

Blue Ball Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2013

Principal
Mr. McCaskey

PTO President
Dina Maio

PTO Vice President
Kelci Robbins

PTO Secretary
Cherie Mindy

PTO Treasurer
Lisa Weir

Committees

Fundraising: Lisa Garrett

Hospitality: Kelci Robbins

Box Tops for Education:

Kendra Babb & Dorothy Theodosatos

Campbell's Soup Labels:

Wendy Goshert

Cartridges for Kids: Lisa Garrett

Volunteer Coordinators

Heather Agpar
5agpars@comcast.net

Vanessa Boyer
dvboyer@comcast.net

PTO Meetings

April 8, 2013

May 6, 2013

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Attendance: Lisa Garrett, Erin Hole, Dina Maio, Cherie Mindy, Jeff Hochhaus, Vicky Humay, Curt McCaskey

Secretary's Report - Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Report given by Cherie Mindy via email from Lisa Weir. Donuts for Dad \$564.79, Family Fun Rec Night \$766.04, Meg Covely WRJ \$193.73, Teacher Allotment \$300.00, 2nd grade field trip paid in full \$1,248.00. PTO Committee would like to see budget with deductions and balance on a spreadsheet by April mtg. Cherie will inform Lisa W.

Fundraising

Cartridges for Kids collection filled 8 large boxes that were sent to company.

Dorothy T and Wendy G are in charge of spring contests for box tops and labels for education.

Hospitality

New Holland Rec Center night was well attended with approximately 150 people. Plenty of snacks were given.

All events are open to ALL staff at Blue Ball Elementary School.

Next event will be teacher appreciation week May 6-10, more details to follow.

Activities

March 8 6:30-8:00pm "Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss" event.

April 19 Science Fair 3:30-6:00pm setup 6:00-7:30pm Dina Maio. Flyers will be sent home beginning of February. Need a new t-shirt design, looking for suggestions.

May 14 8:00-8:45am Muffins for Mom NEED COORDINATOR. Dina will contact helping hands for names of possible helpers.

Art Show? Mrs. Snader has not picked a date.

September? Granola for Grandparents NEED COORDINATOR

Note: All funding for Activities comes from Special Events in the PTO Budget.

Campbell's Soup Labels for Education

No new information. Dina will contact Wendy Goshert about an update.

Upcoming Events

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" DR.
SEUSS
Friday, March 8, 13
6:30-8:00pm

SCIENCE FAIR
Friday April 19, 13
3:30-6:00pm set up
6:00-7:30pm Fair

Box Tops for Education

No new information.

Spirit wear

No new information.

Principal Report

Blue Ball Elementary Safe and Civil School Survey Results Overview:

We collected information about our school culture in from students in grades 3 to 6, parents, and school staff in November 2012.

Members of the school Positive School Culture Committee reviewed the results then created a summary of "glows" and "grows" from the survey results.

Student Responses

Glows:

- Students typically feel very safe to, from and within school. The place where students feel the safest is in the classroom (98%). The students also feel safe in the cafeteria (91%) and hallways (89%).
- Students also feel that if they knew that another student was involved in something illegal or dangerous, they would tell an adult at school (94%).
- Students seem to have a very good relationship with adults at the school and feel as though everyone treats everyone else with respect. 97% of students feel adults at school care about them and that the adults encourage them to do their best. 96% say the adults at school are helpful to them.
- 95% of students and above feel as though have been taught the rules for all areas of school, so they are aware of how they should behave.
- 97% of students believe that the work they do in school is important.
- 85% of students say they are glad to come to school, but 17% say they are not. (17% is not an extremely high percentage, it is high enough that a good handful of students are not happy coming to school each day. This number should be much less.

Grows:

- The place where students feel the least safe is the playground - only 77% responded that they feel safe here.
- A High number of students feel that they are not treated respectfully on the playground (46%). Some also feel this in the cafeteria (28%). Coming in third would be the bus ride to and from school (14%).
- Over half of our students (61%) have heard students using inappropriate language.

- 27% of our students say they have known a student who has had a weapon at school. (Note: this was researched and found to have been a single student who reportedly brought a pocket knife to school. It was not confirmed that this student actually had a knife but did speak about it with many students.)
- Students are almost equal when it comes to feeling left out by others. 49% says they have been left out, 52% says they have not.
- Bullying – Over 30% of our students say they have been physically injured, threatened, or teased by another student at school.

