

Broadneck Elementary School Monthly PTO Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2024

Meeting called to order in the library at: 7:03 pm

Attendance:

- Board Officers in Attendance: Paige Skrickus, Amy Green (virtual), Shannon VanHoesen, Sue Ellis, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Cordts.
- Additional attendance: See final page for full list of in-person attendees. Also had 22 virtual attendees.

Officers Reports:

- President (Paige Skrickus):
 - 330 new chromebooks came in yesterday (11 carts). Distribution happening. Seems like the school will have enough for each classroom to have a class set of chrombeooks and a cart.
 - Voted to cover the cost of our two counselors to attend a conference in Cambridge in March. It passed.
 - We have been working with Mrs. Miller on trying to update/fix up the teachers' lounge. Trying to get more furniture, furniture that matches. Possibly replacing the aged refrigerator. Looking for any ideas, help, suggestions, etc. Mrs. Miller mentioned hearing about a website called Donors Choose (you put out there what your school needs and people/companies across the country can jump in and help if they want). Paige will post the inspiration photos along with the actual current photos on the PTO Facebook page.
 - Lisa Bosnjak shared that we got the \$200 gift from Wegman's to spend on supplies for the lounge. Yay!! Thanks Lisa!!

School Administration & Faculty Reports:

- Principal (Mrs. Miller):
 - Oct. 2nd is custodian appreciation day, so teachers plan to have the student make some cards.
 - No school on Thursday, Oct. 3rd.
 - Oct. 15th is a 2-hour early dismissal, Fun Run Day, and Unity Day. Fun Run times will be shared soon in the Bees' Buzz. Parents just have to walk around back (no need to check in) and there will be a spectator's area. Hopefully the weather cooperates so we can be outside and have parents as spectators. If it is raining and needs to be inside, it will just be for students and staff.
 - October Harvest for the Hungry drives will have some themes again this year. Details coming soon.
 - Oct. 25th PBIS marking period 1 celebration.
 - Halloween is a big deal here at BES. We have our outdoor parade of two big laps around the parking lot. Parents are welcome to come watch. There will be an alternative option for those families/students who do not want to participate. No weapons or the like with costumes. Masks are ok for the parade but not to be worn all day. Classroom party times will come out soon for each grade level.
 - MCAP results were sent home today.
 - Positive Referral photos have been shared in the Bees' Buzz weekly email/newsletter only so far. They haven't been shared on social media yet because Mrs. Miller is still waiting for parents to finish completing the photo release forms so she knows who can and cannot be photographed for social media.
 - The PTO will share the photo permission form on our Facebook page as well.

- Girls on the Run – we need a permanent employee to be one of the sponsors of the club in order for it to happen. Mrs. Miller will put this out to the staff to try and find one to try and have the club in the Spring.
- Assistant Principal (Mr. Cordts):
 - 2nd and 5th grade will have CogAT testing in November. Details to follow soon.
 - November also has the American Education Week where parents are allowed to come in during the day. Details to follow soon.
- Teacher Reports:
 - Mrs. D'Ascoli (Primary Grade Lead Teacher):
 - Teachers have expressed an interest in having more color printers (there is currently one). Some research found it is around \$545 for a printer from an approved vendor. Ink cartridges are about \$200 each and each printer needs two. A color printer from Office Depot is around \$339.
 - It would be helpful to teachers, especially with the new curriculum, because they are using them more.
 - The goal would be to have one in each of the grade level printer rooms.
 - PTO could help fund the printers and the ink, along with an on-going budget line for ink cartridge replacements.
 - Discussion – maybe start with three printers this year? PTO will run the numbers and come up with a plan.
 - Mrs. Welsh (Music Department):
 - We now have a BES Music website where families can view schedules and other important information involving band, strings, chorus and theater club.

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/broadneck-elementary-performin/home>
 - Steel Drum Residency grant has been approved. Information for times for families to come in to watch will be communicated soon. This is for the 4th grade students. The grant will pay for half and the PTO will pay for the other half. Parents need to register to come in to watch the performance. Information came home.
 - We used boosterthon to do online sales of our music t-shirts. They will be distributed to students in October.
 - A family meeting for musical was held in September and we had an audition workshop for theater club so students could learn the material for the audition as well as learn how to have a successful audition. Oct. 14, 16, and 17th will be the auditions for the musical.
 - We are looking for any companies interested in putting ads in our musical program. They can contact ewelsh@aacps.org.
 - Oct. 23rd will be Spooky Strings at Magothy Middle – it is the feeder system performance.
 - We will not be doing the BSO field trips this year due to funding and grade level decisions.
 - Chart of important dates and events attached at the end of the minutes

Standing Committee Reports:

- Boosterthon (Natalie Ray/Shannon VanHoesen):
 - Raised \$11,000 from company sponsors.

