



Blue Creek Elementary PTO September 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 5 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

Meeting called to order by President Nellie Escorcía at 5:05 pm

Attendance: Nellie Escorcía, David Schonefeld, Kierston Reno, Shaliz Arias, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Carl Cruthis, Abigail Golden, Victoria Ross, Annette Mobley, Ashley Vinston, Theresa Woollard, Robyn Trinkle, Melissa Walton, Mary Solock, Shawn Babner. There were 14 members in attendance; a quorum was reached. There was 1 guest in attendance.

Minutes: This was the first general meeting of the school year. There were no minutes to be read.

Officers' Reports

President: given by Nellie Escorcía

- We are officially a 501(c)(3) organization, effective June 29, 2023. We paid \$63 to incorporate and \$275 to apply for 501(c)(3) status. This expense came from last year's budget.
- There was a motion to amend Article 8 (VIII), Section 2 to correlate with Article 9 (IX), Section 1. By a unanimous vote, Article 8 (VIII), Section 2, sentence 3 under #2 (ii) will now state " The proposed budget shall be drafted in the spring and approved at the first general meeting in the fall of each school year."
- Two board nominees were presented to fill the Communications Chair and Secretary vacancies. Kierston Reno was voted in as Communication Chair by all in attendance. Shaliz Arias was voted in as Secretary by all in attendance. We still have a vacancy for Vice President.
- The budget proposal for the 2023-2024 school year was presented and approved. The total projected income is \$5,616.43. 26% of our spending will go toward Community, 60% toward Enrichment, and 14% toward PTO Operations.
- We will have PTO teacher representatives this year. There will be one representative per grade and representatives for Encores.

Treasurer: given by David Schonefeld II

- Funds available: \$ 1,506.90

- No deposits have been made since May 2023
- We spent \$63 to be incorporated with the state of North Carolina, \$275 to apply for our 501(c)(3) status which came from last year's budget, \$17.77 for Broncos in the Park, \$23.48 for the book raffle at Open House, \$55.57 for the student's welcome back lollipops
- All donations have been non-monetary. We have received donations from Muddy's Coffee House (\$20 in value), Darel's Bakery & Sweets (\$20 in value), Walmart (\$50 gift card), South West Appliance (\$400 in value), Shawn Babner (\$25 gift card), David Schonefeld (\$50 fee paid for Green Clean fundraiser) Oriental Trading Co. (\$25 merchandise certificate).

Communication Chair: given by Kierston Reno

- Our new Facebook page has been active since July. In October, Kierston will post "Teacher Spotlights."
- We now have a PTBoard. The monthly newsletter will be posted to PTBoard. Kierston will share a post about PTBoard on Facebook. The code to join our PTBoard is YYK7Y8.
- The PTO Bulletin Board is located in the hallway beside the cafeteria. Teacher wish lists and current fundraiser information will be added to the board.

Committee Reports

Courtyard Committee: given by Kierston Reno

- The first committee meeting was on September 14th. The committee created a wishlist. We hope to organize a gardening club in the spring. We will be sending out questionnaires to teachers to see who is interested in using a planter box in the courtyard. EC students will have their own section in the courtyard. We will ask for donations for this project. We need compost and dirt.

Principal: given by Mr. Cruthis

- Next week is the CHEW fall food drive and Spirit Week. Students will be encouraged to wear House colors (black, red, green, and blue) on assigned days and orange on Friday to celebrate the SWHS Homecoming. Blue Creek will have two food drives for CHEW this school year. Grades K-2 and 3-5 will compete for a dance party.
- The House Sorting Night scheduled for September 28th will be postponed.
- Blue Creek needs a parent representative for the School Improvement team. Meetings are scheduled quarterly on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 a.m.
- In October, Blue Creek will move forward with the Picture Project. Pictures highlighting students will be posted throughout the school. We are collecting picture frames for this project. We will also post artwork and historical photos from Blue Creek at the front entrance. We will have an area highlighting our partnership with the USMC 2nd Radio Battalion.

- The 5th-grade students will be selecting an inspirational quote or word for the year. Student pictures with their quote/word selection will be posted in the 5th-grade hall to encourage students to meet their goals.
- To encourage attendance, Mr. Cruthis is organizing monthly surprises for students who are at school. This month will be “soak the principal.” All students in attendance that day will be eligible.

