

Bell Graham Elementary School PTO General Meeting - Zoom
May 19th, 2020

Zoom Meeting started by host (Kelly Cameron) at: 7:05pm

In attendance: Kelly Cameron, Kristin Jessup, Amy Kleuppel, Heidi, Kim Nudera, Kate Bennett, Kris Marbutt, Lisa Perrault, Holly Gerhart, Diana Kruis, Heather Trask, Terri Appelhans, Jamie Hadzima, Carmen Kujanski, Tishonda, Mary Smercina

I. Principal's Report:

- A.** Community Reach-Out- Lindsay is working on a community network for the BG families. She would like to build a resource for the families to reach out to when needing services or jobs done. An email will be going out regarding this and asking families to fill out any services or jobs they may be able to provide so families can refer to it when looking for a service needed.
- B.** Playground update- Amy hasn't heard any update on the playground. She has reached out to the park district facilities regarding this. Mrs. Marbutt just got an email that the new playground budget got approved and will move forward this summer.
- C.** Supply Pick-Up- The pickup line ran smoothly today with no more than a few minutes waiting for supplies.
- D.** Amy thanked all the families for all their help during this difficult time. She has no update regarding August.
- E.** Survey reports: Holly asked Mrs. Klueppel about the survey fourth and fifth graders took regarding e-learning. The results were posted this week but primary grades were not included this survey.
- F.** Carmen asked about kdg tours and information- Amy plans to share a guided virtual tour and slide show early June.

II. President's Report:

- A.** Thank you- Kelly thanked the PTO board and everyone who helped chair PTO events.
- B.** Open VP Communication Role- If anyone knows of anyone interested in this role, please pass along your name to Kelly
- C.** Virtual Talent Show - THANK YOU HEATHER TRASK!!! Heather did an amazing job putting together the virtual talent show.
- D.** Summer Plan - Meeting with School Admin and PTO Board (June) We need to close our books and make some kind of budget for next year. We are going to try our best to budget and look at the beginning of school year events.

- E. 5th Grade Signs and BG Visits- All the district fifth graders got a yard sign! The PTO purchased these signs for all BG fifth graders. BG can visit anyone who wants a visit. Just email Kelly Cameron if interested.

III. **VP Communication Report:** Kristin continues to update things on facebook. If we have information that we want to pass along, send to Kristin so she can forward to Mrs. Klueppel.

IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Committees turn in receipts! Holly has been wrapping up teacher reimbursement and winter event expenses. We are losing around \$2,000 from our spring events but we are still ahead since we didn't have any field trips this spring.

V. **New Business:**

A. Summer Reading Program- Jamie has been working on this program. The books are being passed out during supply pick up. Jamie shared that this can be a family read aloud. She created a website with fun activities and teachers did mini chapter previews. Everything is on the website.

B. 2020-2021 Board Positions & Vote: **PRESIDENT: Kelly Cameron VP**

COMMUNICATION: ? VP COMMITTEES: Kim Nudera SECRETARY: Diana Kruis

TREASURER: Holly Gerhart. (Question was asked: Are we still using the PTO website? -

The website is not user friendly and it's a lot of time to update. Everything goes in the eblast and then facebook has reminders. Heather made a motion to re-approve all the positions including Kim's third year on the board. Terri seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

C. Tabled end-of-year projects/purchases: BG gift, LRC gift, 5th grade picture, 20 year anniversary party, recognition wall, used book sale. We are going to save a lot of our money because we don't know what the future holds for next year fundraisers.

D. Heather Trask has been working on a fifth grade slideshow/clap out!

VI. **VP Committee.** Kim's Report: New chair/co-chairs will need to plan meeting for "binder-swap" Kim will be in contact with chairs over the summer regarding their committee.

A. **Committees needed a chair or co-chair:**

1. **ASE (Heather Trask & Kim Oeltgen→Jen Benesh and ?):**
2. **Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin): Requested to have people start thinking about a replacement**
3. **Book Club/Summer Reading Program (Jamie Hadzima →?):**
4. **Greater Education Foundation Basket (?):**
5. **Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh → ?):**
6. **"Parent Express" (Office Help Committee) (Heather Trask → ?):**

B. **Committees with New Chairs/Co-Chairs (Thank you!)**

1. **AVIC (Karen Delaney & Carmen Kujanski)**
2. **Book Fair (Kelly Franzen→Amanda Wendel & Kara Kasten):**
3. **Decorations(Kelly Sychowski → Heidi Dahl)**
4. **Head Room Parent (Kara Barr → Megan Felt)**

5. **Scarecrow Fest (Courtney Habas):**
6. **School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski → Tishonda Washington-Gibbs)**
7. **Shout Outs (Andrea Benavidez → Alicia Fulgencio-Flint)**
8. **Spirit Sticks (Kim Oeltgen → Julie Sandine):**
9. **Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes → Jenna Smulski and Terri Appelhans)**
10. **Talent Show (Heather Trask & Kate Bennett → Kate Bennett)**
11. **Welcome Back Picnic (Brenda Szerlong → Jenna Smulski)**

C. Committees staying the same:

1. **Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff & Jessica Glitzow):**
2. **Assemblies (Kate Bennett):**
3. **BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
4. **Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
5. **Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):** Collection for end of year-
Parents still continue to collect your box tops and we will collect in the fall. You
can still scan and submit your receipts through the box top app
6. **Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster):**
7. **Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Holly Gerhart):**
8. **Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
9. **Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
10. **DPTO (PTO Board/Tishonda Washington-Gibbs):**
11. **Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):**
12. **New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):**
13. **Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):**
14. **Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):**
15. **Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):** Coordinate with another event in the Fall
16. **Yearbook/Photo Club (Nessa Hendriksen)**

D. Committees for continuation?

1. **STEM Club (Darrell Griffin):** ? Next year?

