

Broadneck Elementary School Monthly PTO Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2025

Meeting called to order in the library at: 7:04 pm

Attendance:

- Board Officers in Attendance: Paige Skrickus, Nina Adams, Amy Green (virtual), Shannon VanHoesen (virtual), Sue Ellis, Mr. Cordts, and Mrs. Miller.
- Additional attendance: See final page for full list of in-person attendees. Also had 7 virtual attendees.

Officers Reports:

- President (Paige Skrickus):
 - BES Spirit Wear shop is currently open until April 6th. Shop includes the Music shirts.
 - Teachers and staff - start thinking about budget requests for next school year
 - We were able to book an additional assembly – “What is Opera? A TEAM!” with the Opera of Baltimore!! They will come and do two assemblies. Shout out to our BES parent, Rachel Sitomer, that lined up this wonderful opportunity for us.

School Administration & Faculty Reports:

- Principal (Mrs. Miller):
 - Big thank you to our school community and PTO for helping with the Peter Pan musical, the Broadneck Ball, and the PBIS Paint day.
 - Thank you from BES counselors to the PTO for sponsoring them to go to the MD state counselor conference!! They were exposed to lots of good and fun ideas, including an outdoor Labyrinth that they are investigating to possibly bring to BES.
 - Also a thank you to PTO for sponsoring three of our teachers (literacy teachers and early interventionists) to attend the upcoming Literacy conference (SOMLA).
 - Best of Broadneck Family Night on Wednesday, April 2nd
 - 5th graders will be taking a climate survey on April 3rd.
 - Make up field trip for some of the 4th grade classes (Campbell, Fisher, Temple) on April 4th to Arlington Echo.
 - National Library Week (also National School Librarian Day 4/3) & Assistant Principals' Week

- Purple Up Day will be April 9th this year for our county, since the 16th is during spring break.
- Spring Fling coming on April 9th (5pm & 7pm shows)
- April 10th PAC 2nd & 4th grades at 7:30am
- April 11th Other 4th grade classes (Davis & Moore) have Arlington Echo field trip
- Friendly reminder for your kiddos to be school ready leading into spring break.
- Spring Break is April 14-21st/No School
- April 22-25th is Volunteer Appreciation Week. The Volunteer Breakfast will be on the 25th right at the beginning of the school day.
- 2nd grade will have a field trip to Watkins Park on April 25th for their STEM accessible playground projects.
- April 29th a couple 1st grade classes (D'Ascoli & Goldthwait) will go to the Smithsonian.
- Please encourage your kids to wash their hands, get a good night's sleep, take their vitamins, and do all the things to help avoid illness
- CKLA curriculum actually comes with end of unit "Culminating Activities" of the Unit. (students getting to wear scrubs while watching a dissection, getting to watch a NASA streaming event while wearing space gear, adopting chicks, etc.). Maybe we can use some of the fundraiser funds to put towards these?? Right now, the teachers are using what Materials of Instruction funds they can but then they're using their own money for the rest.
 - **Maybe teachers can give PTO a sense of amounts of funds needed to do the enrichments/extensions/celebrations throughout the year (especially now that they've gone through the first year of it). We can look into the idea of making it a "new" line item in the budget going forward.
- Looking to host a Leadership Retreat for the Leadership Team the first day of "summer break". Trying to see if anyone has any connections (12-15 adults, off campus to plan and reflect) to restaurants or conference centers we could use, or any financial assistance from funds.
- Plumbing concerns - we have reached out to everyone we can. Plumbers came out the first time and said there was a lot of clogging with "wipes", even the flushable ones cause clogging with our system. We are sure they had something to do with it, but it can't be the only issue. The second time in February, there was a box turtle in the drain and a pair of underwear (that was apparently flushed). This third time the plumbers checked the main two areas and discovered it wasn't a BES problem. It was actually a back up from the neighborhood across the street. So we had to wait for county workers, not AACPS

workers to come. Mrs. Miller & Mr. Cordts are making sure relocation and clean up happens as quickly as possible. Discussions with people from the county continue, unfortunately, no one has given a solid plan to us.

- Mrs. Miller tried to campaign for a virtual day after the last "flood" like a school closure while all of that is going on. Unfortunately, she has to run it past all the people above her and it eventually got turned down.

- Assistant Principal (Mr. Cordts):

- 3-5th graders will have MCAP after spring break. ELA will begin the last week of April. Math will be the second week of May. Make-ups will go all the way through the end of month of May.

- We continue to have day to day needs for Substitutes. Please fill out an application if you're interested. We could use the help.

