

PTO Agenda February 13, 2024

Present Via Google Meet: Laurie Madsen, Courtney Sroka, Jodi Cataldo, David Bernsley, Courtney Bersaw, Stephanie Scanlon, Mrs Laz, Kim Colleen, Carrie Minkler, James Taylor-Shaw

Last meeting f/u:

Did anyone get together at BES to organize the indoor recess carts etc? Courtney and Rachel are still trying to coordinate a date for this.

Senior class wanted to do a lock in- survey was done by Rachel and we are awaiting response from Mr Bernsley to proceed. 16 Students responded via the survey that they would be interested in going. Unsure if this is enough interest to go forward with the event. Around 40-50 kids in 12th grade. On hold at this time due to lack of interest. Only 18 kids responded to the survey that was well published. Mr Bernsley offered to do a question/answer regarding this in a senior town hall meeting to gauge interest.

Roller skating – A lot of interest. Currently around 150 requested tickets. Will send out a paper clarifying the details ie: Needing an adult to stay with them during the event. Will also have extra tickets available that day in case needed.

Odyssey of the Mind and Helping hands represented by Stephanie Scanlon planning a dance at BES on 4/13/24- Glow Dance, K-5, 6pm-8pm, DJ Cost 200\$, Tables and chairs, photos, games for a break from noise, items to sell, canned food item donation with requested \$ 5.00 per family, snacks, glow decorations/lights. List of teacher and parent volunteers. Must attend BES to come, responsible adult to stay with student. PTO can help by donating money for black light supplies/decor cost. \$100 donation from the PTO was approved to help with the cost-all agreed.

Stewart's Holiday Match - requested \$500.00, for a community event that will include both schools and students.

Principals Report:

Mrs. Cataldo- Marking period ends on the 8th with a half day for conferences March 20th. Planning started for grades 3-5 after school enrichment. Excited for 100th day of school on February 14th along with Valentine's Day parties. This month's character trait is self- respect and self- love. A few students took part in all county. Simulation done in January for ELA Math and Science testing- ran very smoothly.

Mr. Bernsley: First Town Hall meeting with families was held. Goal is to hold this monthly. 11 people attended this meeting. Each month will have a topic to be discussed. Trying to get the community involved more. Simulation testing was held- students feedback was that it eased anxiety knowing what to expect. Had first student principal of the day held. Was well received by the kids at both MS/HS level. Plan to do it again this year with a HS student next. Students get

to exchange with teachers and a senior will be with him this week. Meetings to look at I-Ready data points and numbers. Looking at numbers currently work to be done, but moving forward. Reset of expectations done last week. Needing to keep so many kids out of the hallways when supposed to be in class. Commended the students in groups/clubs/sports/events. Plan to start writing an Editorial one time per month in the local paper. Parent asked if the town hall meetings could be recorded so parents who are unable to make it can watch. Currently trying to troubleshoot this so it can be done.

Treasurer's Report: Attached. Finalization of Holiday Shop. Reimbursements sent out. District Wide fundraiser around \$4,500. Need to figure out how to split this between the PTO for each school. Taconic Donated 1,800\$ to split between the two food pantries at BES and MS/HS. 5th Grade had a successful chocolate fundraiser toward their end of year trip. Change the band earmark as it has not been used in many years. Playground balance- does outdoor items need to be bought? Balls etc.

New requests for PTO to fund/help with: Glow Dance approved \$100.00. Upcoming 5K Bounce House Cost- Whalen was used previously we agreed to pay for this. Laurie will reach out to Whalen to reserve this. BINGO day put on by Restorative Practices with non perishable donation. Looking for PTO to donate to this. PTO agreed to cover the cost of BINGO Ball machine.

Follow up: Fundraising ideas and engagement ideas to try and get parents/community engaged. Lots of ideas presented by Laurie One idea was Dodgeball. Laurie and Kim agreed to work on this together. Family hike day with new trails presented on the 27th by Rensselaer Plateau before the board meeting.

BES Restorative Practices Committee hosting BINGO on March 16th 930am-1130am snacks, bingo

Upcoming teacher appreciation in May. Start planning for this event now. Was there any new ideas for this year that teachers requested? Did we want to send home a sheet with suggested daily things to do for teachers. Also will include bus garage

Fun/New/Different ideas. Continuing to have difficulty getting parents to participate in meetings. What more can we be doing to try and engage parents?

Next Meeting March 12, 2024 at 6:30pm