Bell Graham Elementary School PTO General Meeting - Zoom
April 21st, 2020

Zoom Meeting started by host (Kelly Cameron) at:

In attendance:

I. Welcome and Introduction

- II. Principal's Report:** Please pass along that we all miss the kids. The staff is committed to your kids. Amy is continuing to check-in with everyone. She is working everyday so please feel free to reach out to her with any concerns or questions. Mr. V has been trouble-shooting with the teachers with Google Meets. The learning curve has been pretty steep and she is really proud of the staff. She encourages the parents to continue to reach out to the teachers or herself if anyone has any questions.

III. President's Report

A. Since last meeting (February 18th):

1. Successful Trivia Night- It was a great night, we doubled our profits from the previous year. We are booked for next year at The Moose for February 20, 2021. Starting to think what donations will look like next year with our small businesses.
2. ASE Wrapped up- Heather reported that it was a very successful ASE and most reimbursements have been done. A big thank you to Heather for all her time and work building this up for our school.
3. Barn Dance (3/6)- Stacia asked a few questions about the changes this year.
-Thoughts on the jail: Had about 4 kids go into jail at a time, kids seemed to like it
-Didn't do rootbeer floats this year- It was less of a mess this year, had prepackaged popsicles instead of rootbeer floats
-Puzzle game had a long line
4. Cancelled PTO meeting and Art Show

B. PTO will continue to meet virtually as a board, DPTO, with school admin, and for public general meeting - last one in May for "switching of the guard"

C. Summer Reading program - "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" - Google Doc coming, We can offer e-books so we are going to send out a google survey asking families if they want an e-book or paperback book

D. New projects:

1. Virtual Talent Show- Looking to create a dropbox or google doc for families to submit a talent video and then montage them all into a video. Mr. V volunteered to help create the video.
2. BG Drive-Bys- Looking at having BG go out at the end of May around main streets in the neighborhood.
3. Staff Appreciation - run by head room parents. Sarah has been working with Kara on what we can do for our teachers.

E. Online Registration occurring end of April- Registration will be only online this year.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. Barn Dance profited around \$2,900
- B. ASE: profited over \$8,000
- C. Trivia: profited over \$5,000
- D. We did well in our spring fundraisers

V. VP Communication Report

- A. Kristin is trying to keep things updated on facebook. Facebook is one of the easiest ways to communicate but we understand not everyone is on Facebook. We do send info about the PTO in the weekly e-blast. If you have anything you want to share about your committee, please email Kristin.

VI. New Business:

- A. February Meeting Minutes Approval- Heather made a motion to approve the Feb. minutes and then Kim seconded the motion. Minutes are approved.
- B. Excess funds at PTO
 - 1. Uncertainty of what '20-21 will bring
 - 2. Increased percentage of carry-over
 - 3. School "ask" for classroom libraries- Klueppel discussed that the district is having all the teachers attend a reading and writing workshop. Klueppel feels that the primary teachers need to add more classroom books and wondering if the PTO would be willing to purchase books for another first grade classroom.
- C. Approval of field trip funds re-appropriation:
 - 1. 1st grade book kit: \$3,145 Stacia made a motion to approve this spending. Kim seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor so PTO will be purchasing one set of leveled books for a first grade classroom. Someone asked if they do open up another section, can the PTO buy another kit? In the May meeting , we can make a vote to reappropriate the funds if needed.
 - 2. 5th grade student yard signs- PTO is trying to find ways to make the 5th graders feel special.
 - 3. Sign Gypsies (pending change in their protocol)- As of now, Sign Gypsies is not putting out signs at schools this time. An idea of having a 'congrats 5th grade' sign so families can take pictures of their kids up by the school.
- D. New ideas from parents regarding things to do throughout end of the year
- E. Feedback regarding "Remote Learning"- Please reach out to your teacher or Mrs. Klueppel with any questions or concerns.
- F. Filling opening positions: Losing many 5th grade parents! Thank you to some new volunteers, and still need some help....
- G. Lindsey Benks talked about trying to get a directory of all the companies, jobs, and talents from BG. She would like to create a google doc or facebook closed group with how to videos as well a network within the school. She is trying to connect with the families and how to help families within the community.
- H. Terri and several other parents have been in contact with the school board regarding class sizes. The school board is looking to cap kdg sizes at 25.

