

## **Bach Elementary PTO**

### **General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Bach Multi-purpose Room

Meeting called to order by Emily Preston at 6:40 pm.

New board members: Andrea, Multicultural outreach officer  
Liisa Lusk, Secretary

Board Members: Chris Saraha, Vice President  
Ellen Pritchard, Lower Grades representative  
Stacy Pomranky and Johanna Costello-Saile, treasurers  
Jan Smith, teacher representative  
Laurie Nutt, Room Parent Coordinator  
Emily Rahim Preston, President  
Emily Deedler, PTOC representative

Teacher Report, given by Jan Smith

- Update on Alison Epler's husband:
  - Jason Epler has been diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord. He is paralyzed from the neck down. He will soon be able to receive PT, OT and speech therapy and has been moved to a less critical unit. However he continues to deal with secondary problems like pneumonia and staph infection. It is unknown how long Alison will need to be away from Bach.
  - Collette Ivy will be the new associate principal. Next week we will have retired principal Joan \_\_\_\_\_, and then we will transition to Ms. Ivy. Alison is assured a place at Bach no matter the length of her family leave, and Dawn Linden speaks very highly of her.
  - Staff has rallied to have a great start to the year despite missing Allison. Kim Kauffman in particular has been an amazing support and teachers are planning on doing something for her.
  - Quad A (principal's organization) and staff are taking care of meal trains and gift cards. There is a GoFundMe set up to help with medical costs.
  - Students have been told that Ms. Epler is taking care of her family.
  
- Will PTO do thank you for Rebecca's and Nick's work on our new mural?
  - Discussed gift certificates, but decided to avoid a monetary gift in order to be most respectful of the spirit of the donation.

- PTO will give artists a photo of the mural with all the students, plus reactions from community on 5X7 cards. Jan will provide materials and reach out to teachers. Liisa will collect and assemble "reaction cards" into gifts.
- Teachers are wondering if interior painters will come do touch ups, particularly on metal door frames and to fill in pops of color in the library. Does the PTO handle painting costs or does the district? Question will be posed to principal.
- Amanda Lowe, reading intervention teacher, has asked for a classroom budget. Most specials teachers get \$2 per student, while OT and others have no classroom budget. Ms. Lowe advised to submit receipts. Discussed widening scope of teacher wishlist to include bigger ticket items and/or services so that all teachers and care providers can have room to ask for what they need.

Room Parents Coordinator report, given by Laurie Nutt

- We have room parents for all rooms. There will be more effort to use school messenger to streamline communication.

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Budget Update, given by Stacy Pomranky

- PTO budget distributed with invitation for feedback at October meeting. Budget will be voted on at next meeting.
  - Last year budget
    - FY2016 total income: \$44,621
    - FY2016 total expenses (deducting reserve spending [paint and classroom supplies] and including payment to Nicola's [approx \$2000]): \$42,344
    - Budget surplus \$2,277
    - Reserve spending \$29,740
  - Current year proposed budget
    - FY2017 budgeted income \$42,610
    - FY2017 budgeted expenses \$53,029
    - Net income (\$10,419)
- PTO will no longer pay up front for scrip cards at the beginning of the year. Scrip coordinator will order cards monthly.
- Nicola's bill will be paid when they apply our credit from book fundraiser.
- PTO thrift shop will be cutting back spending. PTO budget now includes approximate fee for transportation costs for field trips, previously covered by the thrift shop.
- Jan volunteers to serve as PTO thrift shop coordinator and will look for another teacher to help.
- Because fun run is early in the year, donation envelopes will go out at a later time.
- The authorized signers on the Bach PTO accounts at the UM credit union are currently:
  - Main Account: Stacey Pomranky, Leah Wright
  - 5th Grade Account: Stacey Pomranky, Leah Wright

- Stephen's Theater: Stacey Pomranky, Leah Wright, Amanda Houston

Stacey Pomranky will remain on all Bach PTO accounts for the 2107/2018 school year.

Leah Wright will be removed from all Bach PTO accounts.

Amanda Houston will remain on the Stephen's Theater account.

One additional new signer on the UM credit union accounts (Main, 5th Grade, & Stephens Theater) is the 2017/2018 elected co-treasurer, Joanna Costello-Saile.

Fun Run report given by Allison Waugh

- Fun Run will be held Friday and Sunday next week.
- This year is the most money we have ever tried to raise. Our goal is \$21,000. Businesses have been somewhat supportive but certainly not a windfall, about \$2,000.
- Might be helpful to create a thermometer graphic to share in the weekly newsletter that shows progress towards goal.
- Encourage parents to seek out matching donations. Ellen is willing to help people. Donations to the PTO count as a 501c3 for matching donations from people's employers.
- Are there ways to grow enthusiasm among the students so that parents hear about it from them?
- Class with most laps has historically won a prize costing approx \$300. Jan will coordinate morning announcements to encourage a less prize-focused and more community-building focused message.

Meeting adjourned by Emily Preston at approx 7:50 pm.

Minutes compiled by Liisa Lusk.