

BENNIE ELEMENTARY PTA MINUTES

September 5, 2024 6:30



The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and board introductions.

Present: Shannon Gilliam, Michael Bianchi, Guy Taylor, Ashlee Heithue, Chelsea Honstain,

The quorum was established with over 5 paid members present.

Agenda: The motion to accept the agenda was made by Autumn Mulka & Guy Taylor

Minutes from June 6, 2024: Motion to approve minutes was made by Cheryl & Scott Goulette

Teacher's Report: Mrs. Langtry was present. She expressed gratitude for the PTA and everything that the PTA does. They are excited for the events scheduled for the upcoming year.

Principal's Report: Mr. Short introduced himself. Informed the crowd that we have 520 students at Bennie this year. Mr. Short announced that Family Movie Night will likely be 10/17; a vote to come. He thanked the PTA for staff breakfast on the first day of professional development. He also expressed gratitude for the replacement refrigerator that the PTA funded over the summer; RIP old fridge.

New at Bennie this year, we received new furniture for students and teachers. Teachers were able to give input for their classroom seating to individualize the rooms based on learning. We also have new lunchroom seating coming as many of the tables are starting to deteriorate (end of sept/beginning of october). We are planning for new play structures and new blacktop surface in 2025; awaiting budget.

Academically, this year we will use "Big ideas" K-5 math program. We are using "You Fly" as the foundation for ELA. "Wonders" for reading. Mystery science & open science ed. He discussed NWEA assessments for parents; goal of 50%+ for our school.

This year, we are doing Recess first for students. The hope is that students will then eat their lunch and not rush to get outside.

Treasurer's Report: Michael explained the treasurer's report. He discussed budgeted items briefly and the process for soliciting for a new budget item.

Scott Goulette motioned to approve the transfer of budget for the staff refrigerator from the Culture Competency Night, which was canceled this year and budgeted \$800 for. Sarah Schaub seconded the motion. A vote was called and there were all yays and zero nays. Funds will be moved from Culture Competency Night to pay for the staff refrigerator.

Michael asked Mrs. Langtry to discuss early classroom reimbursement forms (deadline March) so that he can get the checks out early to keep our budget balanced

Secretary's Report: Chelsea stated that there is no correspondence to report.

Old Business:

1. Recess Funds (Shannon Gilliam)
 - a. Shannon continues to work on the basketball hoop. The hope is that we have this finalized by the end of the year.
2. Cornhole Boards (Guy Taylor)
 - a. Waiting on the industrial teacher and woodshop teacher to finalize plans.. They have already been budgeted for. ~\$300

New Business:

1. **Fundraisers 2024-25** (Chelsea Honstain)
 - a. Rev'd up's first event earned us \$105 dollars. We have another one scheduled for 11/27. Please consider buying the arcade cards as gifts as this is how we make money.
 - b. Kalahari is scheduled for 3/24. You can also support Lindemann who has Kalahari's fundraiser on 12/22.
2. **Assemblies** (Chelsea Honstain)
 - a. Allen Park Fire Department will come in October to discuss fire safety and other safety drive topics. We will donate to one of their foundations
 - b. 12/17: Brain Break Academy
 - c. 2/26: Quest for Kindness
3. **Donuts with Grown Ups** (Chelsea Honstain)
 - a. Chelsea discussed introducing a yearly event "Donuts with Grown Ups" as a before school event that allows each student to bring a favorite adult in for breakfast as a way to promote community and excitement for students.
4. **Memberships** (Ashlee Heitchue)
 - a. As of meeting time, we have 123 memberships for this school year.
5. **Walk/Bike/Run to School** (Ashlee Heitchue)
 - a. Autumn Mulka & Amanda Davis are helping with this event. We need more volunteers.
 - b. Reach out to the High School for Art student volunteers to help with chalk art.
6. **Holiday Fever** (Guy Taylor)
 - a. This year, we are running the 50/50 raffle to represent Bennie. We need volunteers for setup & selling tickets. PTSA to make sign up genius.
7. **Reflections** (Guy Taylor)

- a. Introduced the concept of Reflections. It is a national PTA event. Bennie historically hasnt had the best turn out. The theme this year is “Accepting Imperfection”. Hoping to engage more students submissions.
- 8. **Spirit Wear** (Shannon Gilliam)
 - a. Brandstand was contacted as an attempt to support a local business. Mr. Short has already been working with another company based out of Adrian that he will share the contact with; they already have our logos on file.
- 9. **Fun Run** (Shannon Gilliam)
 - a. The go live date is 9/16. Students will come home with information next week. The kids get a reward just for signing up and sharing on social media. It is the BIGGEST fundraiser for us. We are also seeking business sponsors. Teachers will get their classrooms boards to be decorated next week to allow plenty of time. Volunteer sign up will go to PTA members first.
- 10. **Event Chairs** (Shannon Gilliam)
 - a. We need volunteers for Family FUn Night, Bennie Gives Back and Walk/Bike/Run to School & Reflections. These events have chairs in place but need more help.
- 11. **Scholastic Book Fair** (Michael Bianchi)
 - a. Michael announced the two book fair dates.

Adjourned at 7:25 pm.