VII. VP Committee. Kim's Report: Need to find chair/co-chairs for following positions: VP Communications (PTO Board) and first category listed below:

A. Committees needed a chair or co-chair:

- 1. ASE (Heather Trask & Kim Oeltgen→Jen Benesh and ?):

2. **AVIC (Karen Delaney & ?)**
 3. **Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin): Requested to have people start thinking about a replacement**
 4. **Book Club/Summer Reading Program (Jamie Hadzima →?):**
 5. **Greater Education Foundation Basket (?):**
 6. **Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh → ?):**
 7. **“Parent Express” (Office Help Committee) (Heather Trask → ?):**
- B. Committees with New Chairs (Thank you!)**
1. **Book Fair (Kelly Franzen→Amanda Wendel & Kara Kasten):**
 2. **Decorations(Kelly Sychowski → Heidi Dahl)**
 3. **Head Room Parent (Kara Barr → Megan Felt)**
 4. **Scarecrow Fest (Courtney Habas):**
 5. **School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski →Tishonda Washington-Gibbs)**
 6. **Shout Outs (Andrea Benavidez → Alicia Fulgencio-Flint)**
 7. **Spirit Sticks (Kim Oeltgen → Julie Sandine):**
 8. **Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes → Jenna Smulski and Terri Appelhans)**
 9. **Talent Show (Heather Trask & Kate Bennett → Kate Bennett)**
 10. **Welcome Back Picnic (Brenda Szerlong → Jenna Smulski)**
- C. Committees staying the same:**
1. **Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff & Jessica Glitzow):**
 2. **Assemblies (Kate Bennett):**
 3. **BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
 4. **Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
 5. **Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):** Collection for end of year- Parents still continue to collect your box tops and we will collect in the fall. You can still scan and submit your receipts through the box top app
 6. **Cal’s Angels (Julie Bolster):**
 7. **Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Holly Gerhart):**
 8. **Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
 9. **Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
 10. **DPTO (PTO Board/Tishonda Washington-Gibbs):**
 11. **Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):**
 12. **New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):**
 13. **Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):**
 14. **Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):**
 15. **Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):** Coordinate with another event in the Fall
 16. **Yearbook/Photo Club (Nessa Hendriksen)**
- D. STEM Club (Darrell Griffin): ? Next year?**

VIII. Next Meeting: May 19th - TBD time and Zoom/Google Meet

**PTO General Meeting
February 18th,, 2020**

Meeting called to order at:

In attendance: Diana Kruis, Amy Klueppel, Holly Gerhart, Stacia Carlson, Mary S, Kate Bennett, Kelly Cameron, Alissa Flint, Lisa, Stacia A. Darryl G, Heather Trask, Jenna S. Toshonda,

IX. Introduction/Welcome

X. Evening Meeting Presentations:

A. PLTW Video: (also on D303 website in their Video Vault)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xmN2b2yCNw5V3ISD_KqM7uiNn9wkBR2m/view

B. Longer School Day presentation:

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicAgenda.aspx?ak=1000303&mk=50363363>

1. 8am- 3pm- the new elementary school hours for 2020-2021
2. The extra 40 minutes will be very project lead the way, calling it empower time
3. Every class will have a 40 minute special in the morning, a 40 minute lunch, and a 40 minute special in the afternoon
4. Will provide authentic learning, embed opportunities for movement
5. Students will be getting 40 minutes of specials, they currently have 30 minutes of each special
6. This will incorporate social-emotional standards
7. Teachers will have their grade level team meetings during this time
8. Next steps: they met with the citizen advisory committee, looking at student focus groups, hire staff, professional staff development
9. Questions: Would like to see what the kids are doing at a school level (example: See Saw), What type of assessments will be used

XI. Principal's Report:

- A. She shared this same presentation with the staff last week and already trying to start planning for the following year. Teachers have been working at grade level meetings to assess their data and plan their instruction based on their students' needs

XII. President's Report

Current Events: ASE - still need some volunteers. It's going really smoothly. We have had a lot of absences, which is hard on the students who are sick.

Upcoming Events: Trivia Night- have 84 people registered, Barn Dance, Art Show/Used Book Sale

XIII. Treasurer's Report

-Expenses for ASE haven't been paid out, we have over 84 people signed up for trivia night so we are above budget for trivia night,

XIV. VP Communication Report: Kristin not present but no formal report given - just continue to use her to advertise events with plenty of advance notice. Need successor for 2020-21

