

Bach Elementary PTO

General Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2017, 6:30-7:30pm, Bach Multi-purpose Room

Meeting called to order by **Emily Rahim** at 6:35pm

Attendance: Recorded Separately

Guests:

Principal's Report given by Alison Epler

- Planning for Field Day in the works
- Planning for Talent Show (Fri., May 19th – tentative)
 - Emily Deedler asked if there will be an art component this year.
Alison Epler will speak with Kristi Bishop – still in planning stages
- Climate Survey – open until March 24th – hoping for 100% input
 - 5th graders taking it online in computer labs, hard copies are available to those without internet access, and several language translations are available
- Food Gathers
 - Hoping to extend deadline to turn in the boxes so that we can have ability to donate at Movie Night
- **Transportation:**
 - Issue with one particular bus 106/bus route
 - Working with Durham bus services because some issues are unacceptable, and this is a high priority
 - Additional staff has been brought on – Tamber Woodworth – many of the issues in fall had been resolved for a time, but recently incident with a new driver taking a wrong turn into Pioneer
Alison Epler met with several people and identified the various concerns
 - Timing – cannot be late or early
 - Communication – required to notify the school should the bus be running late
 - Personnel – Students should feel safe with the driver and comfortable enough to approach the driver
 - Someone will be on the bus for a few days while the new driver gets to know the children. They will provide updates and introductory letters with information, introducing bus drivers, etc.
 - Bus Tracker – Online app parents could use to track the route (not by bus number). Hesitation – this is new system for Durham, and they are willing to roll it out, but are concerned that while they are still working out the kinks it may potentially cause more confusion.
 - Parents present expressed concern about Durham and loss of faith in them, and major concern about safety. To characterize the incidents as inconveniences is misrepresenting the issues, which are significant safety issues.
 - Could there be an AAPS employee on the bus?

Alison Epler – Will schedule a meeting with Durham because they need to be made aware of all of the specifics.

Teacher's Report given by Jan Smith

- Enjoyed Student Council and being with students so passionate about issues!

Officer's Reports

President: given by Emily Rahim

- Extended a thank you to everyone for patience and support during the year thus far
- Will change to everyone present voting in PTO meetings
- Survey general Bach population for funds – 114 responses (capped at 100 by the survey system used)
 - Teacher Requests – Top Support - almost 80%
 - Playground
 - Paint & Decor
 - Write-ins
 - (Survey results are on a separate page)
- New Members Voting – looking good as far as the unfilled committee spots
 - Still in need of someone to Chair the Ice Cream Social (2nd Friday in June)
 - Use Family Reading Night & Movie Night as forums to recruit Ice Cream Social Chair, sign people up for Scrip, search for new Board Members for next year

Fundraising: given by Emily Deedler

- Discussed some of the challenges of fundraising in the Bach community
- Would like to have a committee meet a few times to brainstorm fundraising efforts and approaches
- Proposes partnering with local businesses and outreach for donations
Allison Waugh – thinks it is a great idea, but noted that many of the businesses we may approach are ones we already count on for donations
- Sub-committee could also look at Go Fund Me-type of support for needs
- Approaching relevant companies for item donations
- Laurie Nutt – proposed getting more people set up with Amazon Smile, Busches, etc. – will do this at Movie Night and Family Reading Night

Student Council Report

Local: given by student rep, Cameryn Waugh

- Narrowed topics to 1) Dismissal Plan 2) Compost in the Cafeteria 3) Food in the Cafeteria & 4) Playground Rules
- Sahara & - Express safety concerns as Crossing Guards because of the many cars and students on the same side of the building (5th Street) and fewer on the 4th Street side

Global: given by student rep, Sahara Seneviratne

- Would like to organize a drive to collect school supplies to donate to students in need

- Spoke with Mrs. Ramsey about a possible organization to donate to

Country: given by student rep, Angel Benki

- Topics of focus - 1) Immigration Rights 2) Womens' Rights 3) Pipeline

Mrs. Epler would like to coordinate with the Student Council, meet with them, and reach out to Student Council to help establish a Mission Statement

Committee/Events Reports

Event: Art Night

- A great evening! Fun, and a success!

Event: March Is Reading Month given by Jan Smith

- Paleo Joe is coming as a guest author! Hopes parents will be able to join
- Excited that Jamar Humphrey, former Bach teacher and co-author will be a guest author!

New Business

Topic: Teacher Appreciation Week -

Melanie Zoller would like to help organize this again this year, as would Melanie Rountrey – will put together a TA Week Committee

Topic: Christy Yee - Would like to schedule a Wednesday morning Coffee Chat time to talk about sensory tools for students

Topic: Mighty Good Coffee is coming soon to Jefferson

- Should we write a card from the Bach PTO to welcome them to our community?

Next Meeting is Thursday, April 20th – 8:50-9:45am – Bach Conference Rm

Motion to adjourn – 7:52pm Emily Preston-Rahim, 2nd Laurie Nutt

Unanimous in favor

Minutes compiled by Secretary, Melanie Rountrey