

**Bach Elementary PTO
General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 19, 2017 in the Bach MPR

Meeting called to order at approximately 9:05 am.

In Attendance:

Chris Saraha	Dunia Acauan	Raquel Notz	Melanie Zoller
Andrea D'Alcantara	Gopi Kumarasang	Catherine Matuza	Robin Frisch-Gleason
Rebekka Kuhn	Nieka Apell	Tracey Dalman	Stephanie Rosales
Emily Preston Rahim	Stacey Pomranky	Rik Cordero	Joanna Costello-Saile
Nancy Cordero	Fatou Kandji	Sarah Handeyside	Veronica Hannah
Jon Miller	Thom Bales	Kristina Hinkle Eaton	Megan Franzen
Colette Ivy	Liisa Lusk	Kerry Sheldon	

Stacy moves to approve the minutes from September meeting. Kerry Seconds. All approve.

Principal's Report from Collette Ivy, Associate Principal

- Ms Ivy was a principal for 10 years in Livonia, stayed home with her children for the past 6 years. She states that she prides herself on being available and approachable and will always have an open door policy.
- Alison Update -- Husband making progress. Out of ICU, doing PT, getting use back of left arm, able to do more and more with support. Her family has a GoFundMe page if community members wish to contribute.
- Special Ed Millage Renewal -- Video Link: <https://youtu.be/RCiHRAaSDus>
 - Provides \$6 million for special ed, money that would otherwise come from the general fund.
 - 1 in 9 students in AAPS receive special ed services.
 - Does not impact current taxes paid.
 - Vote on Nov 7.

Teacher Report from Robin Gleason and Megan Franzen

- Teachers express appreciation for the work of the PTO, particularly in funding busses and field trips. Teachers report feeling supported.

- “Green School” activities have slowed down this year. We continue recycling, but have discontinued classroom composting bc of fruit flies and other pests and turnover of custodial staff. Parents can support cafeteria composting by bringing the compost bin (located next to the exterior cafeteria doors) out to the street on Sunday night/Monday morning.
- UNICEF boxes come home next week. Due back Nov 10. Encourage families to participate in collecting/donating money for Unicef at Halloween.

Fun Run

- \$18,760 net income so far, expected to surpass \$21,000 goal. Biggest income ever from Fun Run! Thanks to Fun Run team for doing such an awesome job re-working the fundraising plan.

Updates on Playground

- Kari, member of the Playground Committee, reports on “guiding principles” of the playground project, including space, sensory equipment, accessibility, and safety.
- Kari reports that PG committee has met twice, confirmed budget, met with PG vendors.
- Parent Veronica Hannah expresses concerns about using chopped up tires for environmental and health risks.
- Next Playground Committee meeting will discuss more specifically the materials and plans, which must be solidified by January to insure summer installation.
- Parent and Lunch Supervisor Nancy Cordero reports that safety is a major concern for play and lunch. Kids are running after balls into the street, non-school people are walking through the space.
- Need more recess and lunch monitors. Parent visitors are helpful but the regular paid and volunteer positions are a huge need.
- Conflict managers? There is potential to enroll older students as conflict helpers on the playground.

Student Council, Emily Preston Rahim

- Will meet after school on Fridays instead of during school. Look for more info coming home with upper elementary students.

PTO teacher appreciation

- Emily Preston Rahim would like to do a once-monthly hot breakfast for teachers. Parents and students can both make and serve breakfast sandwiches. Maybe a coffee/tea cart?

- PTO also plans to renovate teacher bathrooms using volunteer hours.

Budget Approval, Stacy Pomranky

- Stacy moves to ask John _____ be included as part of the treasury team. Emily seconds. Approved.
- To avoid budget deficit, the following expenses are cut from the budget. There will be effort to make these events cost-free or to fund them with future monies earned.
 - Heritage Festival \$1,000
 - March is Reading Month \$1,000
 - Trips to Washtenaw dairy \$600
 - Student Council \$300
 - Contribution to reserve fund \$2,500
 - Lunchtime enrichment \$500
 - Families in Need \$5,000
 - Teacher Wishlist, \$1,200
- Budget will include \$300 minimum for classroom budgets and \$100 for new teachers. Emily moves, Liisa Seconds, all approve.
- Discussion of including room parents in the effort to cushion individual teachers' budgets as needed. Maybe we can coordinate communication with families about classroom budgets and make a wishlist for each classroom. Perhaps parents of individual classrooms can fund extra needs via GoFundMe.
- PTO needs a person to serve as a Fundraising Coordinator.
- Stacy moves to approve a the budget as per our conversation and the cuts noted above. Liisa seconds. All approve.

New Business

- Jon Miller wants to work towards improving academics at Bach. Do we want to work toward becoming a blue ribbon school? How do we close the gap? Emily suggests forming a committee for strategic planning around academics? Emily will send out a blast for members.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 am.

Minutes compiled by Liisa Lusk.