



BLAKELY ELEMENTARY

#BULLDOGPRIDE

Blakely PTO General Meeting Agenda

Date: April 12, 2019

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Place: Blakely Library

Attendees: Lisa Timmins, Leigh Ann McKeen, Ida Cornelia, Chris McCan, Elise Dunn, Lauren Burk, Keri Russo, Stacy Dixon, Lindsay Fiorito, Amy Shock, Laura O'Connell, Alison Lum, Krista Tracy, Meghan Carpenito, Siri Miller, Lara Deits

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Introductions & Thanks – *Lisa Timmins & Chris McCann*

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

- Went with daughter to shadow a job at Microsoft yesterday – across the board every department spoke to the importance of good communication, team playing, and being comfortable with change. This is such an overlap with what we've been talking about at Blakely these last few years. It feels like we are on the right track.
- Kudos to everyone who has been part of drop off and pick up. It actually feels like it's been better!
- New Blakely – going to start giving staff tours at the end of April, hoping to expand that as we move further into Spring. In the next 3 weeks, 3 of the 4 buildings will be completely sheet rocked. Continuing to make up ground from snow days. They are 100% sure we will open on time, although they will still be working on a punch list. Working on finalizing the playground, meeting with the committee on 4/27.
- April and May can be stressful as there is a lot that still needs to get done. Trying to provide perspective and balance as they move forward. SBA will be happening in 3rd and 4th grade – working to put that test in context, encouraging kids to simply do their best. It's a great time for kids to learn how to take a test in a non stressful, nurturing environment Once we get to June it's party time ;).
- Been very proud of the staff – teachers have been working on going through their surplus supplies. Next year could likely be even more stressful as they adjust to a new space. Been amazed at how the staff has handled things.
- Question – based on what happens at the playground meeting, will you be able to share designs at our next meeting? Yes, absolutely.
- Question- still planning to sell bricks? Yes, we've been setting some aside, and working on date for a final open house.
- Question - will we get to graffiti? Maybe, but not the brick since we're salvaging.
- We are re-visiting Holiday Shop and Halloween, as we want to make sure that all of our events are inclusive for our entire community.
- Additional programs coming to Blakely next year – Developmental Program will be here (morning and afternoon program, which is currently at Ordway), ILC behavior program

which is currently at Wilkes. This will grow our special education staff. We will also be adding a 4th section of Kindergarten.

- Budget – we are in a \$2.4-3.6 million shortfall. We are having program cuts – we will not have a differentiation specialist and academic interventionist. So how will we fill that gap for those struggling learners? The good news, with smaller class sizes our teachers are able to support these learners more. We will also be relying more on parent volunteers. HCAP – we have always been 0.4, so that will be kept. 99% sure we will not have to RIF (reduction in force).

9:30 a.m. School Lunches & Menu Planning Presentation and Q&A - *Eric Boutin, BISSD Food & Nutrition Services Supervisor and Karina Medina, Blakely Kitchen*

- Would love to know how we are liking the food service program here at Blakely?
 - Our kids love it! There has been a definite improvement here over the last few years.
- It's always tricky to find foods that kids will eat, and are healthy. They have been working with local farmers to provide fresh, healthy ingredients.
- The food is cooked on site in a convection oven.
- Our kids have been excited about That's a Some – how did that come about? They created a special dough recipe as we require at least 51% of the dough to be whole grain.
- How do the kids respond to the salad bar? Still working on getting kids to make healthy choices. Karina always encourages them to take veggies and fruit.
- Some kids have snack right before lunch, so they don't always want to take a full plate.
- What do we do with our food waste? If we have extra bulk produce before break, its given to Helpline House. Blakely does not compost, and donate to local farmers. Woodward, Sakai, and Wilkes do.
- How does portion size work? Do kids choose? The state gives recommended serving sizes. Kindergarteners will eat less than a 4th grader. Every student is offered 5 components (protein, milk, fruit, veggie, etc). Each student has to take at least 3 components.
- One change next year - the trays will be the first thing they pick up, and paying will be last.
- Karina starts serving lunch at 10:45 – we are always welcome to come by and see how things are set up.

10:00 a.m. PTO business - *Lisa Timmins & Chris McCann*

- Auction wrap-up - *Meghan Carpenito & Kristine Cox*
 - It went well, it was a lot of fun! We raised over \$67,000
- Planning for 2019-2020
 - Budget draft (handout for May approval) & highlights - *Lara Deits*
 - We brought in around \$100,000 with both Kindness Counts and the auction this year. Next year we are budgeting to bring in \$65,000. Proposing that we put some of our surplus from this year into an Outdoor Ed fund we can eliminate the 4th Grade Readathon fundraiser. We'd also like to beef up our teacher grants as they will have additional needs moving into the new building.

- The budget will be posted online for everyone to review, and will be voted on for approval at our May meeting.
- PTO board of directors (for May approval) - *Lisa Timmins*
 - We have a proposed slate of PTO board of directors
 - Presidents – Chris McCann and Elise Dunn
 - Volunteer Coordinators - Krista Tracy and Jessica Henshaw
 - Enrichments and Art – Siri Miller
 - Secretary – Leigh Ann McKeen
 - Communications – Amy Shock
 - Grants – Lindsay Fiorito
- Open coordinator positions - *Elise Dunn & Krista Tracy*
 - Open for next year – Bike to School day, Conference lunches, Directory, Family Game Night and Bingo Night, Picture Day, Popcorn Day
 - We still need pictures for the yearbook! Send them to blakelyphotographs@gmail.com.
- Approved March meeting minutes - *Laura O'Connell*

10:20 a.m. Upcoming PTO, school, and district activities:

- Through Mon 4/15: **Sakai's Trex Recycling Challenge** (<https://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/> for more details)
 - After the challenge you can bring your plastic to Safeway or T&C!
- Weds 4/17, 6:30pm BISD board room: **MAC's upcoming Salon Night** (*continued conversation on race & equity, with screening of "I Am Not Your Negro"*)
- Thurs 4/25, 7pm at BHS Commons: **A Better High: Supporting Teens in Reducing Their Stress (and Ours)** (*Matt Bellace, PhD speaks about the positive, science-based approach to substance abuse prevention*). Can buy tickets at Raising Resilience.
- Week of 5/6: **Staff Appreciation** (*PTO Board*)
- Fri 5/17: **Bike & Hike to School Day** (*Kristine Cramer*)
- Weds 5/22-Fri 5/24: **4th Grade Outdoor Ed**
- Weds 6/19: **Field Day** (*Scott Covey*)

10:15 a.m. Adjourn

Next meeting will be Friday, May 10th at 9:00am

A Message from Sakai: The Trex National School Plastic Recycling Challenge officially ends April 15. That means that Sakai students have just one more week to collect as much plastic film as possible in hopes of winning the contest. Please go through your house - find plastic film and bring it to Sakai up until and including April 15! Ask your neighbors who might not know about the challenge and get their plastic film! Grab whatever plastic film you can from sporting events or social gatherings! Even local businesses! You know that plastic film is out there - plastic seems to be everywhere! And in the meantime, so many thanks to all of you who have been supporting our students' efforts every step of the way. Thus far, our students - and you! - have collected over 4000 lbs of plastic film and prevented every bit of it from needlessly ending up in landfills or waterways!