



Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2018

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Blakely Library

Attendees: Laura O'Connell, Smiley Kulesza, Lori Hungerford, Diane and Jeff Stuart, Sarah Gordon, Elizabeth Walsh, Kara Beckman, Chris McCann, Makiko Maesushiea, Kristian Kildall, Rebecca Miller, Deanne Nakamoto, Elise Dunn, Siri Millen, Erin Cyger, Lisa Timmins

9:00 a.m. Welcome – *Erin Cyger & Lisa Timmins*

9:05 a.m. Principal's report – *Reese Ande*

- Martin Luther King assembly. 1st graders writing "I have a dream" speeches, a few have been reading them on the intercom each morning. They will be read at the assembly today. All kids will sing "We Shall Overcome" at the end.
- New Blakely! Design is complete, permitting is happening, bids are out. Breaking ground over mid-Winter break. Play shed will be demolished, portables out, fencing up, dirt will start moving.
 - Pick up and drop off – will still be able to drop off and pick up at side lot.
 - Recess - we will have 30,000 square feet of playground in the back, which is great news. Some brush will be cleared out to open more space. We will continue with the same recess schedule for this year, and will re-visit it for next year. Exits for recess will happen at the North end doors (by Kindergarten, and Holloway's classrooms). Secondary play area will be out front if needed.
 - Any workers on site will have background checks.
 - Question – can currently playground equipment be saved, moved to new area? Unfortunately that would be a significant cost.
 - New playground – Earthscape designed something that would blend with our natural environment. Our expected cost is \$250,000-\$300,000. Don't currently have swings, bars, or rings, as they would cost more, but will look into what it would take to add them. He will also look into polling families about what kids most enjoy at recess.
 - PTO will help fundraise to support this. Concern is that we won't have as much play equipment, but we are limited on space since the new Blakely is taking up more land (as well as the retention pond we're now required to build).
 - The district has budgeted \$100,000 for the playground, the PTO will likely have to raise \$150,000 to cover the rest. There may be some contingency funds available.

9:45 a.m. Differentiation and High Capable Program

Whitney Skarbek, Instructional Coach and Differentiation Specialist

- She is a Blakely alum! Came back to BI after 7 years in Bend, OR. This is her 2nd year at Blakely, she is at Commodore on Fridays.
 - Instructional coaching – helps with testing, runs highly capable testing, here to support teachers and students. If teachers need a resource, to figure out a lesson, or time management. Works closely with new teachers, both new to the profession, and to the district. Not evaluative, just to support them. With student support – design

and support intervention, behavior contracts, follow up with data support and analysis. Pulls small intervention groups – right now targeting a group for math support in 1st grade. Helps teachers differentiate within the classroom.

- EL (English Language) – students coming in who’s first language is not English. In the past, there has only been one person for the whole district. Since she’s here, students needing this service have gone from 20 minutes a week, to 1 hour a week. In Kindergarten – working with “who, what, when, where, why, and how”. We currently have 6 English learners at Blakely.
- Highly Capable - right now has 1st-4th grade. Referral window open now through Feb 2nd. Forms are available online. Made a few changes recently due to influx of numbers. In first grade instead of “pushing in” to the classroom, pulling a small group out twice a week. Shift to project based learning – allows students to get more excited about what they’re learning, and align with what they’re doing in the classroom.
 - 1st grade - they were split into groups, and made sea monkey tanks.
 - 2nd grade talking about what happened with the dinosaurs (4 different theories), and responding with their opinion about what happened.
 - 3rd grade – starting by talking about multiplication area and perimeter – made blueprint of what their house would look like. Then created it with legos.
 - 4th grade – looking at the different parts of the brain, and how it controls different parts of your body. Jigsaw activity - split into two groups, take information, present and share with each other.

10:10 a.m. Auction update – *Kara Beckman and Heidi Blair*

- January 20 at Wing Point Country Club
- Last day to buy tickets! blakelypto.org/auction – only 12 tickets left!
- Childcare for 7+ available through Pacific Fusion Martial Arts
- Bake or donate a dessert for the Dessert Dash
- Online auction: January 13-19 (starts tomorrow at 8am!). Open to anyone, anywhere.

10:15 a.m. Upcoming PTO and school activities

- MLK Day – January 15 NO SCHOOL
- Blakely Auction – January 20 @ 5 p.m.
- Parent conferences – January 24-26 NO SCHOOL. Sign up via family access.
- 4th grade concert – February 13 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Mid-winter break – February 19-23
- Maker Faire and Book Fair March 7
- Peggy Koivu (leads positive discipline class) – potential class this Spring.

10:19 a.m. Approved December meeting minutes

10:20 a.m. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.