

Bainbridge Island Blakely Elementary PTO
MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2016

GENERAL SESSION

Place of Meeting: Library / Start of Meeting 9:05a.m.

ATTENDEES: Erin Cyger, Anna Steen, Elizabeth Walsh, Lori Hungerford, Heidi Blair, Lisa Timmins, April Murray, Lara Demos, Smiley Grace Kulesza, Rebecca Miller, Lai Niimi, Laura O'Connell, Mary Jo Davis, Jendi Watson, Eden Whitmire, Reese Ande, Peter Bang-Knudsen, Lani Chaffee

Trivia Question: What is the percentage of the BISD Operating Budget that the EP&O and Tech Levy account for? Answer: 23%

Welcome and Thank You's

- Shout out to Laura O'Connell for taking on Game and Bingo night. Reese thanked Erin and Anna for stepping up and co-chairing EP&O and Tech Levy. Shout out to Mr. Rothbaum for being that teacher that kids LOVE

Principal News

- Veteran's Day – 4th Grade Students interviewed a Veteran and wrote a paper. They are getting a chance to read their reports over the loud speaker in the morning.
- All School Write on Importance of Water. Quality sources translate into quality writing. Selection of the papers from K-4 on school website. Maureen Wilson is the lead. Great insight into the kid's writing. Some K may have drawings and teachers write what they have to say. 1st and 2nd – they are writing their own and making a reference to their world. 3rd – making connections to water, not just singular. 4th – writing takes on new shape. Formatted, understanding of how water is needed throughout the world.
- Pledge is now being said over intercom in the morning for the whole school. On Monday, Reese shares a fact about the Pledge. Takes less than 30 seconds.
- Blakely Bond Update: meeting with Mithun Architects. Forma Construction owned and operated by Jim and Kathleen Phillips (Blakely parents) are going to do the build. Still talking about preferred alternatives such as 1 or 2 stories, costs, water, plumbing. December 1st from 6:30 to 8:00 open house for parents. Tamela VanWinkle is still working with City to figure out what will be best for the site.

Listening Tour with Peter Bang-Knudsen

- Great presentation by Michelle Borba "Unselfie" put on by Raising Resilience on how to raise empathetic kids. Bainbridge Magazine has an article on Raising Resilience.
- Kudos to Reese and Staff. Can see from samples of All School Write that staff is doing great work.

- January 26, 2017 School Board meeting where Peter will present his findings from his Listening Tour.
- Positives from Attendees: Experienced teachers mentoring newer teachers.
- Whole child emphasis.
- At Blakely, like the collaborative approach – having teachers work together.
- Appreciate BISD's staff accessibility.
- Emotion coaching – Kelso's coaches.
- District's commitment to Arts and Specialists.
- Feel really proud to be a part of this community.
- Concerns from Attendees: Anxiety at Sakai with 3 lunches. Would help to have someone they know in class and in their lunch.
- HS anxiety regarding lunch schedule.
- Communication before HS regarding start of school and what is happening and what to expect.
- Data that 3rd parties are collecting.
- Use of screens and tools. Nationwide Empathy down and Narcissism up among college age students
- Enrollment and McCleary decision (high on Peter's list to tackle)
- Organic Health Foods for lunches
- Regarding specialists: great that you are trying things that are new, but remember to cherish things that are already there.
- Diversity

PTO Business

- Game night, tonight from 5:30-7:30. Laura O'Connell chair. Calico Cat donating their games tonight and also bringing games to sell. Coupons available. Need 4 more volunteers. Laura needs MC for Bingo night.
- Spirit Wear Orders coming November 18, 2016. Water bottles are in and will be sold at Game night tonight.
- Square One Orders due November 16, 2016
- Auction Update: Coming along. Great donations coming in such as 5 course dinners, wine vertigos. Art for Auction looking good.
- Meeting Minutes: Laura made a 1st, Elizabeth 2nd, All Approved.

Other PTO News

- Peggy Eden offering Parenting and Discipline Classes at Wilkes. Low cost @ \$30 for 2 month session. Very age appropriate.

Meeting adjourned.