



Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Blakely Library

BLAKELY
ELEMENTARY

#BULLDOGPRIDE

Attendees: Ida Cornelia, Alison Lum, Krista Tracy, Elise Dunn, Lisa Timmins, Lindsay Browning, Courtney Cook, Laura O'Connell, Erin Cyger, Siri Miller, Tara Filipovic, Lara Deits, Lindsay Fiorito, Amy Shock, Sarah Rous, Karen Vargas, Kathy McGowan, Eden Whitmire, Chris McCann, Leigh Ann McKeen.

9:05 a.m. Welcome & Introductions, PTO business – *Lisa Timmins & Chris McCann*

- Sign in & trivia question
- Approval of October 2018 minutes (Laura O'Connell) - approved
- PTOCC - Lindsay Browning and Courtney Cook from PTOCC board here today. Looking to create more cohesiveness among all of the schools.
- OPEN position: PTO Communications Chair in charge of all types of communications between PTO and the community, updating the website. Talk to our volunteer chairs if you are interested!

9:05 a.m. Principal's Report – *Whitney Skarbek for Reese Ande*

- Filling in for Reese the week. Principal intern this year, finishing administration credential program.
- Had assembly on Wednesday presenting our new character train - Generosity.
- Veterans Day assembly today at 12:00 – will gather around the flagpole, kids will sing a song.
- Exciting moment yesterday for our school – Robyn Stahl and Maureen and got to attend ceremony in Washington DC, they paused instruction for a few moments and live streamed while they announced Blakely.
- Sending one teacher per grade level on Nov 29 and 30 to the National Math conference in Seattle.

9:10 a.m. Differentiation, Instructional Coaching, and Grit - *Whitney Skarbek*

- Instructional coach and academic interventionist. Supports new teachers, professional development, supporting kids in the classroom.
- Academic Interventionist – pull kids who are struggling in certain areas (ex - kids that are struggling with multiplication). Kindergarten and 1st grade – working on counting and numbering. Those interventions last 4-6 weeks, usually a group of 4 to 6 kids.
- Been charged with finding values that are important to her as part of her Admin program. Came across this article by Angela Duckworth– “Grit and the Greater Good” - <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/oct18/vol76/num02/Grit-and-the-Greater-Good@-A-Conversation-with-Angela-Duckworth.aspx>
Ties in with BISD Mission of “Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community”. The article talks about the three different types of character strengths – interpersonal (contributing to lives of people), intrapersonal (digging deep and persevering and working through things), intellectual/strength of mind (life skills, soft skills). More important for our kids to be good, before they can be great. Encouraging kids to have grit, but grit itself is not easy – we as a school need to support kids so they can develop grit.

- 9:40 a.m. BISD's Multicultural Advisory Committee - *Karen Vargas & Kathy McGowan*
- Started over 30 year ago – parents with kids of color came together to talk with the district about why their students were dropping out, and to address cultural bullying.
 - What does equity in education look like? Need to educate community about race relations.
 - They give out a MAC award every year around MLK - students apply.
 - Salon Nights – discuss human justice and diversity of human experience. Show a documentary, and then open it up to community discussions.
 - Would PTO be interested in forming an equity community? It might be helpful to make schools aware of who their MAC teacher representative is (Ms. Holloway represents Blakely).
 - Moving several initiatives forward to address anti-bullying and racial bias. Are our learning environments (iconography and imagery in our hallways and classrooms) reflective of all cultures?
 - Question – how do you identify the issues you're working on? Answer – they work with the superintendent, schools, parents, students.
 - Teaching Tolerance Handout (Ohio State University)
 - All are invited to our Multicultural Advisory Council meetings – once a month. Can find dates on the district website <https://www.bisd303.org/Page/4742> (NOTE - as of 12/11/2018, the meeting dates do not appear to be listed on the website).

- 10:05 a.m. Kindness Counts fall fundraiser – *Erin Cyger & Cori O'Brien*
- We met our fundraising goal! Just over \$30,000.
 - We've logged 916 acts of kindness, just short of 1000
 - Feedback has been that the Raise Craze system was easy to use, we like the focus on kindness
 - We kept it simple for our first year. Do we want to get teachers involved next year? Or do a school wide project together?

- 10:15 a.m. PTO Auction update – *Meghan Carpenito & Kristine Cox*
- Save the date: March 23, 2019 at Wing Point
 - Auction art helpers needed – trying to make sure there are a lot of items available for parents to purchase online. Instead of class projects, we will do individual projects – so even if you can't come to the auction, you can purchase your child's artwork.
 - Focusing more on fun events you can buy into (\$50 for Margarita night, Garden party, etc).

- 10:20 a.m. Upcoming PTO and school activities:
- Kindness Fall Fund Drive – Weds 10/24 through Fri 11/9; celebratory assembly on Tues 11/13 - *Erin Cyger & Cori O'Brien*
 - Veteran's Day holiday (no school) – Mon 11/12
 - Family Bingo Night - Fri 11/16, 5:30-7:30PM - *Jamie Berg*
 - Collection for Blakely Holiday Shop (on Mon 12/3) - begins Mon 11/19 , continues that week after Thanksgiving. Will have babysitting for volunteers this year - *Tara Filipovic & Siri Miller*
 - Positive Parenting class is currently going on – how can we better promote at Blakely? It seems to fill up more quickly at other schools. Will be offering the course again this Spring. Is this something we could support, encourage as part of professional development for our teachers (like it is at Odyssey)?

10:40 a.m. Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m.