



Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2017

Time: 9 a.m.

Location: Blakely STEM Lab

Attendees: Lisa Timmins, Erin Cyger, Christopher McCann, Laura O'Connell, Lori Hungerford, Elise Dunn, Anna Steen, Lorin Roberts, Helen Jung, Kara Beckman, Smiley Kuzesza, Sarah Gordon, Eden Whitmire, Samantha Everett, Brandi Cupher, Rebecca Miller

9:07 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions** – *Erin Cyger & Lisa Timmins*

- Clipboard question – how many BISD staff have gone through Clay Roberts training on social emotional health? Answer- all 350!

9:10 a.m. **Principal's Report** – *Reese Ande*

- Spends a lot of time in classrooms at the beginning of the year. Kids are happy.
- Invitation is always there to come and talk with him, good or bad. Don't need to make an appointment, just drop in!
- School Improvement Plan handout. Includes SBA test data - shows how we are doing as a school. We are always in the top percent at the state level with how our kids perform. 90 to 95% of our 4th graders show growth (compared to roughly 50% at the state level).
- Why are Blakely scores consistently higher? We try to put challenging tasks in front of our kids as often as possible.
- We are focusing on social emotional learning. A good foundation there allows us to leverage more academically. Social emotional health of staff is also important.

9:20 a.m. **Raising Resilience** – *Anna Steen*

- *Raising Resilience's vision is to be part of building an empowered, vibrant community where all youth and families flourish*
- Focus on programs for parents. All volunteer, non profit organization, made up of island residents.
- Philosophy - resilience is the ability to bounce back from life's challenges with confidence, but also to grow in new ways. Focus on tools to learn to trust own instincts and follow their hearts. Parenting is a journey, and mistakes are learning opportunities.
- Recommends the book "How to Raise an Adult". Emphasizes the importance of allowing your kids to fail.
- Social and emotional health initiative across the district. BSF click-a-thon starts next week.
- Get involved, volunteer, take care of yourself, and attend an event.
- UPCOMING EVENTS: Register to attend at: raisingresilience.org
 - "What Kids Really Need to Succeed" with Clay Roberts (island resident, but nationally known expert on social emotional health)

October 17, 7 to 9 p.m., BHS Commons

- November 2nd – Resilience Documentary
- November 6th – “Staying Close While Standing Back – The Art & Science of Parenting Middle Schoolers”, with Julie Metzger, founder of Great Conversations.
- January 30th – *Kindness is Contagious* Documentary

9:45 a.m.

Bainbridge Youth Services – *Susanne Schneider, Dr. Carol Kant*

- Founded in 1962, to offer free mental health counseling to youth.
- Sole mission is to promote social emotional health of youth on the island
- 27% of funding comes from individual donations, 35% comes from grants.
- Free, confidential mental health counseling for 12 to 21 year olds.
- Have served 400 youth so far this year. On track to do 3800 sessions this year. 9 counselors serve as part time contractors , all licensed with masters degrees, or interns working toward licensure.
- Kids can make an appointment 24/7 online.
- Located on the HS campus in the old 100 building
- *askBYS.org* – can post a question anonymously on the website, and received an answer within 24 hours. Or can ask for support. Can also apply for internship program. Over 30 employers took on 6 week interns last summer.
- First week of November recognize about 100 kids for compassion with award. Can nominate kids (forms available).
- Healthy Youth Alliance under umbrella of BYB – community leaders that come together to talk about youth issues in our community, and how to make a difference
- Juvenile diversion program – youth under 18 going through court system, get a contract that they need to fulfill within 60-90 days. Sometimes they recommend mental health counseling or drug/alcohol rehabilitation as a condition.
- Free “Think Tank” peer tutoring for anyone in the district after school. Saw a few Blakely kids last year. Often National Honor Society students need community service hours. Served 83 students, and 530 hours of tutoring last year. Make an appointment at tutoringbybainbridgeyouthservices.org.
- Counseling is unique because law in the state of Washington allows youth 13 and older to request mental health services without an adult.
- Parents are welcome to make an appointment if they have questions about student or parenting concerns.
- BYB survey since 1995 – students speaking up saying they want to be valued for who they are, and not what they achieve. The district has really heard that, and is working to address it. However, there are a significant number of students coming in with anxiety.

10:00 a.m.

Auction update

- January 20, 2018, at Wing Point Country Club
- Donate your goods/services, or join the procurement team!
Some ideas include donating a vacation home, sporting event tickets, hosting a dinner or grill off at your house, or providing baked goods once a month for a year.
Contact Kristine Cox: kristineacox@gmail.com
- Have a business? You can be an auction sponsor!

Contact Heather Jo Kochevar: heatherjokochevar@gmail.com

- There is also a need for volunteers with the student art production

10:05 a.m. **Upcoming PTO and school activities**

- Blakely spirit wear – orders arriving in about two weeks
- Spirit Day, TBD – wear your Bulldog pride!
- Unity Day (wear orange to school) + Taproot Assembly – October 25
- Parent/Teach Conferences – October 26 & 27 (no school). If haven't done so yet, you can sign up on skyward/family access. If need help, talk to Kyanne. Look for sign-ups to provide food for teachers!
- Family Game Night – new date! Thursday, November 9

10:08 a.m. Approve September meeting minutes - approved
Approve updated 2017-2018 PTO budget - approved

10:15 Bainbridge Schools Foundation – they support both of the organizations that were here today. The PTO works collaboratively with BSF. They support program at all the schools. Clickathon starts next week!

10:17 a.m. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.