



Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: December 8, 2017

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Blakely Library

Attendees: Erin Cyger, Lisa Timmins, Brandom Price, Sarah Rous, Smiley Kulesza, Lori Hungerford, Laura O'Connell, Chris McCann, Elizabeth Walsh, Elise Dunn

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

9:05 a.m. Disability Awareness Program – *Krista Sodt, counselor*

- Background - Sue Syndorf was here working as a PT with child with Cerebral Palsy – she created a program where kids could have some experiences with disabilities so they could empathize. The program faded after Sue left the district. School counselors have gotten together to resurrect the program.
- Every 3rd grade across the district.
- 4 stations, 4 parents volunteers who come in to help students experience simulations.
 - Communications stations – auditory processing and sensory issues. Put on headphone with high feedback, and then try to complete a task.
 - Learning Station – code breaking/mirror task. Unseen disabilities make it harder for kids to learn (can be validating for kids with learning disabilities).
 - Motor station – kids attempt to eat and get dressed with limited mobility.
 - Guest Speaker who lives with a disability - Tom Ahearne, main lawyer for McCleary Case. Had a ski accident, limited mobility from the waist down.

9:16 a.m. Principal's report – *Reese Ande*

- New Blakely – design is set, making minor adjustments to storage and classroom set up. Permitting is moving forward, putting out bids for sub-contractors in December. Work starts during mid-Winter break. Still working out recess, and Emergency preparedness (evacuation sites), parking and drop off. Looking at classroom technology options, and seating options.
- Blakely was recently nominated by OSPI for a “National Blue Ribbon School”. Recognizes closing the achievement gap, and/or overall academic excellence. We would be recognized for overall academic excellence. Chosen as one of 4 schools in the state of WA in this category. There hasn't been a National Blue Ribbon School winner in the state of WA since 2014. Woodward won this award in 2004.
- This season can be pretty stressful for kids. Seeing this at school – working hard at school to tailor activities.
- Question – will kids get to be involved with the building process? Absolutely, still working out what that will look like with the contractors.
- Question – if we are using the green space in front of school for play area, will there be fencing to keep kids off the street? Yes, and may close off portions of the parking lot

during school hours. We will also look at maximizing spaces like the gym, library, art room.

- Question – McCleary decision – state was sued for not fully funding public education. The implications for that are finally coming into play. House Bill 2242. K-3 class size is a really big deal (no more than 18 per class). Need to figure out how to accommodate this next year. We currently have one available classroom. New Blakely will have no problem, as we'll have four classrooms per grade.

9:43 a.m. PTO teacher grants – *Chris McCann*

- We are fortunate to be able to extend a call to teachers. We are on a 3-year grant cycle – the theme this year was innovation. This year we received a lot of requests – we were able to accommodate at least part of all of them.
 - Flexible seating for Kindergarten classrooms
 - 1st grade – ipad purchases, needed more for ST Math
 - 2nd grade – purchased building materials for STEM learning.
 - 3rd grade – found program for Language Arts similar to ST Math called IXL.
 - Art – purchased ipads for media art
 - Library – books to support Maker Faire activities
 - Music – purchased some materials to support her curriculum
 - STEM – materials for maker space lab

9:51 a.m. Auction update

- January 20, 2018, at Wing Point Country Club
- Extended deadline early bird pricing on tickets to Dec 17th, \$60
blakelypto.org/auction
- Donate your goods/services: contact Kristine Cox: *kristineacox@gmail.com*
- Be an auction sponsor: contact Heather Jo Kochevar:
heatherjokochevar@gmail.com

9:57 a.m. Upcoming PTO and school activities

- Winter Break: December 18-January 1
School resumes Tuesday, January 2
- MLK Day, no school – January 15
- Parent conferences – January 24-26
- Trivia – how many items were sold at the Holiday Shop? 1655!
- Holiday Shop – debrief with Heather Burke, how will we sort items next year without the portable?

10:05 a.m. Approved November meeting minutes

10:05 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.