

Buckingham Elementary PTO General Meeting –April 8th, 2010

9:30 a.m. present Emby S., Susan R., Fiona J., Peg S., Virginia H. & Betsy Benosky

Call to Order/Welcome: Susan R. call to order 9:43

Approval of 2010/2011 Proposed Budget: – Presented by Fiona

(will be posted on website)

- Highlights include Family Fun \$600, New Honey Ham Spring Fundraiser \$1250, Fall Fest \$6,600.00 & \$1000.00 Escrip. Total: \$23,254 for income
- Visiting Author was added back in \$1,500
- Technology \$2,600 (Website Access, led by Technology Committee/Mr. Radcliff)
- Small reductions were taken on Hospitality-keeping them simple is the hope

Susan R. requested for a motion to approve, **Linda S.** and 2nd **Susan M.**, all in favor and **approved.**

Communications Proposal:-Presented by Fiona

To replace the monthly BIB with weekly email newsletter-produced by Constant Contact (www.constantcontact.com)

- Subscription is voluntary & same info will be available on website
- Advantages presented-more timely, save paper \$, color, no page restriction, grandparents and others can subscribe, homeroom parents are not involved in forwarding info, database is managed by outside company, can subscribe/unsubscribe as needed, can be posted on new PTO notice board (to be purchased)
- Disadvantages cost \$15-\$30 monthly-12 month prepay 30% discount, relies on parent subscription.
- Close existing PTO website & have PTO tab set up under BES site. Managed by Mrs. Yates currently and will go to Janice (Less duplication of info and one stop shop for parents)
- Remaining paper communications from PTO-reminders to attend Gen. PTO (1/2 page 5 times yearly), solicitation for parents to sign up for committees etc... all communications would come out of Committee Chairs budget given.
- PTO will try it for 12 months and see how it goes.

Guest Speaker: CB Cares Program-“Listen UP”: Presented by Kimberly Cambra
Program receives the highest level of Funding from the Foundation of Community Fund-this council keeps kids from needing counsel for Substance Abuse

“Listen UP” is specifically geared toward K-6 students and parents

- Not much out there for a “positive discussion” with kids on drugs for this age group
- Daily 5 min. Positive conversation is recommended & kids are 50% less likely to have substance abuse problem
- Parents NEED to talk to kids early as a wellness issue- age of onset of abuse is 12 ½
- 7-8-9th graders need reinforcement that they have the “NO!” muscle
- Parents have the power, discussions in the car, at dinner-no such thing as “Rehab Chic” as cool.
- Prevention is elementary. By 3rd grade children should know the difference between food, medicine (prescription) & illicit drugs.
- The brain is growing until the age of 22. Drinking and drugs impact the overall performance and potential.
- DARE-talk about impact on life’s journey, “get together with your kids, before drugs do.”
- A partnership for a Drug-Free America suggests when kids ask about whether parents did drugs “It’s about them, not you doing drugs.” Keep it to the point.
- She thanked Mrs. Yates for doing wonderful “Community Work” regarding poetry month.

THANK YOU to Kimberly!

Financial Report: Fiona J.

Financial Report presented and will be online as well

Checking \$8,649.64

Savings \$32,543.10

Total: \$41,192.74

Highlights: Family Fun \$143; Spring Book Fair HUGE \$2727.00 14% above projection; ACME ends April 30th; Mrs. Quinn bought much needed music with enrichment money; Carol Cope did mulch-looks great!

Vote to approve current budget: Susan R. asked for a motion to approve;

1st Ann K. 2nd, by Gayle S.; approved

Meeting Minutes From March PTO: Susan R. asked for a motion to approve;

1st Linda S. 2nd, by Louise S.; approved – no changes noted.

Approval & Review of By-Laws Changes: Susan R. presented current by-laws with changes proposed in RED.

- Notable changes were Article 10. Meetings; all approved with the noted change to wording;

Section A. The PTO Meetings shall be held (At Least) every other month throughout the school year.

