



PTO MINUTES

Trailblazer Elementary

Tuesday August 22, 2023 4:30pm | Meeting called to order by *Kayla Mander, PTO President*

1. In Attendance

- Katie Sodaro-Jensen, Principal
- Michelle Jewell, Assistant Principal
- PTO Board Members

2. Treasurer's Report

- Stacey was not in attendance, so Kayla provided a background for new meeting attendees on how the TBE PTO finances are very transparent and PTO Board takes them very seriously so the school, parents, etc. can see what the funds raised are being spent towards
- The carryover budget is over \$37k and items we've spent money are, are in the red
 - Being the starting of the year, everything is pretty straightforward
 - We had the Back to School Bash and accrued expenses with that
 - The Back to School Bash amount does not include the Kona Ice 10% that goes back to TBE
 - We spent approx. \$2,3000.00 and we profited approx.\$2,600.00 – so an approx.. profit of \$300.00
- Kathleen wanted to inform new participants that The Foundation is where all funds that are received are sent. We do not have a checking account (PTO or TBE) that funds go to.
- Kathleen asked if the water fountains were already funded (and/or previously approved) after we discussed water fountains that were being an item for the Fun Run.

3. Principal's Report

- Katie applauded the PTO and welcomed new people to TBE.
- Katie spoke about the increase in enrollment due to the Sterling Ranch and surrounding neighborhoods coming into TBE
- Katie spoke about the Common Behavior Expectations Guidelines that her and Michelle went around to each classroom to discuss with all the students
- Beginning of the year testing/assessments have started
 - i-Ready reading testing started this week and i-Ready Math testing with start next week
 - The staff has been reviewing the writing prompts to keep them a little more challenging
 - The next step after the beginning of the year testing is to review the data and determine what necessary direction to move forward in
- Michelle spoke about PBIS
 - The theme for this month is: Connections
 - They feel that was a great theme to start the year for families to get to know each other and the TBE community
 - She spoke on the different reward systems TBE has to enforce the monthly themes and the expected behavior year round

4. Grant Requests

- **Mrs. Henley (2nd grade teacher)**

- Name of request: Flocabulary Digital Account
- Description of request: Cultivate literacy across the curriculum with standards-aligned, video-based lessons and activities that leverage the power of hip-hop, storytelling, and emotional connections.
- How does this request align with TBE goals: It will engage lessons that support LA, math, science, social studies. The curriculum includes content based vocab cards, games, reading/response and quizzes.
- Number of student affected: 37 (Mrs. Henley will share her login credentials with Rebekah Condie, other 2nd grade teacher)
- Date needed by: ASAP to start using with communities lessons
- Notes: Mrs. Henley used the 30 day free trail for years and the students LOVE it. It keeps them engaged with new curriculum, gets their bodies and minds working. They are learning new concepts and content without realizing it.
- Money requested: \$11.50/month (billed annually)
 - **\$11.50/month – VOTED, APPROVED**
 - **Never determined a final amount to approve – Approx. \$90.00**

- **Mrs. Henley (2nd grade teacher)**

- Name of request: Generationgenius.com Account
- Description of request: Generation Genius is a K-8 teaching resource that brings school science standards to life through fun and educational videos paired with lesson plans, activities, quizzes, reading material and more. Our videos are produced in partnership with the National Science Teaching Association, and aligned to standards in all 50 states.
- How does this request align with TBE goals: They are engaging lessons to support 2nd grade science standards. This includes landforms, living/non-living things, animal adaptations, corrosion/weathering, states of matter, etc.
- Number of student affected: 37 (Mrs. Henley will share her login credentials with Rebekah Condie, other 2nd grade teacher)
- Date needed by: ASAP to start using with communities lessons
- Notes: Mrs. Henley used the 30 day free trail for years and the students LOVE it. It keeps them engaged with new curriculum, gets their bodies and minds working. They are learning new concepts and content without realizing it.
- Money requested: \$11.50/month (billed annually)
 - **\$225.00 (annual subscription) – VOTED, APPROVED**

- **Mrs. Sodaro-Jensen (TBE Principal)**

- Name of request: iReady Lessons
- Description of request: i-Ready Learning is a collection of high-quality instructional resources that help students learn and grow by accessing grade-level materials. Grounded in best-practice instructional design, these tools provide rigorous and motivating reading and mathematics instructions.
- How does this request align with TBE goals: These lessons are individualized practice for all students in math and reading lessons provide exposure to skills aligned with standards.
- Number of student affected: All TBE students

