 - A Sign-up Genius is in works for Parent Volunteers.
 - Younger siblings may come along with parent volunteers.
- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MTG
 - 1st one with the teachers was earlier on this day.
 - Eventually others will be invited to future meetings.
- FUNDING
 - Playground:
 - \$80,000 is available for playground upgrades.
 - The intent is that it be student-lead, organized, and initiated. There will be input from students, parents, teachers, etc., as well as district approval.
 - There will be the option to raise additional funds if we choose.
 - There is also the possibility of a "Community Build" to save \$ for labor costs.
 - Sound Equipment:
 - A "Needs Assessment" must happen first. If we can wait, then we may be able to use bond dollars. Question posed - Can we wait a year?

Teacher's Report given by Jan Smith, kindergarten teacher & Kristi Bishop, music teacher

- It was noted that the PTO is very valued by Bach Staff. Appreciation for funding of field trips and other enrichment experiences for students was expressed. PTO was also thanked for the Dongles we funded.
- Ms. Bell (3rd grade, not in attendance) has requested via Kristi Bishop that the PTO fund a Spelling City Premium Membership. PTO will await more information and a formal funding request submission.

Officer's Reports

President: given by Cassie Brabbs & Laurie Nutt

- PTO Project Framework
 - Co-President Cassie Brabbs is brainstorming ideas for helping requests and ideas move forward.
 - She will act as the point person, providing outreach for those with ideas and projects.
 - She is also working on establishing methods of prioritizing projects, and creating guidelines for determining what things the PTO will not fund (but may rather give assistance with grant-writing and help applying to the district for funding and/or help seeking out other modes of funding that may be available).
- Fundraising
 - Questions regarding fundraising at Bach were posed:
 - What is fundraising?
 - Do Bach parents want to move toward more fundraising?
 - How do we best get “Voice & Choice”?
 - Should we have Targeted Fundraising efforts (for specific items such as Sound System)?
 - Can we survey parents for specific cases?
- Recruiting for PTO Next Year
 - TREASURER - We are eagerly seeking a person(s) to be a Treasurer next year.
 - SCRIP - We may have someone lined up for this position, but additional volunteers to help would be great.
 - Lunchtime Enrichment - We are currently seeking volunteers to lead activities during lunch recess time, once a week, 6 sessions (optional for kids). Mr. Borgsdorf and Ms. Tarchinski & parent Emily Rahim may assist.

Treasurer: given by Co-Treasurers Derek Vaughan & Tricia Kalosa

- Donations are a bit low so far but improving.
- It is early to say what Fun Run will raise.
- Last School Year:
 - We came in over on Fall drive & PTO Thrift, but under for SCRIP & Walkathon so pretty much a wash
 - Nearly \$8,000 under on expenses
 - Many teachers are under-spending (a few are over-spending, but most of those not by much). It was decided that teachers will be given regular reminders and encouragement to use class funds at future staff meetings.
- Current School Year:
 - The projections are conservative.
 - The Mack Pool Event was removed.
 - Question – will there be a 4th Grade Disability Workshop this year?
 - The 4th Grade Teachers will be asked what the cost will be this year and if they would like to do it again. Seeking other options (ISD?) was suggested.
- We don't want the balance to get below about \$14,000 (for SCRIP Cards, etc.)
- Motion to accept the budget was approved.

Member Reports

Website

- PTO Website Manager is looking into consolidating all Sign-up Geniuses on the website.

Committee/Events Reports

Stephen's Theater:

- They are prepared for the opening ceremony next Thursday.
- They would like more Lower Grade families to volunteer to help so that Upper Grade families can enjoy the performance.

Multi-cultural Outreach: Report skipped tonight

New Business

Science Night: This year is the second time Science Night has conflicted with Midnight Madness. The request has been made that next year we look for a date for Science Night that does not conflict with this event.

Sunday Fun Run: Sign-up for Sunday's Fun Run is currently very low on Sign-up Genius.

Fundraising Suggestion: Emily Rahim has suggested that we consider opportunities to train with professional soccer players as a potential fundraiser.

Next Meeting is November 19th, 6:30-7:30pm in the Bach school MPR

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm.

Minutes compiled by Melanie Rountrey, Co-Secretary