

Benjamin PTO Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018
6:30pm

Welcome – President

- Welcome Back!
- Off in December

Secretary Report

- Fall 2017 minute approval (Trisha Oyler motion/Angela Redinbo)
- Idea to push out a “Skimm” on the Facebook page for monthly meeting notes / condensed version

Treasurer Report

- Dec meeting income spirit wear
- \$116 pizza party / spirit wear
- Patricia Polacco has been paid out
- “Good look in email”

Principal Report

- Patricia Polacco Visit:
 - Did three different on assemblies on January 22; She has Dyslexia and Dysgraphia, which are reading and writing disabilities. She spoke to the kids about them, as well as shared some of her stories.
 - Her first story that she wrote was about a meteor that landed in her relatives’ yard – They still have a meteor fest in her town each year; she allowed the students (if they chose) to touch a piece of the original meteor, which she calls the wishing rock; kids had great questions;
 - She said that she goes to many schools and that our kids were very well behaved. Yay!
 - Thank you, PTO, for bringing her to Benjamin Elementary School! Our students and teachers will remember this for years.
 - Eastland Suites provided her lodging for the week, as she visited Unit 5 schools all week!!
- Thank you for completing the 5 Essentials Survey and for sharing your feedback.
- Mrs. Nord returned from maternity leave.
- Mrs. Gerike’s baby is due in March.
- Mrs. Samantha Stevenson’s last day was last Friday. She has moved on to another opportunity outside of Unit 5. We will miss her!
- Mrs. Carol Johnson is retiring at the end of the year.
 - PTO will need to think about what we will do for retirements.
 - Like to celebrate in the way that the retiree likes
- New Welcome Signs above the music/art hallway entrance doors– Says Welcome in the 18 languages represented at Benjamin.

- 7:25am – 7:40am on Friday, January 26th – Business Bears Sale – Bring money! All proceeds from the Business Bears sale will be donated to the Bed Blitz. Parents can attend, too!
- Feb 3rd Chess Tournament will be at Benjamin.
- Young Authors – 4 books will advance to the district – Books are Due Feb. 8th.
- Yearbook forms are due Feb 7th!!
 - Online can be purchased until March 16th.
 - Ms. Traynor teaches a unit on yearbook cover design, and students have a chance to design the cover.
- March 13th (Tuesday) Kindergarten Pre-Registration
 - Times 8:30am and 1:15pm
- Grove Subdivision Homeowners Association approved the purchase of a bike rack to be added to our existing bike rack to help our many bike riders. Thank you, Grove Subdivision!! We are so appreciative!
- 5th Grade Recognition – May date TBD
- Talent Show – May date TBD

Teacher Report

- Amazing, powerful presentation from Patricia Polacco
- Mrs. Romero
 - Keeping Quilt unit
 - April 26th Concerts at NCHS - Performances 5:00pm 4th / 6:00pm 1st / 7:00 pm Chorus
 - 4th Grade Instrument Trial - April
 - Flying Aces Hockey Team want to partner with us; Volunteer for the carnival or a basket
 - Every Sunday they also do a skate after the game with little kids
 - Benjamin night on April 14th Saturday against Chicago Steel
 - Request Hooks for the Ukuleles (30) \$2/piece; \$60
 - Tuners (15/20) run \$15/piece = \$225
 - Total for hangers and tuners = \$285
 - Set amount for music has been established in the budget; can use at your discretion
- Mrs. Lovin – Science materials discussion
 - Kindergartens teachers formulating
 - Free materials
 - Purposeful play
 - Tabletop \$150
 - Lakeshore materials
 - Walmart – Honey-can-do Cart
 - Funds are available from the Science Funds and they will be able to move forward with request – Mandy will order items and have them sent to school

Vice-President/Dine to Donate

- Jan 17th - \$220 – Buffalo Wild Wings

- Feb 10th – Fannie May
- Feb 21st – Noodles – No flier – 10% 4:00pm – 9:00pm – Only the one on Veterans
- Waiting for totals on:
 - Prep Freeze Cook
 - Portillo's
 - Orange Leaf
- Buffalo Wild Wings in March

Committee Reports

- Box Tops – Angela Bailey
 - Feb
 - \$843.70 from Box Tops
- Carnival – Dan Fischer
 - March 2nd – 5pm – 8:30pm
 - Feb 1st – pre-order forms due by Feb 15th
 - Wristbands going home Feb 26th or Feb 27th
 - Sunday, Feb 25th packet stuffing – 1:00 pm start
 - No fast pass, No coin war this year
 - Adding another balloon artist and another inflatable
 - Website is updated
 - Sponsors are coming in
 - Baskets are coming in
 - Kids raffle basket / distribute them on Monday after carnival
 - Send food prices and wristbands to Shanna
 - Tailoring to kids
 - Parents lounge with wifi???
 - 8pm to 8:30pm Gamma Phi Circus doing a cool show
- Hospitality – Amanda Esparza
 - Feb 14th Valentine's breakfast
 - April 11th late start breakfast
 - Staff Appreciation Week will be May 7th – 11th
 - May 10th will be a lunch
- Amazon Smile – Aslihan Spaulding
 - Nov - \$21.75
- Room Parent Coordinator – Trisha Oyler
 - Update - Carnival baskets / grade-level baskets are coming together very well.
- Spirit Wear – Angela Redinbo
 - Fall profit - \$495 / Sales
 - Winter \$127 made
 - \$622 profit for the year
 - Spring may transition to online order form – heat sensitive t-shirts; hoodie; basketball shorts; girls shorts or capris
- Supply Kits – Shanna Phillips/Marla Call
 - Marla taking lead

- NCHS will be doing supply kids
 - Adjust packing
 - March 13th for forms
 - Assignment Notebooks discounts for 3-5 grade
 - If a separate class, PTO needs to know because only 3 – 5 grades are only counted
- Volunteer Coordinator – April Steigerwald
 - April will be working with Chris
- Grounds Committee – Dan Fischer

Old Business

- Bike Rack – Update on Grove HOA decision / Future needs
 - Grove subdivision will be purchasing a bike rack. Thank you!!
- Short-term spending suggestions follow-up
 - Window Film for Art room – The district took care of this.
 - Shades in Café
- Long-term planning committee formation
 - Playground equipment
 - Track around the Fit area and fields – same material as a pathway

New Business

Motion Amanda E / Angela R