

**Bach Elementary PTO
General Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017 in the Bach MPR
6:00pm**

Meeting called to order by Emily Preston at approx. 6:07pm.

Science Night Update given by Kathy Leitner

- Main tables will be in MPR, more tables in 3rd and 4th grade hallway
- Basket raffle tickets sold in cafeteria lobby. Winners drawn at end of the night.
- Ticket sales go to PTO.

Principal's Update, given by Colette Ivy

- Facilities
 - Media Center will get new wall and new carpeting
 - Hired Pam Stuart as an aide in Mrs. Moore's classroom
 - We will be adding two new TAs to our staff. Teachers are on interview committee, parents are invited to reach out to Ms Ivy if they would like to be included.

Climate Survey Report, given by Associate Principal Colette Ivey and Executive Director of Elementary Education Dawn Linden

- Parents, Staff, and Students participated in the survey. Tonight we looked at the results from 116 parents. Please see PDF on PTO website for details.
- The purpose of the survey is to measure the community's satisfaction in the following categories:
 - Academic Preparation
 - Student Support and Engagement
 - Respect for Diversity
 - School Leadership
 - Parent Engagement and Involvement
 - Safety and Behavior
 - School Operations
 - Transportation
- Over 80% of respondents gave Bach an overall grade of A or B. Highest rated attributes of our school include:
 - students' access to technology and materials
 - Teachers are available to discuss students' learning needs
 - Parents feel welcome at school
 - There are opportunities for parents to be involved

- The areas of concern in our school include:
 - The quality of cafeteria food
 - Decisions made by school leadership being in the best interests of students (satisfaction with principal's decision making is a significant downward trend over the past two years)
 - Homework
 - Teacher feedback on students' schoolwork
 - Maintenance and climate of the school

Update on Alison Epler, given by Dawn Linden

- Jason's trach has been removed. He can take steps with a walker, is doing home visits, and his overall prognosis is good. There is still a long road ahead in terms of rehabilitation.
- We will be looking for a new principal in the spring. Ms Ivy will be the Interim Principal.
- There will be a national search for our new principal. There is a four round interview process:
 - Round 1: parents, union, 100+ applicants
 - Round 2: superintendent's cabinet
 - Round 3: teachers from all levels and parents
 - Round 4: 2 or 3 candidates with Dr Swift.

Visit from Dr. Jeanice Swift

- Dr Swift gives her appreciation to the Bach parent community, and gives appreciation for Collette Ivy. Offers her support to the administration at Bach as we move through the process of finding a new principal.

Teacher Report, given by Jan Smith

- Thank you for breakfast. Teachers need to be reminded. Last Monday of the month teachers are served a hot breakfast.
- Sam Danziger, PLTW wants a teacher budget. She says most PLTW teachers have a budget of around \$50. Emily moves to give her a budget, all approve.
- There is a plan to put a date on the calendar to clean and paint the teachers' bathrooms.
- Thank You Book for mural artists Rebecca and Nick will be presented at Thanksgiving assembly.
- Lauren Chappell shares that tack strip around the school needs replacing. Lauren and Kim Fury are talking about "beautifying" measures, including positive, diversity/kindness centered quotes. Signage around school needs updating as well.

Inclusivity: The Importance of Sexual Health Education by Stephanie Rosales

- SHEAC -- Sexual Health Education Advisory Board
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/aaps.k12.mi.us/health-education/sexual-health-education-advisory-board-sheac>

- Do we meet the needs of our families and students with regard to transgender and gender non-conforming students? How can we be more inclusive and welcoming to T/GNC students or students with T/GNC family members?
- Transgender and GNC kids are more likely to develop suicidality, mental illness, and self-harm. There are ways for us to embrace and teach inclusivity and acceptance. Please consider checking out books on these topics from our school library, including I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings.
- Do we want broader teacher training on T/GNC issues? There are workshops available to give all teachers tools to create safe spaces for T/GNC students.
- One parent expressed feelings about not wanting his children exposed to these ideas, preferring to have children learn about these topics with their parents. Several meeting attendees respond that inclusivity is a community issue and that it is appropriate to address these issues that students may face.

Emily moves to approve minutes from October's meeting. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 7:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by Liisa Lusk.