

Benjamin PTO Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2015

6:30 pm - IMC

- Welcome – President – VP, Carrie Baumann filling in for this meeting
- Secretary Report
 - August minutes posted and brought forward for approval –
 - Traci Sweeney motioned / Zach Perschall seconded
- Treasurer Report
 - Budget being shared with those in attendance
 - Gave checks to the teachers and noted to them what we, as PTO, did last year
 - Reviewed expenses from August
 - Unraiser is already above what we budgeted by \$1500
 - Dine-around income has started to come in and first shop-a-roo check for \$100. Thanks for all those that are using the app!
- Principal Report
 - Enrollment: 598 (up about 10 from last year at this time)
 - Student Council applications are out right now
 - Had evacuation and lockdown drills last week which went very well
 - School picture retake date of 10/26
 - First fire drill next Tuesday, with fire department
 - First Growl pizza party next week with a new special token from Mrs. Bennington instead of a certificate
 - Book fair starts two weeks from today – will run the whole week and have a family night (likely Tuesday or Wednesday night). Flyer will go out on Skyward.
 - Still having Unit 5 technology issues – please follow-up with anyone who you may have not heard back from or need to talk with. Had to completely replace the server for all of Unit 5
 - Spirit week going on for NCHS Homecoming
 - Thank you from all for the back to school lunch
 - Please send material to Marlys for the next newsletter by September 25th
- Teacher Report
 - Thank you cards going around
 - Thank you so much for the great back-to-school Jason's luncheon
 - Everyone so happy with the \$150 checks – putting them to great use!
 - Subscription/teacher purchase requests for this year
 - PebbleGo - \$995
 - Rusty - \$500
 - BrainPop/BrainPop Jr. - \$1945
 - 1. Carrie Baumann motioned / Angela Redinbo seconded to approve spending of up to the \$3500

- Flip-Cart paper - some times the smaller sets of the paper work better and are easier to work with
 1. Shanna going to follow-up with School Shop to see if we can get a better rate on a large order. Thirty teachers are using them and need about two each for each year.
 - a. Motion to spend at \$450 to start on these Zach Perschall motioned / Trish Fela seconded
- Vice President/Dine to Donate
 - September – Hy-Vee Market Grille
 - November – Potbelly's
 - December – BWWs
- Committee Reports
 - Box Tops-Carrie Baumann
 - Still working on our current collection due in October
 - Will submit after that collection
 - Carnival - Erika Hunt
 - Committee met and setting a goal of \$25,000 total/net to be brought in
 - Discussed potential sponsors for games, tables, etc.
 - Considering raising wrist-band costs to cover some of the additional costs (\$12 in advance/\$15 at door)
 - Looking at new inflatable company out of Peoria that also does photo booth
 1. Make sure we check with the district to see if there are any restrictions on what we have in the building
 - Considering finding a 'cause' that the teachers really want to see supported with carnival funds
 - Have logo contest again for this year – Ms. Trainor is willing to run this
 - Glitter tattoos for sale potentially to students the week of the carnival
 - Trisha Oyler going to chair baskets
 1. Will work on guidelines for the room parents for the grade-level baskets and work with Ebony to share things out
 2. Considering some possible – big ticket basket items
 - Next committee meeting Wednesday, October 7th
 - Hospitality- Mandy Fischer
 - Hosted the Back-to-School luncheon for the teachers prior to the students coming back
 - Appreciate all that have signed up to volunteer on the committee. Will be in touch in the next month to set up a meeting
 - Will be hosting late start breakfasts throughout the year with parent donations
 - Labels for Education- Barbara Johnson
 - Regular collection at the end of October

- Last year only submitted once b/c they have not been doing bonus certificates
- My Coke Rewards- Aslihan Spaulding
 - 4260 points - \$63.93 in account and got a check from \$43 check this week
 - Moving away from issuing points and will just issue checks
- Room Parent Coordinator- Ebony Nebel
 - Sheets went out at curriculum night
 1. Very few have room parents that signed up compared to previous years
 2. Ebony will sending email to the teachers
- School Directory- Jill Kramer
 - Working on compiling, will be sending electronic
- Spirit Wear- Barb Macke
 - Everyone appreciated the good options to choose from this year
- Supply Kits- Shanna Phillips
 - Shanna was contacted by NCHS who has a small business class at the high school that is doing the kits
 - Currently being done for Hudson and it is going well
 - Will come in the new few months to do a presentation of their business plan at a PTO meeting
 - Likely will be back to a paper form
- Un-Raiser- Stacy Herren
 - Collection going great!!
- Volunteer Coordinator- Traci Sweeney
 - Lists being compiled
 - Will send committee listings to Mandy and Erica
 - Will get volunteers for book fair when needed
 - Consider options for collecting data for volunteers/directory/etc. so they don't have so much overlap on entering hand-written content
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - Penguin Patch has been contacting Carrie about a holiday 'shoppe' for the kids to purchase low-cost gifts.
 - Shanna Phillips motioned / Trisha Oyler seconded not to pursue
 - Consider potential funding for field-trips if that is a need
 - Marlys is going to follow-up to see what teachers may want
 - Curriculum night
 - Different format but very difficult to meet everyone's needs and not have the teachers giving multiple presentations to varying numbers of parent per presentation. Mrs. Bennington asked for feedback on experiences

from the evening. Also will be getting additional feedback and talking with the teachers on what they heard.

- Pros
 1. Had to split but could focus then
 2. Do get to see all the parents for a class
 3. Get to see the area people
- Con
 1. Having to stay for all
 2. Classes at the same time
 3. Had to pay for sitters b/c needed to be here
- Classroom Size discussion- Trish Fela
 - Attended the latest board meeting about class size
 - Shared a color-coded chart that showed class size per class, per grade level, per school. Benjamin had several in the highest color code – especially in third grade The number of outside of range is still high but the quantity of those are dropping from the past few years.
 1. The chart can be found as a link in the meeting agenda from the September 9th school board meeting (Section 7: A. Enrollment Update).
 - Response from the board is that the district just does not have the money to spend on another teacher. The schools in Illinois do not know when/if they are getting funds from the state.
 1. Said they were open to creative solutions but those are limited. Brainstormed options which we can share back with the district office:
 - a. Teachers Aids/Assistants – less expensive
 - b. Student teachers – but teachers have to agree to this and can be a good thing or a bad thing
 - c. Acknowledge that we have a great school and great teachers and great parents volunteers
 - Evans enrollment has grown and it is 200 students over what it is built for. Using computer room currently for other classes. NCHS and NCWHS at very high numbers
 - October 20th 7:00-9:00 pm at Chiddix Jr. High – meeting with Dr. Daniels – Getting a strategic plan for the district will be discussed. Encourage all to attend and share perspective input for future decisions.

Zach Perschall motioned to close meeting / Shanna Phillips seconded

Next PTO Meeting: October 5th at 6:30 pm