

Blue Ball Elementary School PTO Minutes

Monday, December 5, 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 (13): Tracy Finegan, Beth Davis, Janina Pinkas, Jessica Wilson, LeaAnn McDonald, Kirsten Ebersol, Kim Sheehan, Sue Dissinger, Curt McCaskey, Kendra Babb, Angela Landis, Carol Williams, Don Davis

Open Forum:

1.) LeaAnn McDonald voiced concern that she had recently observed a person accessing the school via an unlocked door.

2.) Curt McCaskey announced the need to look into alternative options for the additional fundraiser needed as several teachers aren't positively receiving the proposed "Spell out Success" fundraiser. Beth Davis stated that she would look into other avenues.

3.) On the subject of delayed school buses: Brightbill Transportation is a separate entity from ELANCO and Transportation Supervisor, Charlie Kantner can be contacted either directly or routed through the school switchboard. All issues should be directed to Charlie.

Treasurer's Report: Kendra Babb says that \$412.91 was deposited for the Believe Kids Fundraiser, \$37.50 was Corporate Income and \$240.00 was deposited from the \$15 per parent received from the 6th Grade field trip. Spirit Wear earned \$528.00 and \$300.00 listed as Teacher Allotments. It was clarified that Fundraising is for the 2017-2018 school year. If we don't earn enough to make the budget this year, cuts will have to be made next year. Field Trips are the biggest item on the budget.

[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.]

Family Events:

Box Tops & Labels for Education {No clearances for at home counting but Clearances NEEDED for in-school counting, contest posting and box tops pick-up} – Box top coordinator, Janina Pinkas stated a flyer was sent home about Box

Tops for Education. "Ski to Win" race will be coming up in January to kick off Box Tops for students. Sending out mailings to local companies to solicit donations was discussed. Students will also be able to purchase box tops with their high five coupons. Box tops should be trimmed and sent in bags of 50 dated no earlier than March 1st. [Committee Volunteers NEEDED 2016/2017 schoolyear]

Volunteer/Workroom {Clearances NEEDED} – Volunteers have recently been solicited using Signup Genius. [Coordinator NEEDED 2016/2017 schoolyear]

Activities:

Holiday around the World is scheduled for December 16th from 6:30-8:30. This is a family event with different stations. A collection of coloring pages depicting how each country celebrates the Holiday will then be stapled together to create a coloring book the kids can take away with them. Hot chocolate bar & cookies will be served. "Make your own Reindeer Food" station is sure to be a hit with the kiddos! Craft table will also be sure to please. A few raffled items will be given away as well as the obligatory visit with SANTA!

Assemblies:

Beth will contact author Daryl Cobb to get availability for "It's All in the Words" as a possibility for an assembly. Mr. McCaskey says two assemblies would cost \$900.00.

STEM FAIR

We are grateful and excited to have Jessica Wilson & Mrs. McCabe taking such an interest in running the STEM Fair this year! These two ladies got together and brainstormed with ideas. March 2nd was mentioned as a possible date. Last year's STEM Fair was a bit of a bummer as it ran into the same time period that local sports teams start practice sessions, thereby "stemming" interest and participation. Everyone is psyched about making improvements and being more careful with planning and timing this year to make this year's STEM Fair a huge success!

- 1.) The week following return from winter break: Mrs. McCabe will hand out STEM flyers & explain in person to students what the fair is all about to peak interest in participation.
- 2.) Three help sessions may be offered (a flyer to be sent out with a place for kids to check off which sessions they would be able to attend):
 - a. Finding a Topic; possibly January 16th..?
 - b. Research & Planning; around the first week of February
 - c. Working on Tri-fold Displays; to be held approximately 1 ½ weeks prior to the fair.

Mrs. McCabe will also give time during class to help explain which topics fall under technology, engineering or mathematics.