XV. New Business:

- A. January Meeting Minutes Approval- Heather motioned to approve the minutes, Stacia second it, minutes approved
 - B. Q&A for attendees- Stacia asked how new families can access the student directory,
 - C. Congrats to our Giving Tuesday Family Raffle Winner: Jenna Smulski
 - D. Fingerprinting review- emails have been sent out regarding why and how to get fingerprinted. The district is paying for the volunteers to get fingerprinted at the moment so it is highly encouraged for anyone to get it done ASAP.
 - E. Shout Outs- Discussion on if this should continue. Most of the people at the PTO like this but we will need to find someone to take over this for next year.
 - F. BG 20 year celebration: Drone Picture, party?
- XVI. **VP Committee.** Kim's Report: Need to find chair/co-chairs for following positions: ASE, Book Fair, Movie Night, Staff Appreciation, Shout Outs?
(*** = up for discussion)
- A. *****ASE (Heather Trask & Kim Oeltgen):**
 - B. **Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff & Jessica Glitzow):**
 - C. *****Assemblies (Kate Bennett):** K-1 \$500 health/active assembly, 2-5 Elgin Symphony will come do a performance
 - D. **AVIC (Karen Delaney):**
 - E. *****Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin):** The planning is going well, the display case will be done tomorrow, having some new games this year so they will need tickets to play the games, always looking for volunteers to help during the day or after the event. Charging admission for just BG students
 - F. **Book Fair (Kelly Franzen & Carmen Kujanski):**
 - G. **BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
 - H. *****Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
 - I. *****Book Club (Jamie Hadzima):** Summer Reading Program- One Mouse and Motorcycle
 - J. ****Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):** Trying to remind people to scan their receipts
 - K. **Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster):** "Just Shave It" - 3/14/20, 5pm. Saint Charles North
 - L. **Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Heather Trask/Holly Gerhart):**
 - M. *****Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
 - N. **Decorations(Kelly Sychowski):**
 - O. **Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
 - P. **DPTO (PTO Board/Tishonda Washington-Gibbs):**
 - Q. **Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):**
 - R. **Greater Education Foundation Basket (Need Chair):**
 - S. **Head Room Parent (Kara Barr):**
 - T. **Movie Night (Need Chair):**
 - U. *****New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):** New family folders have been created and will be delivered soon
 - V. *****Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):** Deadline has passed - new cost for entry: \$35
 - W. **"Parent Express" (Office Help Committee) (Heather Trask):**

X. School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski):

Y. *Shout-Outs & Lunch with Your Loved One (Andrea Benavidez):** Do we continue next year - shout outs?

Z. Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):We will sell spirit wear at the beginning of the next school year

AA. Spirit Sticks & Smencils (Kim Oeltgen/Julie Sandine):

BB. Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes): Jenna may be interested in taking this over

CC. *STEM Club (Darrell Griffin)** Still looking for someone to look into this club

DD. Talent Show (Heather Trask & Kate Bennett): May 1- dress rehearsal, May 3- talent show

EE.*Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):** April 16, We are going to spread the word to local preschools about our used book sale

FF. Welcome Back Picnic (Jenna Smulski):

GG. Yearbook/Photo Club (Nessa Henriksen):

XVII. Next Meeting: March 17th, 1:30pm, Teacher's Lounge. St. Patrick's Day - Wear Green!

**PTO General Meeting
January 21st, 2020**

Meeting called to order at: 1:30 pm

In attendance: Kim Nudera, Kelly Cameron, Heather Trask, Jenna, Holly, Kristin, Andrea, Diana, Kate, Lisa, Darrel, Kim O. Tishonda

XVIII. Principal's Report

- A. All the teachers and students are up and running from break.
- B. Fingerprinting- new district policy states that volunteers need to be fingerprinted if they are working with students. The principals are looking at who volunteers and if they are working in the classroom with a teacher present. Parents who sign up for a field that is offsite will need to be fingerprinted. Bell Graham is going to communicate to the families in the eblast regarding the new district policy. The steps to get fingerprinted are:
 - 1. Go the school office to pick up the form
 - 2. Make an appointment at the ROE office to get fingerprinted
 - 3. Go to the ROE to be fingerprinted

Mr. V stepped into the meeting at 2pm. He has about 8 teachers who are coming to Trivia Night. He also discussed that Maker-fair is happening again in the district on Saturday, April 25, from 11-2pm at Wredling. Bell Graham is going to participate in this event again. They have an Amazon wishlist for anyone who would like to donate items to the event. BG news team, weekly newscast of 12 fourth graders, who broadcast out to the school every Friday morning may participate in this fair.

XIX. President's Report:

- A. Fingerprinting for Volunteers - work in progress- Klueppel updated
- B. Playground Update- The committee shared the new playground plans at the last PTO meeting. New playground is scheduled to be installed this summer.
- C. Greater Education Foundation Basket update- Bell Graham donated a basket to this foundation. Thank you to everyone who donated towards this basket.
- D. Decision to have no spring Movie Night- We already have something happening each month for the remaining months of the school year and decided not to have one in the spring.
- E. Community chairperson- Lisa has volunteered to be our communicator with all the different community things that happen within Bell Graham- scouts, wellness council, student council, PTO, district

XX. Treasurer's Report: \$2,105 Giving Tuesday

XXI. VP Committee Report

XXII. New Business:

- A. November Meeting Minutes Approval
 - 1. Kim Nudera motioned approval and Heather Trask second the approval

- B. Q&A for attendees-no questions were asked
- C. Giving Tuesday Family Raffle Winner: Jenna Smulski
Next year if we do it we are thinking of having an item goal that we want to use the money for.
- D. Bingo Night - need more toys and volunteers!
- E. ASE Update- Registration closes on Friday, We have over 1,000 registered for classes. The balloon guy still has quite a bit of openings. We still need volunteers to help.
- F. Spirit Wear - for sale at Wellness Nights, Bingo Night, and thoughts for any more sales- We aren't going to have any more sales for this school year but the hats are still for sale. Thoughts on selling spiritwear early August and have delivery day around the back to school picnic.

