

## PAC MEETING SUMMARY

September 5, 2013

8:30 – 9:40 AM

Guests: Mr. Brian Ayers (Principal)

PAC Board present: Dawn Tarabochia (President) and Jannet Borrmann (Secretary and Facebook Administrator). Not present Jennifer Hammond (Treasurer) and Michelle Esper (Vice-President).

Members present: Tina Altamura, Lucey Coley, Heather Frisk, Eric Saalborn, Michelle Dorrence, Desiree Petrillo, Marcia Kaveney, Mande Arnold, Mindy Harlin, Mary McMakin, Keri Thorpe, Patrick Mulhill, Tom Ryles, Marilee Brown, Sue Deyo, Lydia Trom, Andrea Rosenzweig and Kara Nieland.

- Dawn Tarabochia opened the Meeting with an update with regards to Gym Shirts, which had been delayed. PAC had a record number of orders for shirts this year and some ideas and solutions for next year that are being looked at are: online (pre) ordering and partnering with the gym teachers.
- Dawn introduced herself and Jannet Borrmann as resp. PAC President and Secretary/Facebook Admin. Two additional new Board members were introduced: Jennifer Hammond as Treasurer and Michelle Esper as Vice President. The latter two could not be present today. The whole PAC Board is new so please be patient as matters get organized. PAC is still looking for a Volunteer Coordinator!
- Dawn quickly explained the mission of the PAC as giving parents a voice and to fundraise in order to support specific student or program needs. Activities that PAC organizes are Fun Night (in October) and Spirit Night (in February) and examples of projects funded by PAC are chairs for concerts etc., bleachers for the football field, teacher development funds, art work-shops etc.
- There is a Brick Fundraiser, which has not been chaired for a while, and a volunteer stepped forward to take this over and will email Dawn directly. Thank You!
- PAC is currently actively looking for people to donate for First Friday of the Month breakfast for staff for Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>. We apologize for the short notice but hope people can help!
- Mr. Ayers was introduced and took over and started by thanking the PAC for everything that they do. He feels that the PAC has a huge value in helping to communicate more effectively and to ensure that this communication is a two way street. School is not just talking but also listening!
- Next subject was Safety in school parking lot and Safe Routes to School. A spirited discussion ensued and Mr. Ayers wanted to make it clear he didn't want to address the new 4-way stop at Baxter/Davis as this is not a school issue but a city issue and he wanted to concentrate on safety around school and in the parking lot. The initial encouragement from school in a previous newsletter to exit to the right after leaving the parking lot in order to relieve congestion on Kimberwicke/Ferguson has caused issues with speeding traffic and too much traffic on streets that are not designed for it (Arabian, Equestrian etc.). Although the school cannot of course tell parents which way to turn after leaving the (one way!) parking lot, the route to the left is more

designed to handle larger volume of traffic. The subject will be addressed again in the next newsletter in 4/6 weeks. The city is aware that traffic backed up significantly on the first few days of school. Feedback is encouraged. There is a group that meets about traffic safety and an email from Kevin Barre has been attached to these minutes as an addendum with more information about it. It will also be posted on Facebook. The HOA of Baxter has some huge concerns too and is discussing the impact on their neighborhood. Several members were present at the meeting. Mr. Ayers proposed an Action Plan that will include: researching safe routes to school & alternate drop off sites (maybe Trakker building, park etc. ?). Added benefit of that is that studies show that physical activity will help engage the brain and there are some trail systems present already that are used for Walk/Bike to School Days. There were several feedbacks to this suggestion of alternate drop off zones. One was that in researching alternate sites to bear in mind that there is not one street that has finished sidewalks so far and that some roads / trails are private. Kari Thorpe (Baxter Meadows Master Community Association) asked about parking lot in back of school but this is currently being used for bus drop off only. Back doors are open and supervised at that time. Side doors are locked and only accessible to teachers/staff. Kari Thorpe also mentioned that the Baxter community is working with Craig Woolard (Public Works Director) about enforcing the sidewalk issue. They're hoping that will happen in 2014. She also mentioned that Public Access easements had not been secured in Phase 1 which is causing problems. She said about the 4-way stop on Baxter and Davis that it is part of a larger traffic plan but that the NE corner private property may complicate that. Luna Properties is on of the Property Management companies in Baxter but Phase 1 has a different company and there are also several associations. Mr. Ayers suggested that Leo Club would probably be interested in getting involved to work on Safe Routes to School (This was confirmed after the meeting and contact would be Sarah Domin: ([sarah.domin@bsd7.org](mailto:sarah.domin@bsd7.org))). Several suggestion were made among which to not have kids cross at the roundabout but before or after as many people don't see the kids on their bikes while making their way around. It was also expressed that pressure should be applied to the city by parents/local homeowners about extending Ferguson to Durston. That was how it was initially designed to handle all that traffic. It would provide another crucial North-South route and relieve traffic on Davis. In the future maybe Cattail will get extended too and maybe Kimberwicke will meet Harper Puckett. Direct feedback to the city is encouraged.

