



PTO MINUTES

Trailblazer Elementary

March 22, 2022 4:30pm | **Meeting called to order by Kim Gayeski, PTO President**

1. In Attendance

- Katie Sodaro-Jensen, Principal
- Christine Pommé, Assistant Principal
- PTO Board Members

2. Treasurer's Report

- Report attached and discussed on prior grant requests

3. Principal's Update

- Teachers and students are getting ready for CMAS testing
- Working on Positivity for month of March and are moving into Leadership for April
 - Would like to build up student leadership for next year and getting students into school pride
- Discussions at meetings re: feeder schools for Solstice and Sterling Ranch (Coyote Creek & Roxborough)
 - Need to make TBE the “niche” school and try and market it more to assist with enrollment issues
- CMAS baggies for students
 - Can PTO purchase and prepare in time for testing (starting next week)
- Christine P. had an idea to increase technology methods to TBE by bring in more robotics to gain a “STEM feel”
 - DASH bots were borrowed to use by students to try them out and see if they are engaged and interested in coding
 - Approved grant funds would be used to purchase these robots
 - DASH bots program includes lessons plans, so teacher could use them in a variety of ways

4. Nominations for Board Positions

- Kayla Mander nominated herself for President
- Megan Laughlin will continue as Secretary
- Stacy Klein has been nominated as Treasurer (Lorrie Haiar will
- Kathleen Bracken has been nominated as VP
 - Question raised for “General Board Member” positions, which are not active yet, but can be included into the PTO bylaws

5. Grant Requests

- **Requestor: Beth Bates**
 - Description: Money to put together welcome bags to new students. Bags include: tissue paper, pencils, moose craft, logo, stickers

- Amount requested: \$500.00 – TABLED, WILL DISCUSS WITH B. BATES FURTHER
- Notes: Possibly include TBE spiritwear t-shirts; people think supplies for 100 bags may be too much and that we should fund supplies for approx.. 25 bags
- **Requestor: Marlo Horsford (Kindergarten Teacher)**
 - Description: Secret Stories / Decorative Squares Phonics Kit - Helping kids identify and recognized letter and sound patters in reading and writing
 - Number of students affected: 40
 - Amount requested: \$109.00 x 2 = \$218.00 – APPROVED
- **Requestor: D. Falter and Wendy Casey (6th Grade Teachers)**
 - Description: Vocabulary.com 2x license for 2022/2023 school year. An advanced way of learning A-Z.
 - Amount requested: \$378.00 – APPROVED
- **Requestor: Beth Bates**
 - Description: A Little Spot of Emotion box set, A little Spot of Feelings box set, A Little Spot of Life Sills box set and A Little Spot Takes Action box set (social/emotional reading materials)
 - Amount requested: \$167.00 – A. Dawson has a few of these book sets, which she will lend to Beth, so PTO approved 3x book sets (PRICE UNKNOWN, BUT UNDER \$167.00) – APPROVED
- **Requestor: Christine Pommé**
 - Description: Admin wants to start building the image and foundational base for an exceptional STEM / tech program at TBE. Along with the prior approved \$2,500.00 grant, this additional grant will supplement the robots available at the school. The Ozobots purchased are for more advanced coding students and this additional grant will be used to purchase DASH robots (\$180.00/robot) which will be more user-friendly for younger/primary students and provide an into coding.
 - Amount requested: \$1,000.00 – APPROVED
 - Additional notes: Kayla Mander said that there are lots of parents who work with Lockheed Martin and to possibly partner with them, to assist with building TBE’s image of a STEM school

6. Library Funding

- In reviewing prior meeting minutes, there was never an official approval on library money or additional technology money (\$8k was approved) but other numbers were discussed but not approved or finalized
- Katie originally presented \$10k for the library update, but was unsure on the final amount on how much it would cost
 - Cindy said it would be about \$20k over a period of 4 years in order to get TBE Library up to date and rated at a standard level, so \$5k - \$6k would be a reasonable amount for this year to add to the library
- Question was raised about what happens to the books that the library is cutting out of circulation and it’s unsure if the district will allow a “used book sale”
- Katie said she can coordinate with Cindy, TBE Library Specialists, on attending a PTO meeting to discuss in further details re: the library update

- Kayla asked if we had a specific list of books needed that we could send out to parents and the idea of crowdfunding was discussed (Myschoolbucks, not the best option due to funds being sent to the district vs. TBE)
- **Amount for library updating: \$5,000.00 – APPROVED**

7. Technology Funding

- Discussed about another \$16,000.00 but it was never approved. Kim said prior school's PTO placed stickers on laptops that showed which laptops were purchased by PTO so when the laptop was done/expired, it could be scrubbed and then returned back to PTO to donate vs. being thrown away or given to the district.
- If approved, order for additional technology would need to be ordered ASAP (due to supply chain / shipping issues)
- PTO Board needs to know how long each computer will last according to district
- PTO Board has further questions and will consider additional meeting to discuss in further details before deciding
- **Amount for additional technology needs: \$16,000.00 – WAITING TO APPROVE**

8. Restaurant Nights

- Kona Ice for field day (May 20th)
- Mod Market was a bust due to snow storm

9. TBE / Thunderridge Scholarship

- 2x Submissions
 - Jenna Donahue & Sonrisa Scott
 - Vote majority: Select only one winner – **WINNER PENDING / KIM TO LOOK INTO FURTHER ON WINNER**

10. Nerf Wars

- Successful night with the new company
 - Feedback was kids were happy about more play time
- PTO needs to confirm deadline date for ticket sales due to issues with last minutes ticket sales/RSVP

11. Spiritwear

- Officially partnered with 1st Place Spiritwear
 - School store available on PTO website
- Need to discuss with Paul, spiritwear contact, for Teacher Appreciation Week shirts and also possible Kindergarten welcome shirts/swag

12. Additional Upcoming Events

- Teacher Appreciation Week Ideas – Need assistance with planning
- 6th Grade Fundraiser for Outdoor Ed
 - Need to find parents to spearhead this project
- 6th Grade Graduation – Need 5th Grade parent volunteers
- Garden Club
 - Need volunteer to spearhead this project

- Kathleen mentioned the local HRCA Garden Club and solicitating assistance from them (“Gardening with Grannies”)
- Possibly send a PSA re: the community garden and how all veggies are available to the community to take and enjoy
- Discussed school supply delivery service – something TBE parents would want? Anyone available to volunteer for it?
- CMAS Testing Student Bags – Kayla offered to purchase bags, candies/gum, etc. and assemble it all
- Volunteer Appreciation Night – To happen at MaxTapps (available May 9th and May 16th)
 - Will announce on FB, website, email to invite all TBE volunteers