

Benjamin PTO Board Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2015

6:30 pm - IMC

- Welcome – Mandy Fischer led the meeting as Stephanie Checchi and Carrie Baumann were not able to attend
- Secretary Report
 - October minutes approval
 - Motioned by Shanna Phillips / Seconded by Trish Fela
- Treasurer Report
 - Income for dine-arounds
 - Hy-Vee - \$150
 - Avanti's - \$226.30
 - Good Neighbor - \$800
 - Out-going
 - Flipcharts
 - Mrs. Scott
 - Growl party
 - Photo Frenzy deposit
- Principal Report
 - Enrollment – 601
 - Thank you for great Moe's lunch
 - Mrs. Sewell and Mrs. Johnson – Accepted in to the Energy Project. Will get to attend conference in Chicago and receive supplies and materials to try some new things in the school. Science fair in the spring will be geared towards the Energy Project theme.
 - Upcoming music programs
 - November 11th – 1st, 2nd, 3rd
 - November 24th – 5th and Chorus
 - End of trimester this Friday, 11/13, report cards will be on Skyward at 5:00pm on Friday, 11/20. Can still print exactly as old printed ones were – instructions will be sent out or can be found online.
 - Holiday parties – Thursday, 12/17 @ 2:30
 - MAP testing will be after students return at Thanksgiving break
 - Winter testing and application of those things
- Teacher Report
 - Thank you again for conference day lunch – above and beyond and much appreciated!
 - Jeremy Kruse – emailed about a sidewalk from the parking lot to the kindergarten commons
 - If have district do it would need to do prioritization and then wait until the summer

- If PTO does it, would just need grounds approval and then could do on our own
 - We will ask for some preliminary measurements and Mandy will look in to options/costing
- Vice President/Dine to Donate
 - Dine to Donate – Monical's 11/9/15 and BWW 12/7/15 flier needed for both

Committee Reports

- Box Tops-Carrie Baumann
 - Box Top drive submitted: \$783.20. It appears the bonus box tops are decreasing which is leading to the lesser amounts being submitted. Since our collections are decreasing we are going to have one celebration in the spring for the entire year. This will be recesses again which is nice because it is no cost to the PTO.
- Carnival- Erika Hunt
 - Committee met on 10/29
 - Dr. Daniel has agreed to be slimed. Options for determining who will do the sliming. Also discussed getting Dr. Daniel to school before the carnival so kids really know who they are sliming
 1. Coin drive
 2. Food drive
 - Ms. Trainor is going to work on t-shirt design contest. Will start in January to allow a bit more time. Work with student council to vote.
 - Goals from the teachers for the funds raised –
 1. Lego robotics / Robotics clubs (Shanna suggested having them in before to show-off what we could have, Erica perhaps contact Sylvan as they do it) – Marlys to research if other schools are doing a club and potential costs.
 2. Any money left over would like to put towards landscaping
 - a. Consider a parent volunteer/beautification day
 - Rentals reserved
 1. Wipe-out inflatable
 2. Ticket grab machine
 - Basket ideas
 1. Raffles/tickets/trips/activities (principal for a day, lunch with a teacher, etc.)
 - Purchased a website domain – www.benjamincarnival.com
 1. Sponsors can be advertised on there – sponsor activity; game, face painting, etc.
- Hospitality- Mandy Fischer
 - PTO hosted the teacher/staff luncheon on conference day – catered with Moe's

- Upcoming late-start breakfasts on November 18th (Thanksgiving themed) and December 8th (winter holiday themed)
- Labels for Education- Barbara Johnson
 - Have everything collected and ready to send
 - Reminder included in newsletter
- My Coke Rewards- Aslihan Spaulding
- Room Parent Coordinator- Ebony Nebel
 - Need get-to-know-you teacher sheets – recommended to do for whole staff as others like to have those and know. Can perhaps put online
 - Perhaps put job description of room parent next to the sign-up sheets for parents
 - Thank you to those that are serving as room parents this year
- School Directory - Jill Kramer
- Spirit Wear- Barb Macke
 - Will have another order before the holidays
- Supply Kits - Shanna Phillips
 - Will share lists with teachers for their review and then get everything updated
 - Reminder to teachers to update details if they are truly needed or no longer apply – specify or avoid??
- Un-Raiser- Stacy Herren
- Volunteer Coordinator- Traci Sweeney
 - Check with secretaries on how to follow-up with those available for office work – several have signed up
- Old Business
 - Fall Book Fair was a great success – Spring book fair will be at Benjamin instead of Barnes & Noble
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences – consider sign-up genius for future years. Noted that other schools have done it and had good luck with it.
- New Business
 - PTO President lunch with Dr. Daniels report out – Mandy
 - Rosati's furnished lunch and reminded us to mention our school each time we order and they will be 10% back to the school
 - State Senator Jason Barickman was there to share on a proposal going forward on how education funding should be broken down. Overall education is up but spending on 'foundational' educational activities is down. Once state budget issues are resolved, it is important to be ready with how can be allocate funding.
 - Dr. Daniels provided updates on:
 1. Transportation – still in need of drivers. Please refer people to the district office as we have a referral bonus being paid for hired drivers

2. Literacy and graduation rates are very good but still have room to grow
 3. Continuing to focus on career readiness for our high school students
 4. Buildings – working hard to maintain our facilities with unique challenges
 5. Strategic planning – Seeking input from parents and staff as we plan for how to improve our school district
 6. Mumps – still working with all on this community-wide issue. Staff working to keep buildings clean and sanitized
- Unit 5 Strategic Planning Meeting – October 20th at Chiddix
 - Covered the overall objective of helping the district continue to excel in a time where the budget is tight and not expecting to grow. Had a rotation of six main areas that will later be sub-committees for research and recommendations. They were:
 1. Transportation
 2. Co-Curriculars
 3. Special Education
 4. Curriculum & instruction
 5. Community Partnership
 6. Facilities
 - Future meetings will be on November 10th and December 1st
 - Please call the district office or see Mrs. Bennington if you have any questions or interest in participating.
 - Motion to adjourn – Motioned by Shanna Phillips / Seconded by Todd Delveaux

Next PTO Meeting: December 14th at 6:30 pm