- June 4th will be Field Day.

- May 28th will be Kindergarten Orientation.

- Teacher Reports:

- Mrs. D'Ascoli (Primary Lead Teacher):

- Thank you again for the lounge!! Teachers are using it.
- Thank you for the conference the teachers are attending tomorrow.
- A big thank you for the field trip financial help to reduce costs for students.

- Mrs. Welsh (Music Department):

- 2nd grade volunteer celebration. Second graders have started to learn two songs that they will sing for the volunteer celebration on April 25th. A letter was sent home to families with information about learning the songs in class.
- Recorder showcase. 3rd graders have been learning the recorder. They will have showcases on April 3rd and 4th where families can come into the building during music class time and watch the students play the songs they have learned. It will also be recorded and posted to Brightspace if possible. Families should pre-register to attend using the information sent home to families.
- Ukulele. 4th graders in Mrs. Welsh's class have started learning to play the ukulele. No showcase for that.
- Chorus.

- Spring concert is May 7th. We are attempting an even more staggered approach this time at Magothy River Middle. The in-school assembly will also be May 7th.
- May 16th Kings Dominion Trip Performance. The cost has gotten pretty high. Looking into the idea of a parent committee for next year to help arrange fundraisers to help with the cost for this specific trip. Like an elementary school Music Boosters.
- June 13th Chesapeake Baysox performance/fundraiser of the National Anthem for the game.
- Musical. Mrs. Abbott is unable to help facilitate the musical with Mrs. Welsh next year ('25-'26).
 - Over the past three school years our cultural arts part time teachers have gone from 3 days a week to 2 days a week at our school. Theater club can only meet after school on days that teachers do not have required school meetings. Our part-time teachers do not choose which days they are in our building which means they are not always at our school on rehearsal days. This has also affected Mrs. Shuck because Mrs. V is only in the buildings for two days to help with spring fling practices. Mrs. Abbott feels she is unable to devote the time necessary to helping with the musical being split between three schools and managing her other at home and pre-arranged responsibilities and commitments.
 - We are in need of someone to co-direct the musical with Mrs. Welsh next school year. They need to have experience directing a musical and working with kids. It's about 100 hours of work minimum, Mondays and Thursdays 2:45-4pm October to the end of February, plus tech week, shows and planning time with Mrs. Welsh. Mrs. Welsh spoke with a local director on the phone who is interested in working with the theater club. She is unsure of what her schedule will be like next year as of right now so she is hoping to be able to give a definitive answer by June. This will require funding to pay this person. In the past the theater club has paid for the club t-shirts (\$2k), DVD (\$600) and script books (thousands of dollars total). To fund a co-director from the theater club funds may mean that students will need to pay for those items in addition to their costume. If we are unable to find/fund someone to help Mrs. Welsh, we will need to pivot to a different type of 5th grade performance. Something like a talent show type performance that Mrs. Welsh could manage on her own.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Golf outing, May 5th
 - Sign-ups are open, so grab your friends and family and sign up!
- Restaurant Night
 - Chipotle Night, April 2nd. Grab some dinner before Best of Broadneck.

Other Discussion:

- Can write to School Board and District 5 Representative to try and solicit help with the plumbing issues. Everything so far has been a "reactive" approach rather than our preferred "proactive" approach. Community reaching out can help. Staff is limited to following the hierarchy procedures, where as the community can reach out more directly to the board and representatives.
 - The extent of the clean up each time is cutting out wall, cleaning, disinfecting, putting up new dry wall, painting. The sewage actually comes up and out. The one classroom has a custodial closet in it (from the open build of the building that then put up walls) and the sewage came up and out of a drain in there as well.
 - We asked about the fact that BES is an "old building". But we are not on the list for a new build anytime soon.
 - A lot of us had no idea that Mrs. Miller and Mr. Cordts were doing the wet-vac process of removing the sewage and flood with Mr. Jones. That everything was actually such a BIG process. The drywall and painting and rug replacement, every time.
- We want to look into having a PTO/Musical Town Hall meeting to try and brainstorm ideas to help Mrs. Welsh find a co-director and/or fund a co-director & musical production.
- June 4th will be Field Day
- May 28th will be Kindergarten Orientation.

Meeting called at: 8:17 pm

Additional Attendance from Sign-In Sheet:

1. Nicole D'Ascoli
2. Liz Welsh

And 7 virtual attendees:

1. Colleen Courtney
2. Stephanie Earley
3. Jennifer Ryan
4. Loretta Goodridge
5. Lindsay Nolle
6. K. Misto
7. Michelle Ebersberger