XXIII. **VP Committee.** Kim's Report: Need to find chair/co-chairs for following positions: ASE, Talent Show, Back to School Picnic

(*** = up for discussion)

- A. *****ASE (Heather Trask & Kim Oeltgen):** Jenna Smulski and Terri Appelhans co-chairs
- B. **Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff & Jessica Glitzow):**
- C. **Assemblies (Kate Bennett):**
- D. *****AVIC (Karen Delaney):**
- E. *****Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin):** \$10 per student for entry fees, March 6 from 6:00-8:00, discussion on if they sell pizza this year and if they don't sell pizza do we cut back the hours to 6:30-8:00. We are looking for a DJ. We like the idea of pizza for sale
- F. **Book Fair (Kelly Franzen & Carmen Kujanski):**
- G. **BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
- H. *****Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
- I. *****Book Club (Jamie Hadzima):**
- J. ****Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):** Next contest is starting next week.
- K. *****Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster):** "Just Shave It" - 3/14/20, 5pm. Saint Charles North
- L. **Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Heather Trask/Holly Gerhart):**
- M. *****Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):** February 12 at Salsa Verde
- N. **Decorations(Kelly Sychowski):**
- O. **Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
- P. **DPTO (PTO Board/Tishonda Washington-Gibbs):**
- Q. **Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):**
- R. **Greater Education Foundation Basket (Need Chair):**
- S. **Head Room Parent (Kara Barr):**
- T. **Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh):**
- U. *****New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):** Stacia sent out an email mid year for all the new families at BG explaining ASE and all the other activities that are occurring for the remaining school year.
- V. *****Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):** Tap House Grill is doing the appetizers for the night. Registration is ready to go for this week's eblast.
- W. **"Parent Express" (Office Help Committee) (Heather Trask):**

- X. ***School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski):**
- Y. Shout-Outs & Lunch with Your Loved One (Andrea Benavidez):**
- Z. Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):**
- AA. ***Spirit Sticks & Smencils (Kim Oeltgen):** Kim won't be doing it next year, discussion on if we should continue it. We made over \$500 during the lunch hours before Christmas
- BB. Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes):**
- CC. ***STEM Club (Darrell Griffin):** STEM club will not longer be offered since they closed their building in Saint Charles.
- DD. Talent Show (Heather Trask & Kate Bennett):** Kate Bennett has stepped up to chair this next year!!
- EE.***Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):** April 16, continue to bring in your used books
- FF. Welcome Back Picnic (Brenda Szerlong & ?):**
- GG. Yearbook/Photo Club (Nessa Henriksen):**

XXIV. Next Meeting: February 18th, 6:30pm. BRING A FRIEND NIGHT!!!, Staff Attending, New School Day Presentation, PLTW Video

**PTO General Meeting
November 19th, 2019**

I. Introductions and Welcome

II. 2 Evening Meeting Presentations:

1. Playground Committee Update (20min):
 - a) STC Park District Representative
 - b) Committee Update- Committee first met in July 2019 and decided to go out in the community to compare and look at different playgrounds. The committee learned that BG's playground is used a lot more by the community than most school's playground. The new playgroup will not be divided and all students will have access to it with alternative needs. The new playground has ramps, a big climbing pyramid, and sensory needs. The new playground will have wood chips- safer than the foam/squishy floor. In the future, they plan to put benches and shade around the playground. There will be a divided play area- primary/ intermediate. The two play areas will be next to each other due to fall risks and it's more cost effective. They are planning to install and have the new playground in by July 1, 2020. We were not scheduled to get a new playground for another year or two, but thanks to Zack for the effort that he put into getting this project started early.
2. Sensory Pathway (10min): Andrea Vantine, OT at Bell Graham
 - a) Andrea thanked the PTO for buying and helping with this project. The hallway is all set up, waxed, and ready to go. She has started taking classes out and showing them how to use the sensory hallway. The hallway has a lot of balance and coordination skills for the students. Andrea gave a tour of the sensory hallway.

III. Principal's Report:

- A. Veteran's Day Assembly: The fifth grade team, Mrs. Simon, Mr. V., band and orchestra teachers did an amazing job with the assembly. This was the first year that the fifth graders did the same performance in the evening. We had about 40 Veterans that morning. Some of the Veterans have been sending thank you cards to BG for all that we did for them that morning. A suggestion was to have the assembly in the afternoon. The district enforced that every school has to have some type of Veteran's Day recognition.
- B. Benchmark assessments will be done the first week of December. K,1,2 will do FastBridge, and 3,4,5 will do performance series assessment. They help us measure growth over the year.

IV. President. Kelly's Report

- A. Teacher report- Mrs. Paul thanked the PTO for all the lunches and support we have given them this year. The teachers truly appreciate all the work the PTO has done. Mr. V also thanked us for everything- we are 1/3 done with the school year. He thanked us for sending our kids ready to learn everyday.
- B. Q&A- 1. Does the PTO have a facebook/website page? Yes, we have a facebook page that is updated daily/weekly. The PTO meeting minutes go into the eblast. The website is not user friendly to update frequently.

