



PTO MINUTES

Trailblazer Elementary

August 17, 2021 4:30pm | **Meeting called to order by Kim Gayeski, PTO President**

1. In Attendance

- Katie Sodaro-Jensen, Principal
- Board members in attendance

2. Meeting Sponsor

- Nothing Bundt Cakes – Lone Tree
 - A potential sponsor for a fundraiser around Valentine's Day

3. Principal's Update

- The classrooms are full of energy and excitement on the first day/week of school
- Annual Themes (*past two and current*)
 - Surprise yourself – 2019/2020
 - Ride the Wave – 2020/2021
 - What's your Why? – 2021/2022 (*current theme*)
 - An inspirational speaker, who spoke at Summer Summit, conducted a presentation on "What's your Why?".
 - Staff talked about their "why" and their "purpose" and will incorporate that topic discussion into the classrooms
 - August Theme: Connection
 - Working on building relationships, teamwork, connecting with one another
- New mascot: Blazer the Moose
 - The kids seem to really like Blazer and have received positive feedback
- Positive behavior reinforcement
 - Stickers, Blazer Bucks (previously Golden Tickets)
 - Moose of the Month (previously Explorer of the Month)
 - Katie Sodaro-Jensen and Christine Pommé have visited the classrooms to discuss behavior expectations with students and staff
 - Rewarding positive behavior and looking at ways to help students learn from mistakes
- Beginning of the year testing
 - I-Ready starting
 - Katie Sodaro-Jensen started meeting with teachers to discuss and analyze the data
- Library Specialists
 - New Library Specialists will meet and discuss with the teachers next week to incorporate literacy and look at standards
 - Assistance in library needed (flexible position available)

4. Grant Request

- 1st Grant Requestor: Chris Heinemann (1st Grade Teacher)
 - Description of Request: Scholastic News – Will be used to help and learn skills in science, social studies, reading comprehension and writing
 - 42 children affected
 - Money Request: \$261.80
 - Needed ASAP
 - Voted – APPROVED
- 2nd Grant Requestor: Andrea Marley (Music Teacher)
 - Description of Request: BBR8 Reasoner Bells Kits (to teach Kindergarten – 4th grade)
 - Each kit includes: 1x carrying case, 8 bells and a set of mallets
 - 1x Kit = \$33.95, needs 28 kits
 - Money Request: \$950.60
 - Voted – APPROVED
- 3rd Grant Requestor: Anne Dawson (Kindergarten Teacher)
 - Scholastic News (Kindergarten level) – Same description as Chris Heinemann.
 - Money Request: \$215.00
 - Need ASAP
 - Voted – APPROVED

5. Discussion Topics

- 6th Grade Outdoor Ed Trip
 - Last year's fundraiser was hot sauce sales and raised approx. \$868 towards the trip
 - PTO decided at executive board meeting to round that discount up to \$50/camper
- Teacher Reimbursements
 - Due to the surplus in account, PTO would like to help the teachers for this year by implementing a receipt reimbursement of up to \$100.00 to avoid personal spending on classroom supplies or decoration. If no receipts are provided, they can receive a \$100.00 gift card instead.
 - Voted – APPROVED
- Goals for Fundraising & needs for TBE
 - Katie Sodaro-Jensen had discussions with librarian about improvement and organization of the library, updated books/book sets, etc..
 - Katie Sodaro-Jensen sent survey to staff and spoke with librarian to discuss what the needs for the library would be. Group sets of books were brought up and requested.
 - Teacher Lounge and technology are two other areas of possible TBE needs
 - Technology teacher mentioned the TB Chrome books are in the last year before needing replacements
 - District pays for a portion of the Chrome books, but not enough to cover what TBE would need
 - Walkie talkies are needed by teachers
 - Teachers requested curriculum - Brain Pop, Mystery Science (Approx. \$250/program)
- Discussions about differentiation between fundraisers and community events
 - Kim Gayeski invites attendees to continue coming to PTO meetings and be involved with the financials
- Restaurant Nights
 - One volunteer has offer to organize, if there's someone who would like to co-chair, please let the board know
- Spirit Wear
 - Need volunteers
 - Stuffed Moose mentioned as cute option for spirit wear / TBE swag
 - A participant asked if TB has a school store, which Kim confirmed the school does not

- Volunteers Needed
 - Sign Up Genius used for fundraisers and community events
- Back-to-School Bash
 - A food truck is coming, possibly getting a 2nd truck, cotton candy, Kona Ice, etc. Asking people to commit volunteering for possibly 1 hour, then have fun for the rest of the time there. Looking for high school students who need volunteer hours, to assist with the Back-to-School Bash.
 - There will be a card making station where kids can make cards for our first responders
 - Attendee may have first responder swag to give out to kids who make a card
 - Front pavilion has a table that is damaged and meeting attendee offered to call Metro District to get the table repaired. The sprinklers also go off in the evening, so Metro District will need to pause those for the Back-to-School Bash.
 - Advertisement for the event – People to post on Nextdoor, Facebook – Word of Mouth, flyers in neighborhoods, etc. Event is a community event and welcome to all.
- Facebook Live & Alternative Methods of PTO Communication
 - Need assistance with creating a YouTube channel for the PTO meetings
 - Facebook Live – stats show that the meeting reaches approx. 200+ people
 - Emailed newsletter will have links to meeting minutes and treasurer report
- Fun Run
 - Primary age in a.m. and intermediate age in p.m.; no official times have been scheduled yet
 - Need volunteers to coordinate/organize prizes throughout the week (15th – 24th) and for the day of the Fun Run
- Family Pizza / Pasta Bingo Night – Community Event
 - Cannot charge for Bingo, but will charge for costs of dinner (No date set yet)
- Pancake Breakfast
 - Possibly add Holiday Tree raffle, per each classroom/per grade
- Shade for TBE grounds
 - Attendee asked if it were possible to add a shade sail or plant trees for additional shade
 - Katie Sodaro-Jensen mentioned for anything related to building modification, the school would need to get approval
- Garden Club
 - Contact Sarah Nelson re: the plan going forward for Garden Club
- Instagram for TBE
 - Attendee asked if we could possibly look into Instagram as a social media platform for PTO communications