

Blue Ball Elementary School PTO Minutes

October 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made ...again, WELCOME TEACHERS!!

Principal

Mr. Curt McCaskey

PTO Board

President: Cherie Mindy

Vice President: Beth Davis

Secretary: Janina Pinkas

Treasurer: Kendra Babbs

Committees

Fundraising: Cherie Mindy & Beth Davis

Hospitality: NEED

Box Tops & Labels for Education:
Jessica Wilson, Janina Pinkas, Dorothy
Theodosatos

Donuts for Dad: Jeff Hochhaus

Muffins with Mom: NEED

Family Night: Kendra Babbs

STEM Fair: Jeff Hochhaus, Jessica
Wilson

All Pro Dads: Beth Davis, Cherie Mindy

Volunteer Coordinator: Janina Pinkas

Workroom Coordinator: Beth Davis

Attendance (14): Curt McCaskey, Cherie Mindy, Beth Davis, Kendra Babbs, Janina Pinkas, Tracy Finegan, Kim Sheehan, Heather Kourt, Kayla Gursky, Jaclyn Pearson, Lisa Zimmerman, Kevin McCarroll,

Jeff Hochhaus, Jen Stauffer

Open Forum: Attendants brought forth the following discussions... Donuts with "Dads" & Muffins with "Moms"- It was brought forth concern for the names "Dads" and "Moms" because some students shared with their peers and teachers that they don't have a father or mother. New names are being considered and anyone may email their suggestions by the next November meeting.

email ~ blueballpto@gmail.com next meeting ~ November 2

Names suggested: "Donuts with Dudes"

"Muffins with the Miss"

or "Muffins with the Ms."

MDS - It was suggested to search for more Field Trips or more programs specifically for the MDS students. They enjoy the HandsOn House attending the school but some of the students had attended for a couple of years or more. It was suggested to possibly find about 3 or more programs so they can rotate annually. The MDS teachers and Aides are inspecting possibilities then will share at the next couple of meetings. Janina also offered to speak with Heather Smith, Interim Director and Youth Services Coordinator at the ELANCO Library since she provides a sensory story time for special needs children or shy kids of school aged Pre-K to Kindergarten kids.

Lack of School Printers - Mrs. Mindy noted that she and other PTO members recently saw many students lined-up at printers waiting in turn to print their papers. Should we provide more student printers in the building to eliminate the backlog? Mr. McCaskey will look into the matter to determine if we need to add more.

Boost PTO parent participation ~ Mrs. Zimmerman suggested advertising front row seat tickets giveaway for the 5th grade

Christmas concert to anyone who attends the next meeting, Nov. 2. Which was put into consideration. Then do the same for the 2nd grade concert in the spring.

~ Post PTO minutes on the ELANCO district page under the Blue Ball Elementary PTO tab

~ Suggestion for use of social media. There is a Facebook page for the Blue Ball Elementary PTO and Mr. McCaskey said he will make sure the link will be added to the ELANCO district page under the Blue Ball Elementary PTO tab. Mrs. Pearson and Ms. Gursky also suggested opening a Twitter account and Ms. Gursky offered to manage the account.

Changing Teachers ~ A parent mentioned that her daughter informed her, she has a different math teacher but the parent did not receive notice about this. Mr. McCaskey will ensure that the school communicates these roster changes to families.

Mr. McCaskey explained the current instructional grouping procedures in place in ELANCO schools. We build our class rosters for language arts and math by grouping students with similar skill sets. This allows our teachers to better focus their instruction to meet the students' current learning needs. Mr. McCaskey also explained the rotational learning model currently in place in grades 1 to 6.

The math and language arts rosters are not permanently fixed. At the beginning of every Math unit, there is a pretest of new topics and a posttest of the previous unit to assess the students' learning. If a different class would be a better instructional fit for the student, we will move the student to a different roster. Similarly, at the end of each marking period, we look at the assessments for language arts. Again, if there is a better instructional fit we will move the student to a different language arts.

Guardians to be Informed of Child's Regression - There was a concern that a student's parent was not informed of their child's regression. Mr. McCaskey stated the parent/guardian should be informed by the teacher if the student has regressed or is showing regression so the parent/guardian and the teacher can partner with the school to address the situation. He also encourages parents to communicate often with teachers, particularly if they have concerns or think that they are not informed about their child's progress. If the parent/guardian out of the loop, they can contact Mr. McCaskey so he can connect the teacher and parents.

President's Report: Fundraising starts 10/5-11/13. President position available 2016/2017 to any PTO Board member serving at least 1 year

Treasurer's Report: \$500 was donated by Chester County Solid Waste Authority. Once the MDS staff choose some ideas for their students' field trips, it will be discussed, chosen then budgeted.

Committees:

Fundraising - Learn 2 Earn reading-raiser started 10/5-11/13. The students' packets were sent home 10/5. There will be prizes given to both the students and the teachers for participation. The students' prizes are on display in the library and Mrs. Tanenbaum and Mrs. Lauffer will be distributing the tickets during the students' "Special Day". There are prizes in the library that are numbered with their numbered containers; the student can choose and put their ticket into their desired prize's container.

The teachers will be awarded a Casual Day for the most students that read their favorite book; the teachers' favorite books are posted outside the Title 1 classroom.

In the school hallways, each grade has a tree with 5 sets of limbs that measure the minutes read by students; each student has an owl with their name. As the student reads 100 minutes, they move up their owl to the "100" minutes limb. Then at every 100 minutes read, the student moves their owl to the next limb until they reach 600 or more minutes where their owl would have "Reached the Sky" putting their owl on a cloud. The trees are located in the halls: Grades ~ MDS, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd are located at the end of hall in front of the 2nd grade classrooms ~ 3rd is located in front of the Kindergarten playground doors ~ 5th is located in front of Mr. Lewis' classroom ~ 4th & 6th are located in the hallway by the cafeteria.