2. It was suggested that for the next big school board election, to have the candidates come speak at BG.
- C. Write a check campaign- This will be our second year of doing this. Every kid will get a flyer explaining what this is. This is BG's big fundraiser. We don't sell wrapping paper, candy, etc and ask that families write a check to BG.
- D. Bingo Night- Thursday, January 23, 2020
- V. **Treasurer.**
 1. Bookfair- \$2,000 (made 25% profit)
 2. Fallfest- \$7,200
 3. AmazonSmile- going to send out link in the eblast.
- VI. **New business**
- VII. **VP Committees: Kim's report/Highlighted: recent past events or upcoming events**
 1. **Looking for co-chairs for next year- ASE, Talent Show, Ice Cream Social, Back to School Picnic**
 - A. **ASE (Heather Trask & Committee): We have 52 scheduled!** We usually have around 100 classes offered throughout the month.. December 6- deadline for committee, Public Preview January 6, Video preview January 9, Registration opens Tuesday, January 14 at 9pm and closes at midnight on Friday, January 24. Smarty Pants Balloons is our new big ASE. Pick up procedure can stay the same! 6-7 classes are offered each day. The committee is doing an awesome job!
 - B. Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff & ?)
 - C. Assemblies (Kate Bennett): One coming up - "Bubble Man" - 11/21- He is going to do two assemblies. There will be another assembly in the spring.
 - D. AVIC (Karen Delaney & Erin Cantu): 4th grade level full AVIC 11/22. Davis sets up AVIC for the whole grade to do AVIC at the same time
 - E. Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin)
 - F. **Big Hearts of Fox Valley (Tishonda Washington-Gibs):**
 - G. **Book Fair (Kelly Franzen):**
 - H. BG Mascot
 - I. **Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas)-** supply bags for prizes.
 - J. Book Club (Jamie Hadzima)
 - K. Box Tops (Diana Kruis and Courtney Habas)
 - L. Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster)
 - M. Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez ?):
 - N. **Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
 - O. Decorations(Kelly Sychowski)
 - P. Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez)
 - Q. DPTO (Tishonda Washington-Gibs)
 - R. **Fall Fest (Kim Nudera, Candace Kloss, Michelle Tsiftilis):**
 - S. **Greater Education Foundation Basket (?):**
 - T. Head Room Parent (Kara Barr): Winter Class parties - 12/22
 - U. **Parent Trivia Night (Andrea Benavidez, Kate Bennett):** It is scheduled for February 22 at the same place- Mooseheart. The raffle donations are coming in! \$35 a person and food is included. A time-out was suggested (you can pay for someone on another team to be in time-out). Kate and Andrea are brainstorming different ways to make it fun while making money.
 - V. Parent Express (Office Help Committee) Heather Trask
 - W. **Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh):** We had a great turnout for Aladdin. We are trying to brainstorm ways to get more kids to watch the movie vs. run around the hallways and back gym.

- X. New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson): January New Family Welcome meeting?
- Y. School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski)
- Z. Shout-Outs (Andrea Benavidez)
- AA. Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):** New sales have begun, two websites, have cool new beanie winter BG Bobcat pawprint hat for sale \$16, delivery will be mid December.
- BB. Spirit Sticks (Kim Oeltgen)
- CC. Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes)**
- DD. STEM Club (Darrell Griffin):** We had 2 STEM clubs this fall trimester and are looking into spring clubs. The robotics was easier than the connectors session.
- EE. Talent Show (Heather Trask & ?): Still looking for a co-chair
- FF. Used Book Sale:
- GG.** Welcome Back Picnic (???)
- HH. Yearbook/Photography Club (Nessa Hendriksen):**

VIII. Next Meeting: NO DECEMBER MEETING. January 21st, 2020.

IX. Still looking for ideas for future speaker(s) for February Evening PTO Meeting (2/18/20).

**PTO General Meeting
October 15th, 2019**

Meeting called to order at: 1:31

In attendance: Kelly, Holly, Sara, Andrea, Kristin, Kim, Diana, Kim, Carmen, Tishonda, Kara, Alicia, Bridge

