

Benjamin PTO Board Meeting  
Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
6:30 pm

President Report:

1. Welcome-popcorn tonight- made from the brand new popcorn machine ordered by the PTO!
2. Signups- we will be keeping attendance to track who is present for voting and for email notifications.
3. New members- please come! Children are welcome.

Secretary Report:

1. Meeting minutes- September
  - a. Motion to approve: Elaine Fitzgerald; Seconded: Zachary Perschall

Treasurer Report:

1. Subscriptions paid for: Learning A-Z, Brainpop/Brainpop Jr
2. Teacher donations were distributed

Principal Report:

1. Enrollment: 715 today and more coming
2. Bookfair- thank you for your support!
3. Thanks for the help with homecoming and for the spirit day support!
4. Chess club is FULL (80 students)
5. Mrs Gerike had baby girl named Tinley on September 10<sup>th</sup>. She will return on October 23<sup>rd</sup>
6. This week late start teacher agenda will focus on reader workshop
7. Parent-teacher conferences will be held Friday October 26
8. Halloween parties- Wednesday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:30. Costumes can be changed into prior to start of party- please do not wear costumes to school and please respect our non-violent policy and send children with appropriate costumes
9. End of trimester is November 9<sup>th</sup> ; Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>- report cards
10. Leader in Me Event- various stations for all students to participate ins- associated with Seven Habits of Happy Kids activities- will take place Tuesday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

Teacher Report:

1. Rusty subscription is going, Reading A-Z going and Brain Pop almost set up
2. Book Fair- huge success! Sold about \$11,800. We sold over 2500 books- and the goal was 1600! We will receive about \$2500 to purchase books for the library and classrooms.

#### Dine-Around:

1. Dates are being planned right now; locations that have been contacted include: Smashburger, Moes, Avantis, Rosati's
2. Suggestions- Buffalo Wild Wings and Lonestar
3. We are aiming to have one a month

#### Box Tops:

1. Over \$400 collected and only a handful of donations have been turned in.
2. Deadline is October 17<sup>th</sup> so we will have a better idea of total collection at PTO next month
3. Ziplocks were given to each teacher to pass out to students

#### Carnival:

1. April 12<sup>th</sup> is the date set
2. Erin needs a shadow for this year as she will be stepping down next year. Ebony is taking over but she will need a co-lead next year

#### Student Hospitality:

1. No new information

#### Staff Hospitality

1. Next late start breakfast is Wednesday
2. Transportation Safety week is this week- we made pumpkin muffin with cream cheese icing for each of the 17 bus drivers
3. Signup for teacher luncheon on Parent Teacher Conference Day is available
4. Target giftcard was purchased for Mrs. Gerike
5. We will provide something to Mrs. Romero at concerts as a thank you for all her hard work and dedication

#### Labels for Education:

1. Turn in collection is going on this week.

#### Unraiser:

1. \$8,861 plus another \$505 today- so we have had a great success with Unraiser this year
2. 230 families have participated thus far this year

#### School Directory:

1. Still in the process of getting it put together

#### Spiritwear:

1. Next order will be placed in November and will arrive in time for Christmas. Alternate arrangements can be made for pickup if it's a surprise for your child
2. Some t-shirts from fall order were backordered- specifically pink shirts in smaller sizes.
- 3.

#### Old Business:

1. Lexia- Teacher Fund request submitted (district previously provided subscription but now they do not)
  - a. Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade would use it
  - b. There are unused licenses that we can activate – we would activate 30 licenses at \$69 per license. Total would be \$2070.00
  - c. Up to 30 students could log in at one time from home, and teachers would either need to have assigned “times” to use Lexia or double up students if multiple classes want to use Lexia at the same time.
  - d. We only have \$670.00 remaining in our technology budget. If we take money from the wish list, we will only have about \$1000 remaining on the wishlist, and we know there are other items other areas would like to see
  - e. We need to verify that a license gets you more than one login- because each student needs a login in order to be able to track their progress
  - f. Is there a prorated cost subscribing now? Or would our subscription last for a year from date of purchase?
  - g. Decision- to table this until we have more information.
2. Wish List-
  - a. Motion from Jennifer Lowrance to make a budget line item for a “big ticket” item; seconded by Kiersten Douglass
  - b. Discussion to make 75% of wish list budget for a big ticket item and 25% for smaller items
  - c. Suggestion to contact Bloomington Parks and Rec to see if there is additional funding available for playground equipment if there are not any other parks in nearby neighborhoods
  - d. Decisions:
    - i. Staff- both teachers and lunchtime supervisors will be solicited for wish list ideas and priorities prior to next month’s meeting. We would like the students to be included in the discussion.
    - ii. PTO members can also send Jennifer Lowrance ideas they may have. Discussion about getting more FIELD equipment (but not necessarily more playground equipment- that needs to be its own separate fundraiser)
    - iii. Wishlist items should be items that are purchased within the next 2-3 years, not over the next 10 years.

- iv. More firm decision and direction will be determined at November meeting.

New Items:

1. Mrs. Aper and Mrs. Lee have discussed adding a parade/float committee for homecoming next year
2. Sue Zimmerman- request for 2 additional large recycling bins- total cost \$120 for two more bins
  - a. Motion to approve- Kiersten Douglass
  - b. Seconded by Tracy Sweeney
  - c. All were in favor in vote
  - d. Funds will be taken from Student Support "Other"
3. PE is in desperate need of equipment. Last year we approved \$2000 but we do not have \$2000 again this year. This is for items that they actually NEED to replace because the equipment they have is damaged.
  - a. We will also ask district for additional funds since we have 200 plus students over our capacity and our equipment is based on a smaller student population
  - b. Labels for Education has PE equipment- PE teachers can look at the catalogue because we have points we could donate
  - c. Suggestion to check out if grant writers could assist with writing a proposal for more equipment
  - d. Decision: Check into grants and check with district for any available funds. Also, PE teachers need to prioritize the items that they MUST have, as well as the items that would be nice to have.

Meeting adjourned- motion by Apsara Sorensen and seconded by Carrie Baumann