

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting September 19, 2023

Members in Attendance: Julian Stanke, Jenny Walbridge, Tracy Kelly, Ben Ferin, Beth Schickert, Brian Griebenow, Melissa Altringer, Krista Mickelson, Davin Mickelson

Guests in Attendance: Mindy Thorson, Molly Lee

Meeting Called to Order: 6:01 pm by Mindy

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

School Board Report:

- n/a

Principal's Report

- Student enrollment is down
- New literacy program was started this year
- A new math curriculum will be introduced next year
- A third 4th/5th grade teacher was hired this year, Jena Rutgers
- Opportunity to update the playground with funds from the district and the bond
 - The school would need to raise \$5000 - \$10K
 - Discount card fundraiser was discussed for this spring
- Considering eliminating the Holiday Store in favor of a Scholastic Book Fair

Teacher's Report:

- Guest speaker, Molly Lee, Media Coordinator
 - Dewey decimals are being eliminated and the books will be re-categorized
 - Year-long project, has been successful in other ISD624 schools
 - \$442.27 is needed for the supplies to complete the project
 - Grant request proposed and approved for the PTA to fund
 - *[Update 9/20/23: District funding will cover this project]*
- Brian Griebenow
 - All PE classes had a mile run this week
 - Wolf Ridge is coming up in October for the fifth grade

Treasurer's Report:

- Submitted the proposed annual budget for 2023-2024
 - Approved with changes to Classroom Support & addition of Spring Fundraiser
- Donation received (\$350) for K/PreK from the now-disbanded WBL ECFE PTA

Past Events:

- Color Run (last May) was successful
- Bounce Back to School
 - 75-100 people attended
 - Face painting easier with only six choices
 - Also had hair spraying and bubbles
 - Donations of \$221

Ongoing Fundraisers:

- [Box Tops for Education](#)
 - Scan grocery receipts with your phone, we get credit for General Mills products
- [Give with Bing for Birch Lake Elementary PTA](#)
 - Search with Bing to earn points that turn into cash for our PTA
- Groceries for Good Causes – Kowalski's in White Bear Lake
 - Put receipts in the box at the front of the store, donations issued twice a year

Upcoming Events:

- Heggies Pizza Fundraiser begins on September 27th
 - Orders are due October 12th, Pizza Pick-Up is November 1st
 - Students who sell ten pizzas or have \$50 in donations will get a prize
 - The classroom with the most sales gets \$150 for their class and a pizza party

New Business:

- Mr. Griebenow wants to bring a skating program to Birch
 - Cost is \$2500. Will request next year after the playground update
- Parent pick-up is inefficient. Having a second staff member has helped considerably.

Meeting Adjourned by Mindy at 7:35 pm