- Safety in the parking lot was also discussed. Mr. Ayers explained that the cones are there to avoid creating three lanes, which creates even more unsafe situations. Parents need to be sensible in the parking lot and heed the signs. Pat Mohill complained about some reckless driving by some parents in the parking lot. He also suggested to parents that are in a rush, that school is open at 7:30 so kids can get dropped off earlier. There are 40 minutes to drop off if need be. The parking lot is one way, which gets ignored sometimes and every year there is a collision with people running into people at the Stop sign, who do properly stop. An officer is there frequently and many times people get ticketed for ignoring the stop sign or speeding just after they leave the parking lot. Mr. Ayers invites law enforcement almost weekly and they ticket every time. Some people suggested taking down license plates and posting them somewhere but the 'public shaming' option did not seem very sensible. All of us however can report reckless drivers to the police at all times already. We also have a resource officer based in our school (Officer Roland

Moore) who a report can be made to, or to Mr. Ayers directly. (After the meeting we heard that Officer Moore is leaving this week and we will share a resource officer with BHS and SMS until a replacement is found but by Jan 2014 at the latest). Michelle Dorrence suggested a group/website that had been set up by a grandparent at Montforton and Middle Creek Montessori that created an organized and gentle process and they managed to secure traffic lights and speed zones over time. She will get in touch with that grandparent and see if they are maybe willing to 'tutor' for something to be set up for CJMS/Baxter. There was a question whether there are maps available currently with safe routes to school, which Mr. Ayers denied and said was part of his Action Plan. Currently most maps don't even have all streets on them! If anyone has input or feedback or wants to get involved, please contact Mr. Ayers. Phone 522-6318 or [brian.ayers@bsd7.org](mailto:brian.ayers@bsd7.org).

- SEPTEMBER events that we'll publish on Facebook as well.
- Sep 17, Open House.
- Sep 18, Lifetouch Pictures
- Sep 23, 6 Fieldtrip.
- Sep 24, 6 Fieldtrip.
- Sep 25, NO SCHOOL K-12

**If anyone would like to VOLUNTEER or DONATE, please contact Dawn Tarabochia at 581-6311 - [dawn@tarabochia.net](mailto:dawn@tarabochia.net) and we will get you set up! Thank you for supporting CJMS and please like our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/cjmSPACE> or type in Chief Joseph Middle School in your Facebook browser.**

Email Addendum: This is what Kevin emailed:

"In thinking about it a little more, an alternative group that individuals can express concern with is the Bozeman Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee. This is a citizen advisory committee. They review issues/complaints and provide input to the city/county on various transportation issues, including safe routes to school. Vance Ruff attends it as a school representative just to hear what's going on, but would not expect him to take this on as a school issue. Some examples of issues are Need for sidewalks and complete streets policy, school speed limit signage, distracted driving, etc. They have monthly meetings. Below is the typical attendees along with a link to their web. The next meeting is Sep 11th at noon. Individuals could e-mail this group or show up to discuss, but not sure if they have a public input segment."

Link:

[http://www.bozeman.net/Departments/Administration/City-Commission/Citizen-Advisory-Boards/Calendar/Pedestrian-and-Traffic-Safety-Committee-Meeting-%281#.UifBQX-5\\_H0](http://www.bozeman.net/Departments/Administration/City-Commission/Citizen-Advisory-Boards/Calendar/Pedestrian-and-Traffic-Safety-Committee-Meeting-%281#.UifBQX-5_H0)

Typical Attendees.

**Those Present:**

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Voting Committee Members:

Ralph Zimmer (Gallatin County)

Gary Vodehnal (City of Bozeman)

Danielle Scharf (City of Bozeman)

Frank Manseau (Gallatin County)

Sue Brown (Member At-Large)

Vance Ruff (Bozeman School District)

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Non-Voting Committee Members:

John Van Delinder (City of Bozeman Streets Department)

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Liaison Officers:

Tommie Franscioni (City of Bozeman Police Department)

Rick Musson (City of Bozeman Police Department)

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Guests:

Steve White (Gallatin County Commission)

Joe Skinner (Gallatin County Commission)

Rebecca Gleason (Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board)