

Broadneck Elementary School Monthly PTO Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

Meeting called to order in the library at: 7:00 pm

Attendance:

- Board Officers in Attendance: Natalie Ray, Amy Green, Sue Ellis, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Cordts
- Additional attendance: See final page for full list

Officers Reports:

- President (Natalie Ray):
 - BGE Sign – BGE did not renew the certification like they said they would. We are now looking into an attorney/a contact with a BGE Exec.
 - “Let’s Bee Friends” Night – Food truck, dessert truck, Kona Ice, DJ, games, and more.
 - Science assemblies scheduled for March for all the students.
 - PTO President and Corresponding Secretary positions are open for election.
- Vice President (Amy Green):
 - Trivia Night (2/19/23) – Fundraising coming from the sold seats/tables (1 table donated to staff) and Silent Auction (both an in-person only section and an online section).
 - Outdoor Learning Space Project – Idea generation step has begun. Amy Green (V), Angela Wakshul (STEM Teacher), and Kayla Moreilly (parent volunteer). Mr. Cordts is also going to help out with information and steps.
 - Fifth graders get to design a piece of jewelry for a family member and submit it to this contest with Zachary’s Jewelers and if selected, the jeweler will make the item.

School Administration & Faculty Reports:

- Principal (Mrs. Miller):
 - Thank you for restocking the staff food/drinks for teacher lounge.
 - PBIS reward celebrations are coming – 30 minutes of a movie with popcorn, popsicles and extra recess when the weather warms up.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 8th is the first Evening of Coffee and Connection with Mrs. Miller & Mr. Cordts.
 - Topics people have requested – Academics, Clubs, Game/Dance, School Visits, Buses, Family Academy (Scheduling talks by professionals on parent topics like Navigating Social Media and Safety, Therapist speaking on behavior related topics, etc.).
 - Trying to work on ways to help find/offer childcare for the Family Academy Presenter Nights to help make it more available to parents, as well as food trucks (donated) or something to help with dinner plans for the night.
 - Aiming for end of February/beginning of March. Waiting to hear back.
 - Notes of Appreciation – already received 73 submissions, positive start, hoping to keep it up and have the submissions rolling in (remembering the Cultural Arts Teachers and Special Educators). Sharing with staff next Tuesday. This is all tied to the Workplace Love Language efforts for the month of February. Currently looking for a massage therapist who could donate some time for the staff who would be interested.
 - Two field trips for Second Grade in the works. Waiting on final approval and bus scheduling. (STEM – Watkins Park and another)

- Assistant Principal (Mr. Cordts):
 - Next week is Counselor Appreciation Week.
 - Looking into Educator of the Month for recognition/appreciation for our teachers. Carries more weight when started by a parent or PTO nomination.
 - Playground remodel is due to start once the weather warms up this spring. Should be about a 3 week project, but realistically, probably more. Information will be shared with the community as we have it.
 - Lots of illness going around. Keep reminding your students to wash their hands regularly, cover mouth when sneezing/coughing, etc. The nurse's office has been packed. Some extra disinfecting is happening by custodial staff.
 - Tomorrow is the Polar Bar Plunge. We have a 5th Grade group going.
- Teacher Reports:
 - Mrs. Welsh & Ms. Hess
 - **Chorus:** Chorus has reached 130 members for the spring. Mrs. Hess will start helping with chorus rehearsals. Chorus will compete on May 5th at Kings Dominion. *We request funds for Mrs. Hess to have a substitute so she can accompany us on the trip.* Spring concert May 2nd. Bowie Baysox performance June 3rd.
 - **Band/Strings:** Band/Strings concert is Monday May 22nd at 6:30pm.
 - **Musical:** 65 students auditioned. We were able to double cast the show so all students who auditioned could have a part and be part of Theater Club. Theater club meets on Mondays and Thursdays until 4pm Jan-April 18th. April 17th there will be two daytime assemblies for the school. One for each cast. Mrs. Welsh teaches 9 classes on Mondays. Because we need to do two assemblies now, an early dismissal cultural arts schedule will not be enough to cover the classes she would be teaching while getting the students ready for the assemblies. *We request funds for Mrs. Welsh to have a substitute that day so she can facilitate the assembly shows.* April 18th will be a double show in the evening. Each 5th grade student gets two free tickets (decided by the 5th grade musical parent committee). The remaining tickets will be sold to fundraise for next year's musical.
 - **Steel Drum Performances 4th Grade Performance Videos:** The performance day was well attended by families. Most students had a family member present. The residency was funded in full by the Maryland State Arts Council. We can apply for the grant again for next year but there's no guarantee it will be funded. There was extra available funding this year left over from Covid so many projects got fully funded. In the past, Mrs. Welsh has applied for grants through the Anne Arundel County Arts Council and received 50% funding and the PTO paid the other 50%.
 - **3rd Grade Recorders:** 3rd Grade students are learning to play the recorder during February and March. We plan to have a performance showcase during the school day at the end of March so families can come see their student's class perform on the recorder.
 - **4th Grade Ukuleles:** 4th Grade students are learning to play the Ukulele during the months of January and February. We are borrowing ukulele instruments from Brooklyn Park Elementary School. We plan to take videos of the students performing and post them on Brightspace for families to see.
 - **Sound System:** Our current stage sound system only functions as a single handheld microphone. The system is from the early 2000s. We would like to work towards updating the sound system so that music can be played (bluetooth, aux cable, cd player), the speakers in the cafe/gym sync together to provide better quality sound and we have the ability to use a wireless microphone. We also need monitor speakers for the stage so that the performers on the stage can hear the music being played. HP connections has provided a [quote](#) for small updates to be pieced together to have an updated sound system.

- **Music Fundraisers (#1-3):** Below are items that the general music teachers would like to work towards purchasing for the students to use during music class over the next few years.
 1. A class set of ukuleles and a ukulele cart. Quote for the [cart](#). [Ukulele](#), we would like 30. 3 packs of [colored strings](#)
 2. A class set of chromebooks (Cultural Arts class set). Our curriculum has an online component that the students can access via classlink called Quaver. The students can create digital music, play music games, access songs we learn in class and complete assignments. We are currently only able to use the chromebooks on early dismissal days because those are the only days that the students don't have PE, lunch or recess that they would need to carry their chromebook to and from. We have to get information on pricing from the technology department.
 3. A set of Djembe drums to teach drum circles. [Tubanos](#) 2 of each size (S, M, L) would be great to start. [Toca Freestyle Djembe drums](#) 2 sets of 7, [Large Djembe drums](#) (5)

Standing Committee Reports:

- Andrea Snodgrass: Window Coverings Project
 - Have some parents willing to help. Shared a couple different designs/plans with us. The idea of a “uniform” system throughout the school would be helpful for subs and other staff that are in and out of different rooms. Really looking for someone willing to take the lead on the project.

Other Discussion:

- Lots of great talk and ideas stemming from the music program and cultural arts. Talks about maybe having “Boosterthon for the Arts” as our “new” annual Boosterthon focus. And looking at this year’s Boosterthon money – whatever is not used in the Outdoor Learning Space can go towards some Cultural Arts stuff this year.

Meeting called at: 8:09

Additional Attendance from Sign-In Sheet

1. Sher Berberian
2. Kristen Musallam
3. Andrea Snodgrass
4. Shannon Martin
5. Shannon Van Hoesen
6. Elizabeth Welsh
7. Ms. Hess