Parents

Glow:

- 94-100% of parents responded in a positive way that students feel safe at school, glad to come to school, feel they (students) can talk to staff about a problem, they are encouraged by staff who care about them. Students feel that schoolwork is important, are proud of their school, and respectful to other students and staff.
- Staff is helpful, kind, fair, respectful and lets students know that they are doing the right thing and explain to students the school rules and expectations.
- Visitors feel welcomed by staff and staff provides help as needed to families and students by maintaining open and continuing communications.
- Additional written responses applaud our staff for an exceptional atmosphere with a safe, happy, positive place to learn. Parents truly appreciate the staff for doing a great job.

Grow:

- 17%-32% of parents are concerned with inappropriate language, bullying, teasing, hitting with physical harm, and student cliques in our school.
- 8%-11% of parents have minor concerns of inappropriate dress, damage to personal property, and weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco.

Staff: (31 respondents)

Glow:

- 100% of survey responders believe that our students are proud to be part of Blue Ball Elementary and that our families feel welcomed and that our school is a safe haven.
- Staff also unanimously feels that our families feel comfortable discussing problems or concerns with us.

- 94% of our staff feels that students believe that the work they are completing here at Blue Ball is important.
- The staff feels that the students show one another respect the classrooms (100%) and hallways (94%)
- 94% of the staff feel that staff and students treat one another fairly.
- 97% of staff feel that staff is helpful to students.93% of staff feel that students are treated fairly.
- 100% of staff feel that it is easy for students to make friends.
- 100% of staff feel that students are told when they do things right.
- We have a healthy environment as 100% of responders do not feel that racial/sexual harassment, weapons, alcohol, drug or tobacco is a problem.

Grows:

- The overall areas that staff showed concern over students treating one another respectfully both on the bus (32%), cafeteria (32%) and the playground (35%).
- 25% of staff do not believe that students feel safe on the playground.
- 32% of the staff expressed concern that they do not know the protocol on how to respond to student misbehaviors in the school.
- 32% of the staff do know feel that they clearly know their role in responding to emergency situations.
- 35% of surveyors expressed concern with the system that is being used to identify students who may be at risk behaviorally or academically.
- 26% of staff also feel that respect and communication with one another is a problem area.

PSSA Assessment Schedule:

March 12-15 Grade 5 Writing

April 9-12 Grades 3-6 Math & Reading

April 23-24 Grade 4 Science

Mr. McCaskey will discuss snacks with the school nurse Mrs. Hollinger. Possibility of grades 1 and 2 sponsoring a classroom for a day with healthy snacks.

Spring parent teacher conference:

The teacher will contact the parent if a conference is needed or if the parent wants a conference they should contact the teacher. The conferences will be March 26-27.

In service day March 28, Spring break March 29- April 1

Kindergarten registration: April 22-24, 2013

Old Business

Non-profit Status 501c3. The Application for exemption from sales tax was filed. We have EIN number.

The PTO received a letter from the MDS department asking the PTO to purchase playground equipment for their students. A meeting is set for Thursday March 7 @ 10:00am Mr. McCaskey, Lisa Garrett, Dina Maio, Kara Martin, Neal Walsh, and MDS teachers from our school will be attending the meeting.

PTO volunteer identification, ex. vests, lanyards, will be looked into further by Lisa Weir.

New Business

April 30 PTO Today Expo in Oaks, PA Dina Maio, Cherie Mindy, Kendra Babb and Lisa Garrett will attend.

Looking for coordinator for Muffins For Mom on May 14 8:00-8:45 am

Wednesday June 5 2013, 6th Grade mixer. Kim Focht is the coordinator for event.

Suggestions made to get more parents involved in PTO meetings and events. Possible gift card door prize for parents at meeting.

PTO received letter from district office to put dates on the district calendar for 2013-14 school year.

Suggested events for next year:

Barnes and Noble book night where percentage of sales for evening is earned for the school.

Science Factory Night where the event would be exclusive to Blue Ball Elementary.

October 18, 2013 Race for Education 8:00am-4:00pm school field.

Next PTO meeting : Monday April 8,2013 6:30-7:30pm in Media Room