- Date needed by: 09/01/23
 - Notes: Parents are able to use the login credentials for their child outside of school and the license runs through July of each year. It helps students with their performance on the i-Ready testing. It's personalized for each student based on their diagnostic.
 - Money requested: \$9,100.00
 - **\$9,100.00 – VOTED, APPROVED**
- **Mrs. Hoover (4th grade teacher)**
 - Name of request: Transportation for a 4th grade field trip
 - Description of request: All 4th grade students are going to the Highlands Ranch Mansion for Pioneer Days
 - How does this request align with TBE goals: This trip will assist with social studies standards (history, geography, etc.)
 - Number of student affected: All 4th grade students
 - Date needed by: Friday September 8th
 - Notes: This grant request was provided to the PTO Board after the meeting and officially approved over an email thread amount the PTO Board.
 - Money requested: \$797.68 + \$28.00 (teacher fee)
 - **\$825.68 – VOTED, APPROVED**
- **Mrs. Dawson (Kindergarten grade teacher)**
 - Name of request: Starfall subscription
 - Description of request: Provide this resource for all kindergarten students to help with math, reading, etc.
 - How does this request align with TBE goals: Starfall activities are research-based and align with state learning objectives for English language arts and mathematics. Its emphasis on phonemic awareness, systematic sequential phonics, and common sight words in conjunction with audiovisual interactivity is especially effective for teaching emergent readers, children of all ages with special needs or learning difficulties, as well as ELL (ESL) students. It is widely used in schools and homeschools.
 - Number of student affected: All 4th kindergarten students
 - Date needed by: ASAP
 - Notes: This grant request was provided to the PTO Board on the 1st day of school and was approved over an email thread among the PTO Board.
 - Money requested: \$195.00
 - **\$195.00 – VOTED, APPROVED**
- **Mrs. Dawson (Kindergarten grade teacher)**
 - Name of request: Scholastic News subscription
 - Description of request: Provide this resource for all kindergarten students to help with reading, etc.
 - How does this request align with TBE goals: High-interest content delivered all year long—in print, online, or both. Every single story, video, and activity is designed to hook your students and keep them engaged. And because Magazines+ complements your curriculum, it's easy to implement during any part of the school day.
 - Number of student affected: All 4th kindergarten students
 - Date needed by: ASAP
 - Notes: This grant request was provided to the PTO Board on the 1st day of school and was approved over an email thread among the PTO Board.

- Money requested: \$307.12
 - **\$307.12 – VOTED, APPROVED**
- **Kayla Mander, PTO President**
 - Name of request: Fun Run prizes
 - Description of request: Various prizes to be purchased for Fun Run students
 - How does this request align with TBE goals: N/A
 - Number of student affected: All TBE students
 - Date needed by: ASAP
 - Notes: This request was made after the 08/22 meeting and was approved over an email thread among the PTO Board.
 - Money requested: \$1,700.00
 - **\$1,700.00 – VOTED, APPROVED**

4. What did PTO fund last year?

- Kayla provided a synopsis on what PTO raised funds were used towards
 - Check out the PTO Facebook page and website for continued updates on what is purchased for the school, students and staff

5. Back to School Bash – Recap

- The event was a success! We sold 244 wristbands and estimate that over 350 people attended.
 - Even though this event is not a designated “fundraiser”, it raised approx. \$300.00 for TBE
 - The wristbands were a big improvement from last year and positive feedback was received (we used tickets last year and that was stressful to distribute, handle, etc.)

6. WatchDOGS

- Kayla discussed what the WatchDOGS program, the general schedule that’s provided by teacher and admin and provided the necessary steps in order to sign up (forms that are needed, etc. on the PTO website)

7. TBE Garden

- Kathleen has not heard back from a master gardener who offer to assist. She will follow up. The garden needs assistance with weeding, planting seeds, general maintenance, etc.
- Katie explained that the parts of the garden that were damaged by the tornado will have to wait to be repaired due to staffing shortages with DougCo employees.
- Kathleen explained that the garden is a community garden and anyone is free to come help and tend to it.
- Kathleen will purchase more fence pickets that people can take and customize. They can then put their pickets up on the fence.
- There is no formal “Garden Club” anymore since PTO is stretched thin. If someone would like to spearhead this club, please email PTO to discuss

8. Restaurant Nights – Chair: Amy Zarecor

- What are the thoughts on restaurant nights frequency? Does every other month work? Every month?

- Some restaurant nights are more popular than others (Papa Murphy's, Freddy's, etc.)
- Kayla also discussed In-n-Out burger truck and the big response to that
 - Tickets for this event will be set up on the school store after the Fun Run

9. Fun Run 2023: Friday, September 15th (Theme: Be a Hero!)

- Kickoff school assembly: Wednesday, September 6th
- Prize distribution: September 7th – 15th. Volunteers are need to distribute these prizes
- What will we be fundraising for?
 - 4x additional water fountains for the school - \$12,000 (per fountain)
 - iReady lessons for teachers - \$10,000.00
 - Additional books for the library - \$5,000.00
 - Additional playground items?
 - Big music, PE, art requests (new gym sound system)?
 - Smart Boards
- This is the biggest fundraiser for Trailblazer
 - PTO has worked with Boosterthon every year but the PTO Board decided to not use their program for this year's Fun Run
 - Their program took approx. \$15,000.00 from last year's raised funds
 - We are using a platform called 99 Pledges, which is where the credit card transactions will be available for donations – www.tbefunrun.com
 - Each student can register and create their own link for grandparents, family, friends, parents employers, etc. to donate to their page/account.
 - We have volunteers who've agreed to making the promotional videos for the Fun Run
 - Free shirts will be provided to each student and staff member (paid via Sponsorship donations)
 - \$2,800.00 was raised by our community sponsors

10. King Soopers Sign Up Challenge

- We will send out a reminder to everyone on step-by-step directions on how to sign up.
- The class with the most sign-ups will receive a prize!
 - PTO receives approx. \$1,700.00 a quarter from the families that have already connected their accounts
 - We'd like to get as many families signed up as possible before November/December (big months for grocery shopping)

10. PTO Communications

- The PTO Board asked Katie and Michelle to consider allowing the continued separate PTO emails to be distributed considering the large uptick in volunteers that participated in prior events.