- I. Principal's Report-** Bookfair was a great success. Sensory Hallway was installed and looks amazing. They are going to train the assistants on how to use it with their students. They aren't going to wax the floor anytime soon so they are going to watch the wear and tear on it. Conference online has opened up. Amy thanked the PTO for the chili luncheon.
- II. President. Kelly's Report:**
 - A.** Book Fair Update- Book fair was very successful. We were able to make 25% profit from sales. Our chair isn't doing it again next year, so we are looking for a new committee. Discussion on what people thought of Follett- overall people seemed happy and had decent selection. Coloring contest was a big hit for the students.
 - B.** Giving Tuesday Fundraiser- The Tuesday after Thanksgiving break is considered Giving Tuesday. We are going to give a handout to the students and ask them to consider donating to Bell Graham.
 - C.** Fall Fest upcoming event- It's moving along but need quite a few more adult volunteers to make it successful. Trying to figure out how to get more volunteers for the night. Hard copy will go home later this week. Amy will also send out an email later this week with just Fall Fest info. We are going to kick off Movie Night with a penny war at Fall Fest. Students can dress up in their Halloween costume for this event.
 - D.** Parent Express Committee- The front office communicates weekly if they need any parent help. Heather Trask is leading this. Looking for more adults to add to the list.
 - E.** Sensory Hallway: Hallway was installed on Friday, October 11, between the fourth grade and third grade hallway. Most of the pieces were installed. Next PTO meeting we will take a field trip to the hallway.
- III. VP Communication.** Kristin's Report: E-news, website, and facebook are updated daily/weekly
- IV. Treasurer.**
 - A.** Holly's Report: Still have a lot of families who haven't paid their PTO family dues. Discussion on having the head room parent send out a class email regarding PTO dues.
 - B.** PTO Dues: Discussion on if teachers contribute to the PTO, it hasn't been done in the past at BG, but we are open for discussion for next year.
- V. New Business:**
 - A.** Question/Answer session (no more than 20min)
 - 1. New family meeting: Idea of having a second meeting later in the year for any families who may have moved in after the school year started. Also it was suggested that Kristin reach out to Stacia when new families register.
 - 2. Crosswalk: Traffic on Fox Mill Blvd is going faster than in the past.
 - 3. Halloween candy will be collected for November 1- 5 after Halloween

4. Spirit Week is the last week of October.
 5. Community Chair- Discussion on having a class donate to families in need. Would love to have one particular person in communication with the boy scouts, girl scouts, student council, wellness council, teachers and PTO
- B. Bingo Night:** Date change
- C. Holiday Charities-**
1. Student Council organizes the Angel Gift Tree (25-50 angels are posted on the tree up by the front office. Gifts needs to be unwrapped and brought back to BG.
 2. Salvation of Army box will be set out by the front office for any unwrapped toys after Christmas.
 3. Big Hearts of Fox Valley- We will put up posters. We need a box for students to put unwrapped toys in before Thanksgiving. There will be a wrapping event on December 10. Families are encouraged to come wrap at this event. The district is encouraging all schools to participate in this. If you want to be a secret santa shopper, you need to contact Big Hearts of Fox Valley.

VI. VP Committee. Kim's Report: (***) = up for discussion)

- A. ***ASE (Heather Trask & Kim Oeltgen):** Jenna Smulski and Terri Appelhans co-chairs
- B. Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff):**
- C. ***Assemblies (Kate Bennett):**
- D. ***AVIC (Karen Delaney):**
- E. Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin):**
- F. ***Book Fair (Kelly Franzen & Carmen Kujanski):** See above
- G. BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
- H. Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):** BINGO night is moved to Thursday, January 23
- I. ***Book Club (Jamie Hadzima):**
- J. ***Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
- K. Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster):**
- L. Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Heather Trask/Holly Gerhart):**
- M. ***Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
- N. Decorations(Kelly Sychowski):**
- O. Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
- P. DPTO (PTO Board):**
- Q. ***Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):**
- R. Greater Education Foundation Basket (Need Chair):**
- S. Head Room Parent (Kara Barr):**
- T. ***Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh):** Friday, November 15- free event, popcorn and water, spiritwear will be available that day, penny war will take place prior to event
- U. ***New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):** Feedback regarding event (sign-in procedure, etc)

- V. Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):**
- W. ***"Parent Express" (Office Help Committee) (Heather Trask):**
- X. School Supply Packs (Jolene Sypniewski):**
- Y. Shout-Outs & Lunch with Your Loved One (Andrea Benavidez):**
- Z. ***Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):**
- AA. Spirit Sticks & Smencils (Kim Oeltgen):**
- BB. ***Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes):**
- CC. ***STEM Club (Darrell Griffin):**
- DD. Talent Show (Heather Trask & Lindsay Benks?):**
- EE. Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):**
- FF. Welcome Back Picnic (Brenda Szerlong & ?):**
- GG. ***Yearbook/Photo Club (Nessa Henriksen):**

VII. Next Meeting: November 19th, at 6:30pm, in LRC. Great agenda planned - Sensory Pathway "Field Trip" with Andrea Vantine, OT. Playground Update Committee Report with STC Park District Insight.