**Janina Pinkas suggested that extra credit be given to STEM Fair participants.

**Jessica Wilson asked if students could possibly be allowed to "pair up" on their projects & be allowed to work on them in class. Jessica also suggested that possible donations of supplies could be acquired for students via a "needs" list.

** Someone suggested giving out t-shirts in the future to participating students.

**Mr. McCaskey confirmed that the STEM Fair is not a contest; it will be an Expo.

New Business:

Mrs. Snader approached Beth Davis and asked if the funding for the Artome Organization could be run through the PTO.

Principal's Report ~

1. The pizza lunch went over great! All grades were represented and the kids were surprisingly subdued!
2. Our 5th grade class brought the most donations, so to thank them, we made our school Thanksgiving meal a bit special for them with table cloths, flower arrangements (donated by the "Positive School Culture" community), and table service. Pics were shown of the children enjoying their special reward.
3. Pictures of the **6th Grade Trip to the Franklin Institute** were shown. Pics included were of: The Kinex Challenge, The IMAX Show, the Sports Room and 'Sir Isaac Newton's Loft'. The 6th grade was in for some unwelcome excitement on the return trip home when one of the school buses was sideswiped (at very low speed; no one was injured, just a broken mirror). They all spent a lengthy amount of time on the Schuylkill Expressway. Kendra Babb said the kids did very well and handled themselves appropriately when given a much needed break at a rest area to use the facilities was provided because of the delay.
4. **Family Heroes:** Part of the first grade curriculum involves the introduction of holidays and important historical figures. With your support, we were able to dig deeper into the true meaning of Veteran's Day and the impact that it has on our community and country as we celebrated our loved ones! Throughout the month of November, we added faces to our growing patriotic display. With each face was a story and a family that contributed to our on-going discussions about the impact and importance our Armed Forces have on our country and community. Each time we would walk past our Veteran's Display; students would stop and ask questions, or beam with pride as they pointed out their loved one! We have taken down our display; your cherished memories and photographs have been returned to your child. Thank you again for supporting our learning about Veteran's Day!
5. **Girls On The Run:** Congratulations to our Girl on the Run Stars. Thank you coaches for making this tremendous experience possible for our girls of Blue Ball Elementary. Jessica Wilson spearheaded this program two years ago; the G.O.T.R. girls just finished their 4th season. This national program meets to practice twice per week and also covers topics girls struggle with such as bullying and positive self-talk. The program is available to 3rd through 5th grade girls who train to compete along with around 1,500 other girls plus their "Running Buddies" in an actual 5K race. Jessica related a heart-warming story about one girl who had been struggling. At the practice 5k she was walking her final lap...suddenly all of the girls rallied around her for encouragement and she began all out RUNNING when the other girls showed her their support! Thanks, Jessica, for sharing this awesome story about our wonderful G.O.T.R. girls!

Calendar:

Dec 5 ELANCO Pre-Kindergarten Program – Physical Education – session 3, gymnasium, 9:35-10:20 AM, by reservation, PTO Meeting, office conference room, 7:30 PM

Dec 6 Gr. 5 Holiday Concert, multipurpose room & gymnasium • School Assembly 2:30 PM • Evening Concert 7:00 PM

Dec 7 Gr 4 Lancaster Conservancy Program – "Wading into Wetland", gr. 4 classrooms, AM

Dec 14 Early Dismissal at 12:30 PM. (Morning Kindergarten session is for PM Students only)

Dec 16 PTO Holidays Around the World – multipurpose room, 6:30-8:30 PM

Dec 22 Spartan Band Concert – multipurpose room, 9:45-10:15 AM
Dec 23 School-Wide Holiday Sing-Along, multipurpose room & gymnasium, 1:30-2:30 PM
Dec 24-Jan1 Holiday Break
Jan 2 School in session
Jan 2 All Pro Dads, multipurpose room, 6:30 PM PTO Meeting, Media Center, 7:30 PM
Jan 4 Pre-Kindergarten Class 9:35-1020 AM (Art)

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