- We need families to register their students. PTO will post this information again on its Facebook page.
- Kick off in school will be on Monday the 7th so reminders and information will be coming home then as well.
- Beautification (Alice Wilkerson):
 - Over the past couple of years, the committee has been trying to figure out the best way it can be useful. We are trying to get some suggestions/help to figure out a plan for the committee going forward, especially for when Alice is gone in a couple years.
 - People seemed to have liked the school clean ups that occur a couple times a year. The only downfall of only having those twice a year is that it doesn't last. So, the committee is talking about focusing budget costs on the area around the marquee sign area and the bench area in front of the school. Maybe using flowerpots and other things to be seasonal and looking nice for school events. So, focus the committee's timing around those big school events and times, and hopefully this will help get more engagement and participation.
 - We want to help maintain the various garden areas as well (monarch garden and learning gardens)
 - Overall, trying to make the committee more sustainable for the future. We really want to keep things going and have areas be as low maintenance as possible so they can be easily maintained.
 - Mrs. Miller mentioned we are trying to go for Green School certification in the next year or two.
 - Suggestion to reach out to the HS garden club as well as students who need service hours.
 - Alice found a plant hook-up to get plan "rejects" from Home Depot for free. She is also trying to work with local landscapers to get donations of time or supplies as well.
 - A suggestion to try and see if the Providence Center can work with us at all. We are not sure if they efforts have be on-site there. But we will look into it.
- Holiday Shop (Kristy Williams & Cindy Sumner):
 - Looking to do it around the week of December 16th. Still need to confirm. Maybe a "winter" theme so it's non-denominational. If anyone has any good cast-off decorations to donate, that would be a great help. We will be looking for a minimum of 50 volunteers, a sign-up genius will be coming out. There will be the \$25 limit, again, for how much the students can bring in.
 - Once the dates are finalized Mrs. Miller will work on the class time assignments so we get them out as soon as possible.
- Restaurant Nights
 - Ledo's Night on Oct. 23rd, dine in or takeout. Ledo's in Severna Park.
 - More dates for more restaurants to come.

Other Discussion:

- Room Parents (Krista McNamara): Every teacher has at least one room parent, except 5th Grade Fitzmaurice still needs a room parent. Please volunteer if you can. This year we want to come up with a plan to make sure we incorporate the cultural arts teachers and custodians when we look at holiday and/or end of year appreciation gifts. But not in a way that overwhelms the generosity of the families in our community. Working with the hospitality committee can help too. Maybe buddy up a staff member with a class to make sure everyone is included?? Maybe just a collection??

- Broadneck Ball (Krista McNamara): The first thing will be to establish a date. Thinking February to early March time when life isn't as spring hectic (avoiding the 5th grade dance in Jan.). We discussed the format of the two-time sessions vs. off-site at Magothy, but we want it to feel like the Broadneck Ball at our school. Now that the two-session format happened once, people should be more used to it now that they know what to expect. Friday worked well also because the custodians are already here.
 - It is currently penciled in for Friday, March 14th because Mrs. Miller already checked for us and it's available while other dates are already booked with events around then.

Meeting called at: 7:57 pm

****Music Department Important Dates & Events****

Oct 21-25th	Steel Drum Residency
Oct 25th	Steel Drum Family Showcase
October 23	Spooky Strings (cluster concert)
Oct 14, 16, 17	Musical Auditions
Oct 25th	Audition results revealed
Dec 16	Band, strings and chorus concert 6:30pm
Dec 18	Winter Concert Assembly
January 8th	Middle School Band/strings assembly
January 9th	Cluster chorus concert
Nov 4th-Feb 17	Musical rehearsal start Mondays and Thursdays
February 20,21,24,25,26	Musical Tech Week 2:25pm-7pm
February 26	Musical Assembly
February 27 & 28th 6:30pm	Musical evening shows
May 7th	spring concert assembly
May 7th	band/strings/chorus combined concert 6:30pm
Friday May 16th	Kings Dominion Chorus Trip
TBD	Bowie Baysox Chorus Performance

Additional Attendance from Sign-In Sheet

1. Liz Welsh
2. Nicole D'Ascoli
3. Krista McNamara
4. Tess Jurz
5. Bethany Sampsel
6. Sabina Lilley
7. Colleen Courtney

Virtual Attendees

1. James Wood
2. Alex Berberian
3. Kristin Ellington
4. Lauren Michelle
5. Lindsay Nolle
6. Lisa Bosnjak
7. Loretta Goodridge
8. Meagan Hakala
9. Sheri Berberian
10. Natalie Ray
11. Monique Mobray
12. Cindy Sumner
13. Jillian Jacinto
14. Stephanie Walsh
15. Sean Lacey
16. Nicole Felt
17. Kristin Mollet
18. Alice Wilkerson
19. Suzie Crosby
20. Cathleen Weadon
21. Rubah Qureshi