**PTO General Meeting
September 17th, 2019**

- VIII. Principal's Report:** Started by thanking us for WatchDogs. We had over 300 dads/kids come to the kick off. 145 Dads have already signed up to participate. The Back to School picnic was great. Wrapped up One Book, One School at the picnic.
- IX. President. Kelly's Report:**
- A.** Welcome/Introductions. Introduced the PTO board, PTO will meet on Tuesdays.
 - B.** Parking Spot Raffle - Winner is Stacia Carlson
- X. VP Communication.** Kristin's Report: We are trying to use the FaceBook page more this year and updating the website regularly. If anyone is interested in helping design a new website this year, please contact Kristin. She is open to any suggestions. An idea suggested was send out a quick email to all families (things that go on Facebook) for little reminders.
- XI. Treasurer.**
- A.** Holly's Report: Field Trip funds are covered by PTO, fifth grade sent out a flyer asking for \$7.50 per student for field trips, Kelly will talk to Kris about field trip costs. Last year, PTO was very successful with their budget so we were able to do 'One School, One Book' and a sensory hallway. Field trips, assemblies, and grade level magazines take a chunk of our money.
 - B.** Budget Approval: Heather made a motion to approve the budget, Kim, second it. Everyone approved it.
- XII. New Business:**
- A.** Question/Answer session (no more than 20min)
 - 1. Head room parent question regarding Directory Spot- parents need to double check their name and teacher.
 - 2. Traffic pattern is changing at the 4 way stop. Students are not able to go diagonally anymore. They need to use the crosswalks. Concerns about cars turning right onto Carl Sandburg from Fox Mill Blvd.
 - 3. Pick up number system: This system hasn't been rolled out, they are still trying to figure out the logistics of the little details.
 - B.** Office Help Committee - The "Parent Express": Looking for parents to volunteer throughout the school year for various jobs
 - C.** DPTO Rep- Anyone interested in representing Bell Graham at the district monthly PTO meetings, please reach out to Kelly or the PTO board
 - D.** Scarecrow Festival- anyone crafty who would be interested in putting together a scarecrow to represent Bell Graham at Scarecrow, please let Kelly know.
 - E.** Speaker Ideas- Looking for speaker ideas for various monthly PTO meetings.
- XIII. VP Committee.** Kim's Report:
- 1. Committee Chair expectations (flyers and info to Kristin J for Eblast/FB by Friday afternoon, cash box requests at least a week ahead of time, shared drive folder for previous docs, run new ideas or plans by PTO Board, attending before/after PTO meeting, "After Event Checklist", need to reserve your space for your event on the district page)

- B. ASE (Heather Trask & ?):** Looking for a second chair.
- C. Art Show/Ice Cream Social (Lauren Dethloff):**
- D. Assemblies (Kate Bennett):**
- E. AVIC (Erin Cantu & Karen Delaney):** Looking for another chair
- F. Barn Dance (Stacia Carlson & Darrell Griffin):**
- G. Book Fair (Kelly Franzen & Carmen Kujanski):** Super Hero theme. Coloring page for each student and then will be displayed in the front case. A sign-up genius will be emailed out to parents. Book fair will be in the LRC. We are setting up the Friday before and then Monday will be student preview day. An author is coming on Tuesday to visit.
- H. BG Mascot (Joe Blomquist):**
- I. Bingo Night (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
- J. Book Club (Jamie Hadzima):**
- K. Box Tops (Diana Kruis & Courtney Habas):**
- L. Cal's Angels (Julie Bolster):**
- M. Community Pass/Square (Andrea Benavidez/Heather Trask/Holly Gerhart):**
- N. Community Rewards (Diana Kruis & Karri White):**
- O. Decorations (Kelly Sychowski):** Has a plan for the display case and front pots.
- P. Directory Spot (Andrea Benavidez):**
- Q. DPTO (PTO Board):**
- R. Fall Fest (Kim Nudera/Candace Kloss/Michelle Tsiftilis):** It's coming along, Boy Scouts is doing the haunted hallway, sign up genius will come out soon
- S. Greater Education Foundation Basket (Need Chair):**
- T. Head Room Parent (Kara Barr):** Had meeting, successful - Party dates: October 31, December 20, End of Year TBD. We can only have 4 volunteers per classroom, per party.
- U. Movie Night (Jennifer Benesh):** November 15, trying to think of ways to get more families there
- V. New Family Welcome (Stacia Carlson):** Feedback regarding event (sign-in procedure, etc)
- W. Parent Trivia Night (Kate Bennett & Andrea Benavidez):**
- X. Office Help Committee (Heather Trask):**
- Y. School Supply Packs (Need chair - Jolene Sypniewski?):**
- Z. Shout-Outs & Lunch with Your Loved One (Andrea Benavidez):**
- AA. Spirit Wear (Andrea Benavidez):** Deadline has been extended to Thursday due to site problems. Looking at having a second spirit wear order later in the year.
- BB. Spirit Sticks & Smencils (Kim Oeltgen):**
- CC. Staff Appreciation (Sara Barnes):**
- DD. STEM Club (Darrell Griffin & ?):** Linked up with Sylvan for STEM program. It's 90 minutes one day after school for 4 weeks. You can register through community pass.
- EE. Talent Show (Heather Trask & Lindsay Benks?):**
- FF. Used Book Sale (Kristin Jessup):**
- GG. Welcome Back Picnic (Brenda Szerlong & ?):** Brenda's notes sent via email.
- HH. Yearbook (Nessa Henriksen):**

XIV. Next Meeting: October 15th at 1:30pm.

XV. Attendance:

- A. Kelly Cameron, Kristin Jessup, Holly Gerhart, Kim Nudera, Diana Kruis, Kate Bennett, Kim Oelten, Lisa Perrault, Kara Barr, Sara Barnes, Andrea Benavidiz, Stacia Carlson, Carmen Kujanski, Bridge Han, Michelle Tsittilis, Tishonda Washington-Uibbs, Heather Trask, Courtney Habas, Jen Benesh, Jenna Smulski, Darrell Griffin, Terri Appelhans, Alicia Flint