

# Broadneck Elementary School Monthly PTO Meeting Minutes

Sept. 3, 2024

Meeting called to order in the library at: 7:18 pm

## Attendance:

- Board Officers in Attendance: Paige Skrickus, Nina Adams, Shannon VanHoesen (virtual), Sue Ellis, and Mrs. Miller.
- Additional attendance: See final page for full list of in-person attendees. Also had 24 virtual attendees.

## Officers Reports:

- President (Paige Skrickus):
  - Welcome to the '24-'25 PTO school year. Everyone who has a student at the school is a member of the BES PTO. There are no required dues. Donations are always welcome.
  - Bay Hills Golf course works with a company offering to sponsor a BES Golf Club. It would be through the PTO (not the school) since it's off campus. We got the green light, so the PTO will look into getting this connection started.
  - Girls on the Run
    - Sue Camper and Linda McCarthy are interested in helping to organize the group for the spring. We are in need of a faculty member to be the school rep. Mrs. Miller will put out feelers to see if a faculty member is available for the spring.
- Vice President (Amy Green):
  - Boosterthon apparel store for Music t-shirts and other BES spirit wear will open in mid-Sept for a couple weeks.
  - Still looking for Committee Heads for Fall Festival and Yearbook.
    - \*\*UPDATE\*\* Later in the meeting Courtney H. kindly volunteered to hopefully co-lead with someone.
    - And we're always taking more volunteers to help on all the committees.
- Treasurer (Nina Adams):
  - PTO '24-'25 Budget
    - Submitted for approval. PTO officers and Mrs. Miller & Mr. Cordts have gone through it. Now just looking for questions and then approval. \*\*Budget passed
      - One of the biggest adjustments to the budget this year was including more PTO funds helping with field trip costs.

## School Administration & Faculty Reports:

- Principal (Mrs. Miller):
  - Back to School Night this Thursday, 9/5, 6:30-7:30pm. It's done in two shifts.
  - Sept. 15-Oct. 15 is Hispanic heritage month. Keep an eye out for events, announcements, and information.
  - Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Fifth grade student parent meeting for anyone interested in joining the Musical.
    - Sept. 25 & 26 will be an audition workshop to teach students how to audition
    - Actual auditions will be in Oct. (dates to come)
  - The school has made great strides in our numbers for getting students to school on time and full attendance for more days of the school year.
  - Last year the focus was on Math curriculum. Our MCAP scores increased by 4%. It doesn't sound high, but considering how high our numbers were to begin with, 4% in one year is actually a good increase. This year we have a new Language Arts curriculum.

- There is a brand new communication system staff is working with. So The Bee's Buzz was meant to come out on Saturday but it came out today – there's a learning curve happening. A successful on the spot test of the text message system happened here tonight at the PTO Meeting.
- County wide push for Schools to NOT have Facebook pages. PTO pages are fine, just not the school. Schools are meant to use Instagram and/or X.
  - There will be notices for parents all over the school on Thursday night to help with that information.
- Mrs. Earley was nominated as BES's teacher of the year. Congratulations!!
- By Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> we should be getting all our school's chromebooks in or at least know how many in total we will be getting. We currently have about 300 in the building for our 650 students. So at the moment the teachers are sharing the carts and making due with what we have (we are also waiting on a technician for our school).
- Teacher Reports:
  - Mrs. Hawkins (Intermediate Lead Teacher):
    - Teachers just wanted to thank the PTO for their support, especially sharing their Amazon wish lists and provided treats at the start of school.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

- Boosterthon (Natalie Ray/Shannon VanHoesen):
  - \$7100 so far in business sponsors for Boosterthon. Last year we were able to get \$7200. We're hoping to pass last year's total. So if you know a business owner who would be interested in a sponsorship level, let us know.

### **Other Discussion:**

- Ideas for a "big project" for this year's Boosterthon money to be raised for.
  - Possibly something related to chromebooks. (That will be dependent on the information Mrs. Miller has come Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. so we don't spend money unnecessarily)
  - Calming Room (we do already have a couple of Zen Dens in BES for this kind of service, and every classroom/learning space has its own Zen Zone)
  - Sensory garden (outdoor)
  - Sunshaded area outside or a more permanent structure over the playground equipment area to create shade (non-permanent get damaged by weather and don't last long).
  - Walkie Talkies. Currently 2 per area only and then administration. Mrs. Miller would need to also discuss with the security office.
  - Outdoor Classroom (We hit a bunch of red tape when we tried this a couple years ago. We do now have a contact person and have learned more about the process, so it can be back "on the table").
    - One suggestion now was for it to be off to the side in the back where the sidewalk is to try and get more space in between the recess area and the outdoor classroom space.
- Wegman's grant (Lisa B. graciously offered to write the grant which could get the school a couple hundred dollars in Wegman gift cards to buy supplies for the teachers' lounge)
- We discussed ideas to better the Teacher Lounge
- Is Rooms now the preferred form of communication?
  - Yes. The county is making a push for this to be the main line of communication. Over time teachers will be moving everything over to Rooms. The adjustment will be spread out over time, not happening all at once.

- In addition to Rooms are we still using PowerSchool?
  - Yes. PowerSchool is used for grades/gradebook. Rooms will be for communication.

**Meeting called at:** 8:06 pm

Additional Attendance from Sign-In Sheet

1. Sabina Lilley
2. Megan Hawkins
3. Colleen Courtney
4. Derek Murgatroyd
5. Kristen Musallam
6. TessJurz
7. Bethany Sampsel

And 24 virtual attendees