You may view the Learn2Earn website at www.learn2earn.org. Coordinator & more Committee members NEEDED 2016-2017

Activities -

*Donuts for Dads {No clearances needed = family event} - Coordinator will add, under the volunteer interest, asking when they will work and what time is best. The name is going to be changed as discussed earlier and will be chosen by the last PTO meeting in May.

* Muffins with Moms {No clearances needed = family event} - Will be later discussed in March and April meetings. The name is also being decided upon and will be chosen before the May event.
Beth

Davis is assisting, the activity is scheduled in May. Coordinator NEEDED 2015/2016 & 2016/2017

* All Pro Dads {No clearances needed = family event} - The first program will be held on 10/21/15 and will continue every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Cafeteria at 8am. Breakfast is provided along with tips, resources, and a film to help "dads" to be the best DAD you can be. The name cannot be changed because it is a licensed program. Any volunteer is welcome but Coordinator NEEDED 2016/2017

*Family Night Events {No clearances needed = family event} - Events and dates will be discussed and scheduled at the next PTO meeting.

Hospitality - includes teacher appreciation and 6th grade celebrations. The next hospitality event will be Thursday, November 12 during the conferences. Coordinator NEEDED 2015/2016 and 2016/2017

Box Tops & Labels for Education {Clearances only needed IF picking up tops/labels from the classrooms}: Committee will inform of the game chosen by the December meeting. Anyone can logon and participate; both sites provide ways to collect tops and labels, sweepstakes, coupons and more! Box tops for education: www.boxtops4education.com and labels for education: <https://www.labelsforeducation.com> Anyone who wants to assist are welcome.

Spirit Wear - The Tshirts at back-to-school night were a Hot-Ticket item with Safety Yellow, Safety Orange, Safety Green and Safety Pink. The neon colors are being considered as part of spirit wear. The spirit wear is under evaluation but will have a standard blue or gray color in possibly: hoodies and/or zipup sweatshirts, short sleeved shirts and long sleeved shirts. The spirit wear will be sold in November by order during the conference week and scholastic book sale. Coordinator NEEDED 2016/2017

Volunteer Coordinator {No clearances needed} - Will work with the committee coordinators and the teachers

Workroom - Coordinator will work with the teachers. A schedule will be provided for the next couple of weeks by Monday, 10/12. The teachers will also be given the schedules. It is decided it will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays but alternating once a week. It is requested that the teacher has their request to be turned in by the prior Friday. For example, if a teacher needs items for their school work done by Wed. 10/27, it should be ready for workroom by Fri. 10/21. Please keep in mind, if it is a large workload, we want to make sure we have enough volunteers and there are other teachers who will need Helping Hands assistance. If you have a large workload or time consuming project, please attempt to have it ready and inform us (or Heidi, Kathy and Marion) 2 prior Fridays.

Assemblies 2015/2016 - The Magic of Science's host from last year's assembly is enthusiastic about attending again this year but with a Planetarium Assembly.

New Business: Learn2Earn {see above Fundraising} 10/5-11/2

Name changes for Donuts and Muffins

Volunteer Clearances visit:

http://www.elanco.org/pages/Eastern_Lancaster_County_SD/Operations/Employment/Volunteers to get the papers and websites

Principal's Report:

- ~ Discussed adding PTO minutes from prior meeting to the Blue Ball Express Newsletter & the Blue Ball Elementary page on the ELANCO website under the PTO tab
- ~ Garden Spot Fire Rescue will be at the school on 10/5 to teach fire prevention and safety to our Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and MDS classes.
- ~ The school's custodian resigned in September. We currently have a temporary custodian and in the process of hiring a new custodian.
- ~ Spirit Week/Ribbon week will occur 10/26-10/30. Daily themes and events were highlighted.
- ~ Friday Student Book Exchange program had resumed. Grades 3-6 started the month then other grades will follow.
- ~ Mr. McCaskey is seeking volunteers for the gardens (Clearances are needed)

Calendar:

- 10/2: Early Dismissal @ 12:30pm (Kindergarten PM has no lunch and is dismissed with all students, NO Kindergarten AM classes)
- 10/5: PTO Meeting 7pm-8pm in the media room/library {FREE childcare provided in the gym}
- 10/6: Science Explorers "Mix It Up" (Day 2 of 3) 3:45pm-4:45pm in the school lobby
- 10/9: Student autumn Picture Day 9am-1:30pm in the gym
- 10/12: NO school – Teacher In-service

10/13: Science Explorers "Mix It Up" (Day 3 of 3) 3:45pm-4:45pm in the school lobby

11/2: PTO meeting 7pm-8pm *FREE childcare for the duration of the meeting** SPIRIT WEEK / RED RIBBON WEEK

10/26: SOCK it Drugs ~ wear Crazy Socks

10/27: Get into the SPIRIT of being healthy and drug free ~ wear school colors

10/28: Theme Day/Career Day ~ dress up "I would rather be a...doctor..musician..teacher, etc. than do drugs"

10/29: SNEAKer away from drugs ~ walk to school from behind Shady Maple Smorgasbord at 8:35am to school **Parents ARE welcome**

10/30: Are you REaDy to be healthy? ~ wear red

Recognitions: THANK YOU TEACHERS for putting the "T" back in Blue Ball Elementary's PTO
And thank you to the additional parent that has attended the 2 meetings. And the new parent that attended this 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.