



Agenda

November 15, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Bel Air Elementary Cafeteria

Call to Order Lindsay Stachon

Introduction of board, members in attendance Lindsay Stachon

- Lindsay Stachon, Dawn Wiegand, Pam Anderson, Jason Schmidt, Katie Hoffman, Sharifah Iqbal

Principal's Report Dawn Wiegand

- Covid Update: Katie reported that numbers in the community reflect what is happening in the schools. Parents are being super supportive.
 - Question - are the schools tracking vaccinations? No, however, there are different criteria for quarantining for vaccinated
 - Question - is there a threshold of infections that would trigger distance learning? Katie is in contact with the District Covid Coordinator. Some classrooms in the district have gone virtual due to case counts (not at Bel Air). This year there is not a set threshold; the goal is to stay in person.
- Snow Days: Dawn reported that there will not be instruction held on snow days. Parents should always assume school is in session unless told otherwise. Parents will be notified via text, voicemail, and email. It is critical that your information is current in ParentVUE.
 - Question - is there a time when the school would announce a closure? The decision is made by 5:30 am on school days.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - 11/16 Communication Night
 - 11/18 Communication Night
 - 11/22 - 11/26 No School
 - 12/9 5th Grade Band Concert 6 pm Bel Air (TBD)
 - 12/13 4th/5th Grade Orchestra Concert 6:30 pm at Mounds View High School (TBD)
 - 12/23 - 1/2 Winter Break

Treasurer's Report Jason Schmidt

- Reviewed the October budget - includes 3 days of Apex fundraising. November report will include entire fundraiser. We have paid a number of larger bills this month; t-shirts, classroom activity money, and artist in residence (4th grade).

Fundraising Survey Results Pam Anderson

- Pam reviewed the results of the fundraising survey.
 - 77 respondents
 - 10 that volunteered to help brainstorm and research other fundraising ideas
 - Pam will pull that team together in January; hope to have ideas fleshed out in February and a plan in place for the 2022-2023 school year by the end of this year.
 - Dawn mentioned that while we do get 56% of the donations from Apex, we have had enough reservations and issues over the past couple of years that we are interested in pursuing other options. This is why we sent out the survey.

Discussion

- Concern that 77 was not a huge number; not representative of our school population
- Recommended that we need to improve our communication around fundraising - a number of items were brought up

- Clarification that we only do one fundraiser for the entire year
- Clarification that we are supporting teachers, classrooms, and the school - not just t-shirts
 - Could we try a 'Did You Know' campaign on Facebook or in our other messaging to let people know what other items we do pay for as a PTA (planners, orange folders, teacher allocations, etc.)
 - Reminder that our taxes and state dollars don't cover the costs that teachers pay out of pocket and the PTA helps cover those additional costs
 - Get more face time - resume our booth at the beginning of the year
 - Try to get creative - more direct messages to parents, short blasts, find ways to make it easy for them to participate, volunteer, sign up
- Fundraising ideas
 - Pike Lake did a direct donation; we could try that
 - Specific classroom donations - have we tried it?
 - Teachers do an Amazon wish list
 - Can parents just buy stuff or raise funds for specific items
 - Can we put out booths or buckets at events (concerts, science fair) and have the money go back to those areas
- Dawn mentioned the District has a policy on fundraising, and there are limits on what we can do
- Lindsay reminded us that we are pulling a committee together, based on those that expressed interest in the survey and that we would be working to develop a plan for next year on fundraising and communication and thanked everybody for the discussion.

Other questions

- Is this a normal size for a PTA? Dawn - based on her experience working in other districts, yes, this is similar. We do see interest/capacity to participate fade during the year as people are busy with other activities.
- Is the carnival happening? No - it doesn't raise funds and it is a huge amount of work. While the kids enjoyed it, the effort was more than the benefit.
- Apex - do we know the % of the student population that participated? Dawn - no, we haven't had the exit meeting with Apex yet.
- Book Fair - what do we get from that event? We receive 50% of the proceeds in Scholastic Dollars. We use this to fund the following.
 - ~\$300 per fair to the Library for books
 - ~\$40 per licensed teacher for classroom library books
 - All birthday books for the Principal's Office

Adjourn

Next meeting:
 January 10, 2022 - 6 PM - Bel Air Elementary School IMC
 Childcare provided by YCARE (in Gym area)