

BENNIE ELEMENTARY PTA MINUTES

March 6th, 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, Mark Honstain, Lisa Black, Robyn Kellar, Andrea Bermudez, Autumn Mulka, Amanda Davis, Melissa Oakley, Avery Reynolds, Julie Bartoloni, Cheryl Collins

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 Autumn Mulka

Minutes from February 5th 2024: Motion to approve minutes was made by Mark Honstain & seconded by Robyn Kellar

Teacher's Report: No teachers were present at this meeting. No report was given.

Principal's Report: Mr. Short thanked the PTA for all the activities we provide. He touched on bingo for books. He mentioned how active our PTA is compared to other schools. He reported some updates on the new STEM lab; construction will begin March 2026. The lab will be added behind the 5th grade classrooms. Our playground equipment will be removed but we will replace it. The blacktop area by the kindergarten will be resurfaced. Our bathrooms throughout the school will also be updated.

Report cards are coming out next week as we move into trimester #3. He talked about NWEA testing which is the benchmark assessment and a national study which assesses students compared to those across the country. He emphasized the importance of these standardized tests as they weigh into our school ratings. The last round of NWEA is the last week of April, beginning of May.

This past week was this month's PBIS assembly. Next week, the 8th grade band is coming to visit to introduce the music program to students. March madness is happening this month as a competition amongst teachers/classrooms. 5th grade pajama day is coming March 21st as a fundraiser for our class.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Bianchi reports our budget is stable. We started this year at \$36041. We are currently at \$44920. We went over budget on assemblies by \$65. Cheryl motioned to approve this budget offset, Julie seconded it. No one opposed it.

He spoke about teachers getting extra \$50 for working PTA events.

Secretary's Report: Chelsea received correspondence from Mrs. Housley

Old Business:

1. **Quest for Kindness** was last Wednesday, It was a character building assembly with good feedback. Perhaps a few minutes too long.
2. **Bingo For Books** was yesterday and a huge success. We had over 120 kids present. We have a ton of books left over which we will sort through and save the books. For next year, we might purchase more older kids books at the book fair in april to save for next year.

New Business:

1. **Spring Fever**
 - a. We need volunteers for the event which is next Saturday, March 15th. Please consider signing up. Bennie is responsible for the concession stand this year.
2. **NWEA Incentive**
 - a. In an effort to improve NWEA scores, we are partnering with Mr. Short to bring a new incentive program to the school that follows a motivational theme. Students will have the opportunity to earn gold/goal coins for meeting their goals on testing. The coins would then be entered in a drawing at the end of spring testing for 6 prizes per grade and then 6 large prizes.
3. **Penny Wars**
 - a. March 3-31st we are hosting the penny wars. We are hosting it with the goal of adopting a Gorilla from the World Wildlife Foundation to coincide with one book, one school (The One and Only Ivan). Cash and Penny's count towards the kids' classrooms and Silver is used to sabotage other classrooms. The winning classroom will also earn pizza with the principal
4. **Spring Family Dance**
 - a. April 25th is our spring family dance 6-8 pm. It is a luau theme. We will follow up on capacity and release the sign up genius.
5. **Music Trivia**
 - a. Our next Bennie Parent Music Trivia is Friday, May 16th at Trina O'Malleys. The sign up will go out after this meeting to attendees and then to membership.
6. **Field Day**
 - a. Field Day is 6/2. Grade color shirts are now on sale. We are discussing selling the t-shirts in the beginning of next year so they can be used for grader color Fridays, field trips, and throughout the year.

Adjourned at 7:21 pm.