

Blue Ball Elementary School PTO Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2016

Blue Ball Elementary PTO

Principal
Curt McCaskey

PTO BOARD

President
Beth Davis

Vice President
Janina Pinkas

Secretary
Tracy Finegan

Treasurer
Kendra Babb

COMMITTEES

Fundraising: Beth Davis

Box Tops & Labels for Education
{2016-2017 NEED MEMBERS}
Janina Pinkas

Spirit Wear
Beth Davis

Hospitality {NEED COORDINATOR}

Volunteer & Workroom
LeaAnn McDonald

Special Events
~ Family Events: PTO Board
~ All Pro Dads: Michael Lewis
& Beth Davis
~ STEM Fair: Jeff Hochhaus &
Jessica Wilson
~ Assemblies: PTO Board

WELCOME TEACHERS and RETURNING FACES!!

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Attendance (11): Tracy Finegan, Janina Pinkas, Beth Davis, LeaAnn McDonald, Jeff Hochhaus, Amanda Leamen, Connie Good, Don Davis, Libby Echternach, Curt McCaskey, Kendra Babb,

Open Forum: {If you would like to share a concern or suggestion prior to meetings, please email the PTO at blueballpto@gmail.com or send in a note to the office ATT: Blue Ball PTO} Attendants brought forth the following discussion...

Mrs. Finegan requested that we purchase a new tape dispense for the workroom. Mr. McCaskey said, "Of course!"

Today, lanyards with the students' ID badges came home. As of October 1st, the students will begin scanning on and off their school bus using their ID badge. The pending GPS app that will enable parents to track their student's bus location was discussed.

Mr. Lewis has requested a Keurig machine for All-Pro Dads. Mr. McCaskey stated that the school has two that they will avail to Mr. Lewis for his use during this activity.

Beth Davis discussed the proposal of participating in "See You at the Pole" which her daughter, Sarah will lead. **See you at the Pole (SYATP)** is an annual gathering of thousands of Christian students at a flagpole in front of their local school for prayer, scripture-reading and worship, during the early morning before school starts. The American SYATP events occur on the 28 of September at 7:00 A.M. while gathering around a school flag pole. In the U.S., school-sponsored prayers in public schools have been found unconstitutional, but prayers organized by students alone are allowed and protected by free speech rights. Mr. McCaskey said that the event would need to be held before the school day then asked about their intent to publicize the event. Dr. Hollister needs to approve all flyers or notices to be distributed to students for outside organizations or events.

LeaAnn McDonald inquired about the transgender bathroom mandate. It was questioned whether District adopted a policy. Curt McCaskey stated that: "Preceding the announcement, we did have several students in the upper grades in the District in the past who identified as transgender. It was discussed with the parents involved

if the students would be okay with using a staff bathroom and those involved were happy with this arrangement. There is no board policy to date. No action has been taken.”

Janina Pinkas asked if it was possible to have a family restroom available at the school for parents coming to family events with babies and toddlers to avail them somewhere for diaper changes, etc. It was agreed that in the meantime families would be allowed to use the faculty restrooms but is unsure how providing a diaper changing facility ~~that~~ would be accomplished.

Treasurer’s Report (see attached “[Monthly Report June2016.pdf](#)” and “[Budget Report June 2016.pdf](#)”) [The Reconciliation Summary and Detail Treasurer’s Reports will be available in the Blue Ball Elementary Office located outside Mr. McCaskey’s office for anyone who is interested in reviewing them.]

Activities:

Fundraiser ~ “Believe Kids” will kick off on Friday, 09/19/16 with an assembly to get the kids excited about participation and the prizes they can earn. Orders are to be returned by October 3rd. The order pick up date will be approximately one month after the orders are sent to Believe Kids Company.

Here are a few facts about the “Believe Kids” fundraiser provided by Beth Davis:

1. Parents submit a coupon for every 3, 5, 10, 15, or 20 items sold by their child.
2. When a coupon is completed, the student turns it in and is then entered in a drawing for a daily prize.
3. Prizes earned for selling items will be given with the orders.
4. A top seller from each grade and a friend of their choice will be selected to participate in a pizza party with Mr. McCaskey.
5. All coupons turned in including the daily prize winner will be entered to win the grand prize: a motorized Razor Scooter. (Chosen after the fundraiser ends).
6. The school receives 50% of the profits within a certain dollar amount (which we don’t anticipate being a problem).
7. If the school submits a picture of the pizza party to Believe Kids, the school is entered in a chance to receive an extra \$1,000.00.
8. With 50% participation, the school receives \$300 in Believe Kids gift certificates.
9. Each teacher whose class has at least 50% participation will also receive a \$50.00 Believe Kids gift certificate.

