

Benjamin PTO Meeting Agenda

September 18th, 2023 - IMC @ Benjamin

- 2023-2024 Benjamin PTO board
 - President - Candace Free
 - Per the PTO bylaws here are the 3 main purposes of the PTO:
 - To provide financial assistance to supplement educational and extra-curricular programs
 - To promote the welfare of children and youth
 - To encourage communication between home and school
 - The reason why we did not share the specific financial position of the PTO during the last meeting is that there was a Vendor attending the meeting.
 - Reviewed the financials with Jordan being gone:
 - We ended the 22/23 school year with a cash balance of \$51,229.42. We raised \$21,000 more than we expected and had expenses of \$5,000 less than anticipated. Carnival was the biggest driver of income, and we received more donated items and spent less on certain student support items which is why expenses were down. Overall, we have to be cognizant of maintaining reserves of \$15,000-\$20,000 year after year as this would cover our regular operating expenses that we spend every year on Student/staff support, etc. COVID was a big hit to PTO as we didn't have nearly as many fundraising opportunities but spent a good amount of money on student/staff support the fall before COVID hit. We also tried to continue with the student/staff support for the 20/21 and 21/22 school years, but with little cash coming in. Also keep in mind fundraising varies greatly year to year so we must make sure we keep reserves on hand.
 - Vice President- Alicia Wheeler
 - Working on social media posts – would love participation in liking, sharing, commenting on the posts to drive Facebook visibility.
 - Treasurer- Jordan Carpenter – absent but covered by Candace
 - Secretary - Jen Kirkpatrick
 - Website is up to date with the latest minutes from last month
- Principal Report - Mrs. Bozarth
 - Thank you, PTO, for snacks during half days, which are for teachers and staff to attend various training sessions and collaboration on how to improve or provide betterment in the support for students.
 - NCHS homecoming week – spirit week during this week!
 - Benjamin Bears Mission – students taking leadership positions; example is student council, safety patrol, announcements by 5th graders, lunchroom leaders, etc.
 - Question about number of student council positions – 50 positions (2 per classroom – 25 classrooms); 2 lunch room leaders per period, 2 per week safety patrol, 4 5th graders for announcements and 3rd graders on 5th grade cover the weather.
 - Advocating for the school – September 26th at Normal Community and October 2nd at Parkside meetings with Dr. Weikle discussing Strategic Planning – please check these emails in order to participate to provide your feedback and input as parents.
- Teacher Report – Mrs. Staver
 - 2 teacher requests placed - growl winner option of cookies or something other than pizza and one for binders, appreciation for snacks!

Committee Reports

- Dine to Donate – Rhendy Bradshaw
 - 9-27 Papa John's – Candace will find the start time details

- Carnival – Alicia Wheeler
 - More people have volunteered to help. Please reach out to Alicia Wheeler if you're interested
 - Raffle Baskets with Business Sponsorships
 - Volunteer Coordinating
 - Games
 - Food
 - And more!
- Hospitality - Callie Olivares / Holly Carpenter
 - Not in attendance
- Room Parent Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator – April Steigerwald
 - Not in attendance
 - Mrs. Bozarth stated that the Halloween party will be Friday, October 27th
 - Times will be the last hour of the school day, but teachers may need more time to help with younger students
 - Note Downtown Bloomington Trick or Treat will be the same night starting at 5pm
 - Note Children's Child Discovery Museum is also the same night 10/27
- Spirit Wear – Kelly Smoak
 - Working to get the new graphic, will finalize that soon with the Vendor
- School Directory – Julie Heinold
 - Mrs Bozarth will get a new update to Julie
- Bear-ly Used Spirit Wear – Julie Heinold
 - Letting the Spirit wear order option go first and then will post the Bear-ly used items for sale
- Unraiser – Julie Heinold
 - Winter time instead of school year kick off and will re-brand, most likely February timeframe
- Fun Run – Jen Kirkpatrick, Amy Prado
 - Date October 13th
- Grounds Committee – Ashley Cravens and Zac Braden
 - Currently no structured dates for “clean-up” dates, but will look to plan something
 - Soccer nets are done
 - Waiting on basketball nets
- Supply Kits – Marla Call and Agnieszka Rosinski

Motion to Adjourn – Kelly Smoak and Jen Kirkpatrick

Please watch the [PTO Facebook Page for 2023-2024 School Year](#) or reach out to benjaminelementarypto@gmail.com for questions!

PTO Dates: Meeting Times are always 5:30-6:30PM use the “Add to Calendar” link **from your personal computer** (will not work on phone devices) to add to your calendars.

September 18th, 2023 - [Add to Calendar](#)

October 16th, 2023 - [Add to Calendar](#)

November 20th, 2023 - [Add to Calendar](#)

December 18th, 2023 - [Add to Calendar](#)

January 22nd, 2024 - [Add to Calendar](#)

February 26th, 2024 - [Add to Calendar](#)

March 18th, 2024 - [Add to Calendar](#)

April 15th, 2024 - [Add to Calendar](#)

May 13th, 2024 - [Add to Calendar](#)