

## BENNIE ELEMENTARY PTA MINUTES

April 3rd, 2025 6:30



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

**Present:** Chelsea Honstain, Shannon Gilliam, Michael Bianchi, Guy Taylor, Ashlee Heitchue, Amanda Kerr, Gaul, Cunningham, Metzger, Lisa Black, Mark Honstain, Melissa Lambert, Marlene Scott, Liz Smith, Natalie Mroz, Autumn Mulka, Tiffany Walls, Michelle Smith, Robyn Kellar, Scott Goulette, Cheryl Chateauvert, Julie Bartoloni, Adriana Ruez

The quorum was established with over 5 paid members present.

**Agenda:** The motion to accept the agenda was made by Robyn Kellar and seconded by Marlene Scott

**Minutes from March 6th 2024:** Motion to approve minutes was made by Mrs. Gaul & seconded by Robyn Kellar

**Teacher's Report:** Mrs. Metzger thanked the PTA for supporting March is reading month. The staff and kids really enjoyed "The One and Only Ivan". Mrs. Cunningham reported no report out from teachers however she discussed that she is excited for 3 spring clubs. Run Club is coming. Art Club, Music Club will be new this year. The gardening club is on hold with the upcoming constructions. Mrs. Gaul, Mrs. Kerr were also present.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Short told us about the 8th grade band students coming to perform for the upper class students as a way to promote middle school band. He also reported that the middle school talked about academics, sports eligibility. We celebrated the March PBIS award winners yesterday. He thanked us for the One Book One School Contribution. Our 1st grade concert will take place on April 16th. Bennie Spring Family Dance is next month. The first annual Bennie Olympics is May 8th. Run Club starts next week on Mondays. Basketball club is ongoing.

He spoke about our upcoming STEM lab. We are the last school to get the STEM lab. He is excited about designing it off the positives and negatives of the other designs. It will be built off the fifth grade classrooms.

He spoke on the spring assessment testing; there has been focus on the staff professional development days on the essentials for proficiency of reading and math in students.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael Bianchi reports most of the fundraising for the school year has been completed. He expects a few more checks and deposits to be completed. No large transactions completed for the month of March. Spring dance, and staff appreciation expected to start expenses for April. Also he would like to remind the Teachers to utilize their classroom activity fund and academic incentives before the end of the school year.

**Secretary's Report:** Chelsea received correspondence from Mrs. Bartnick thanking us for the birthday target gift card

### **Old Business:**

1. **Kalahari Fundraiser.** We sold 59 rooms and earned \$590 profit. Fun was had by those who attended.
2. **Spring Fever.** We made \$11,750 which went to the scholarship fund. Total scholarship fund for the graduating class is >\$25,000.
3. **Penny Wars.** We made \$3292.81 off the Penny Wars. We adopted our gorilla who should arrive in the next week.

### **New Business:**

1. **Nicole Sobieski (APMS) PTA President** came in to speak to 5th grade parents about opportunities to volunteer for the PTA. There are several board positions becoming available.. She presented the "Future Panther" signs which are available through May 17th.
2. **Testing Snacks**
  - a. We are asking the PTA for \$600 to provide snacks (>2000) to provide snacks for the students for all of their testing days. Mr. Short reported it will allow access for all students to receive snacks. It would be a recurring budget item. Cheryl motioned to support. Scott Goulette motioned to second it. A vote occurred; all supported. No opposition.
3. **Shed**
  - a. We are asking for \$2000 for two sheds to be purchased to house our recess equipment, run club supplies to make the equipment more accessible. There will be divided amongst the two playground areas. Scott Goulette motioned to support this item. Julie Bartoloni seconded the motion. A vote occurred; all supported. No opposition.
4. **Summer Workbooks**
  - a. Mr. Short introduced the idea of summer workbooks. Parents will have the option of signing up for a workbook for students to utilize over the weekend to avoid the "summer slide" and a loss of skill in students. It will not be mandatory; families would be able to optionally sign up via a google doc. We would have a halfway party: for the kids who participate at the school. The teachers are vetting the workbook. We will discuss more at the next meeting.
5. **Teacher Appreciation Week**
  - a. This will occur May 5-9th. We have plans to provide meals for 5 days including Texas Roadhouse, Angelinas, Liberati's, Breakfast. Shannon asked for \$500 extra dollars to cover the event this year. Tiffany Walls motioned this., Julie Bartoloni seconded this. The members voted; all approved; no opposition.
6. **Book Fair**
  - a. Will occur the last week of April into May. We will be seeking volunteers; sign out will come in the next week. We will release the teacher schedule tomorrow.
7. **Board Nominations**
  - a. Board nominations will open 4/7 and remain open for 4 weeks. We have two open positions; Guy Taylor, Michael Bianchi are leaving. We will vote on May 15th at the PTA meeting.
8. **Spring Family Dance**

- a. Will take place 4/25 from 6-8pm at APMS. We have student spots open. We also need a couple more volunteers: Hula Station, Hall Monitor, Photo Booth Supervision

**9. Olympics**

- a. Our first Bennie Olympics will take place on Thursday, May 8th. Adult/Student pairs will compete in 10 events. There will be a snack after. The 4th grade parents will hold a bake sale at the event to earn funds for next year's 5th grade committee events. Sign up will be released to meeting attendee's tonight and to general membership Friday night.

**10. Kalahari**

- a. We were offered a second Kalahari date. Meeting attendees were polled with requests. An early august or mid winter break date is preferred. Chelsea will reach out to Kalahari.

**11. Ice Cream Truck**

- a. Chelsea spoke on the extra profit we made from Penny Wars. In an effort to reward all staff and students for their efforts she is proposing bringing an ice cream truck to the school. This will have dairy free, nut free, and sugar free options to support all students. All students and staff members would receive 1 treat. She is asking for \$1400 to support this. Cheryl motioned to support this. Tiffany Walls seconded the motion. The membership voted; all approved; no opposition. This will occur on May 22nd.

**12. Field Day**

- a. Field Day is 6/2. Volunteer sign ups will go out Tuesday/Wednesday.

**Adjourned at 7:29 pm.**