Family Events:

Box Tops & Labels for Education {No clearances for counting but Clearances NEEDED for in-school contest posting and box tops pick-up} – Box top coordinator, Janina Pinkas will have more information at our November meeting. **NOTE: It has been reported Labels for Education national program ended August 2016.**
[Committee Volunteers NEEDED 2016/2017 schoolyear]

Volunteer/Workroom {Clearances NEEDED} – The workroom tasks are in full swing. It was requested that teachers give at least one week notice for tasks to be completed. The need for clear and concise instructions for each task was also discussed. Take home projects would be allowed IF the teacher gives approval first. Using the tables in the lobby was also a suggestion for bigger projects needing more room. There is a sign-up genius for anyone who has their volunteer clearances and has the time to volunteer in the Workroom on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. [Coordinator NEEDED 2016/2017 schoolyear]

Spirit Wear – Beth Davis is working currently with a woman at her church on a possible design.
[Committee Volunteers NEEDED 2016/2017 schoolyear]

All Pro Dads {No clearances needed = family event} – The first program of the year was held 9/12 in the Cafeteria at 6:30pm. The meetings will be the same night as the PTO meetings at 6:30 going forward. All Pro Dads is a great time for dads (and male role models) to hang out and deepen their relationships with their children! Come on out for cookies, coffee, and a great time with your kids!

Holiday Around The World was discussed as a possibility. This activity would provide students with an opportunity to gain an understanding of cultures through exploration of holidays around the world and give them the ability to identify with and learn from children from cultures different from their own.

Game Night will be included; further details were not discussed.

“Long Johns with Loved Ones” or “Donuts with a Dear One” will replace “Muffins with Mom” & “Donuts with Dads” so as to include those students who might have either/or both parents absent. Some discussion was had at length for and against the replacements.

Assemblies:

1. Science Explorers is coming on Thursday, September 15th.
2. Additional ideas for assemblies were kicked around, including: Having an Artist/Writer/Author come; GSPA (Garden Spot Performing Arts); looking for additional ideas for assemblies.

New Business: No new business.

Principal’s Report ~

1. Second Step has been implemented. Second Step is a social and emotional learning program, this year at Blue Ball Elementary School. Every student in her or his homeroom class will participate in Second Step.

The program promotes:

- School success
- School connectedness
- A safe and respectful school climate.

By directly teaching students the skills that strengthen their ability to:

- Learn.
- Have empathy.
- Manage emotions.
- Solve problems.

If you would like to learn more about Second Step please go to www.cfchildren.org/second-step. The program kicked off with a short school-wide assembly on Thursday, September 1. Lessons began on Tuesday, September 6th.

2. Safety Patrol Program The safety patrol program was met with great response with 2/3 of the 6th grade students applying to participate. The students were required to fill out an application, submit two references and write an essay to be considered. Mr. McCaskey stated that he took all applicants and has implemented a myriad of additional positions all over the school that the safety patrol students are being assigned to, including helping the younger students. Many, many students are involved in a variety of positions.

Here is a brief summary of what the Safety Patrol is:

“Students in grade 6 have the opportunity to be leaders in the school in our Safety Patrol program. These students guide the other students to the buses safely at the end of the school day. Safety Patrol members are trained by Mr. McCaskey and must set the example of good bus behavior while riding the bus to and from school.”

3. PSSA Reports: will be coming home on September 13th. Please keep an eye out for these tri-colored reports that show performance ratings for your student in many different areas.

Calendar:

9/14 ELANCO Pre-Kindergarten Program – Music/Sound/Theater/Play – session 2, room 124, 9:35-10:20 AM, by reservation
9/15 Science Explorers Assembly “Tooling Around with Science”, gymnasium Gr 4-6: 9:45-10:30 AM K-Gr 3 & MDS: 10:45-11:30 AM
9/16 PTO Fundraiser Kickoff Assembly, gymnasium, times TBD
9/21 ELANCO Pre-Kindergarten Program – Music/Sound/Theater/Play – session 3, room 124, 9:35-10:20 AM, by reservation
9/28 ELANCO Pre-Kindergarten Program – Music/Sound/Theater/Play – session 4, room 124, 9:35-10:20 AM, by reservation
9/30 Early Student Dismissal with AM Kindergarten Attending
10/3 PTO Meeting
10/5 ELANCO Pre-Kindergarten Program – Music/Sound/Theater/Play – session 5, room 124, 9:35-10:20 AM, by reservation
10/7 LifeTouch Picture Day
10/10 No School – Teacher in-service day

THANK YOU TEACHERS AND THE PARENTS that attended the night's meeting. We hope to see more Parents and Teachers attending. We understand other life commitments may be keeping you from attending; we hope to at least hear from you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email the PTO at blueballpto@gmail.com or you can write a note to send into the office, ATT: PTO. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR 2016/2017**, Volunteer Clearances visit: http://www.elanco.org/pages/Eastern_Lancaster_County_SD/Operations/Employment/Volunteers