The proposed plan is to have 5 General PTO Meetings, beginning in September with a PM meeting (meet and greet at 6:30-7 and Business meeting to follow 7-8) and a PM meeting again in May. (Other Meetings will be Nov, January and March)

- President will give a precise agenda to parents before meeting takes place
- Child Care may be provided at the PM PTO Gen. Meetings that occur, planned for Sept. and May.

Susan R. asked for motion to approve the changes; Louise S. 1st & Linda S. 2nd all in favor and approved with the note to change wording in Article 10 Section A to (At least every other month)

By-Laws will reflect changes on the website

Proposal and Vote on Allocation of Available PTO Funds for this 2009-2010 School Year:-

Suggested list compiled through the PTO Board Research/Teacher wish list, Principal list, parent list and other suggestions

Proposed Allocation of Funds:

2 Presentation Stations	\$3,200
2 Document Cameras	\$850
Young Authors Day (Spring 2010)	\$1,500
Bulletin Board Outside Office	\$750 (Change from \$500)
New Lectern	\$1,000
Portable Lighting and Sound System	\$2,000
2 Airliners	\$720

25 Microphones for classrooms	\$625
Tax Exempt Status for PTO	\$1,000
Surge Protector and Mini-tapes for video cameras <i>(The Board already approved this line item at the last meeting)</i>	\$500
4 Benches for Outdoors on Playground/Grass Areas	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$14,895 \$15,145 increase in PTO Bulletin Board

**The PTO will be working with Mr. Durie and local organizations to get Buckingham Elementary Fitness Stations for the playground. We are pursuing the opportunity through Doylestown Hospital and through grant requests to local organizations. Discussion with PTO Members present followed.

- Darci C. is going to look into \$ associated with purchasing some new rugs.
- Mr. Branchfield has also requested to Virginia to purchase some much-needed music stands.
- Some of the items' total cost are padded to cover shipping and choice of benches by Student Council.
- Student Council will be taking on the playground purchases moving forward.

Susan R. called for a motion to approve; Ann K 1st and Susan M. 2nd all in favor and approved!

Principal's Report: Mrs. Solitario

- Enrollment for next year is important as we begin staffing for next year. Please encourage parents of students who will be entering Buckingham next year—especially in first and fifth grades-- to register by the end of this month. It is possible that we could go to an additional section in either of those grades if enrollment increases sufficiently.
- New Driveway paint of FIRE ZONE in place, please do not park in the marked area.
- Reading & Math PSSAs have begun gr. 3-6. 5th Grade Writing is 4/19 and 4th Grade Science will be the following week (4/26). Absent studentgs must make up tests.
- Peter Catalanatto is lined up as our visiting artist for Young Authors Day on June 9 - thanks to Mrs. Yates.
- Play Rehearsal has begun with 72 students involved. The play date is 5/13 with a possible second evening performance. "The Tale of Snow White" will be presented!
- Andy Durie has free Jump Rope assembly lined up (rescheduled due to snow) for April 23rd
- May 4th Birds of Prey assembly to take place
- 6th Grade Assessments; Science Fair, Care by Celebrating Children (May 14th) with guest –parent who made a film with 5th grade daughter in CBSD presenting "The Ripple Effect" - which connects to the theme of the day – "Caring – Small Acts of Kindness Matter"; Field Day is scheduled for May 21st;
- Classes are still working on Community Service Projects with Alex's Lemonade & Miss Wood continuing support of Ghana among them; Mrs. S will be sending out a Principal's Newsletter detailing what all the grades are doing.

- 6th Grade Promotion Date has been changed to June 15th, June 11th is the 6th grade party. Briarwood is June 7th with last day for students on June 18th ½ day.

Open Board Nominations and Committee Chairs:

Ann K. was nominated as Vice President by Linda S. and 2nd by Louise S. Vote will happen at next PTO in May

Bonnie B. agreed to think over Fall Fest and Susan M. will do the gift baskets for the Fall Fest.

Motion to adjourn: Susan R. requested Linda S -1st Bonnie B., 2nd all in favor; approved.
Adjourned 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by PTO Secretary, Betsy B.