Old Business

Open House: The Open House was on August 24th. We had a table set up in the cafeteria and to encourage families to come to our table, we had a raffle for both students and teachers. We gave away 3 books to students (K-2, 3-5, EC) and a Bucket of Sunshine for one teacher. When parents signed up to receive our emails their child’s teacher was entered to win. We also had flyers for our Volunteer Orientation included in student packets.

Welcome Back: We welcomed back students with tootsie pops for the first day of school with a note attached from PTO. We organized a dessert buffet for the staff. Everything for the staff was donated by local businesses and PTO members. Our theme for both students and staff was “It’s Going to Be a Sweet Year!”

Volunteer Orientation: Our first Volunteer Orientation was on August 29th in the multipurpose room. We handed out volunteer packets, had a snack table, and used the time to introduce ourselves as a team and an organization.

Fingerprinting: Fingerprinting by OCS is required to volunteer at the school. We have the fingerprinting schedule and form required for those who need to be fingerprinted. The next date for fingerprinting will be Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Staff Favorite Things: We have created Staff Favorite Things binders. There is one binder in the staff lounge and we have a second binder to bring to meetings for parents to access. We also plan to share teacher Amazon Wish Lists on Facebook.

New Business

Hat Day: Hat Day is tomorrow, September 20th. This will be our first in-school fundraiser of the year. We plan to have a Half Day Hat Day for every half day of the school year. Mr. Cruthis is organizing a hat contest for the teachers.

T-shirt Fundraiser: We are selling merchandise (t-shirts, sweatshirts) this year. This will be an ongoing fundraiser. We hope to send order forms home with students soon. We will also be taking orders for merchandise at meetings and events. We are planning to have “House” shirts available for order at the first Sorting Party.

Car Wash Fundraiser: Our Green Clean Auto Spa fundraiser begins October 1st and runs through January 1st. The funds from this fundraiser will be used to upgrade the Media Center. The car wash barcode for the fundraiser can be used at any Green Clean Auto Spa in the Jacksonville area. David Schonefeld will find out if purchases for an annual pass will go toward the fundraiser.

Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat: The Fall Festival/ Trunk or Treat is October 26. We have reserved Smokin' Joe's BBQ Co. and will reach out to Pelican's SnoBalls for this event. We will take t-shirt orders and are considering having a Candy Jar Guessing Game at our table. We are open to other ideas for fundraising.

Parents Morning Out: We are hosting a Parents Morning Out on Saturday, December 9th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the multipurpose room (possibly extended to the cafeteria). We will have a movie, food, and activities for children. We will require advanced registration and payment. We will be needing approximately 15 volunteers and would like to form a committee for this event. Oriental Trading Co. donated a \$25 gift certificate for us to use for this event. We will request donations for food/drink from other businesses.

Staff Appreciation: We plan to organize monthly staff appreciation events. A proposal for five monthly events through January and one for Custodian Appreciation Day were presented. We will have a variety of chips in September for "Chip Chip Hooray," scheduled for tomorrow, September 20th. We will have Halloween-themed snacks and candy, scheduled for October 31st. Elizabeth Hawthorne will donate snacks from Sam's for this event. We will have mini pies from Walmart, scheduled for November 15th. We will ask Walmart for donations and Annette Mobley will ask Piggly Wiggly about donations. We will have a staff gift card hunt in December. We will purchase 10, \$10 gift cards and ask businesses to donate gift cards to add to the hunt. We will organize flu-apocalypse kits for January. We will ask businesses for donations. We have an Amazon wishlist to share with families. We will need all donations by mid-December. We will vote on our budget for January by November. For Custodian Appreciation Day on October 2nd, we will decorate a door in the hallway by the front office, we have a card for students to sign, and we will give each custodian a "survival kit"- a bag with a variety of candy. Keirston Reno is donating 1 pound of Starbucks ground coffee and a plastic color-changing cup to each custodian. The chips for September's appreciation were donated. The budget for these events is \$25 for October, \$70 for November, \$100 for December, and \$25 for Custodian Appreciation Day. A total of \$220. The budget for these events was approved by all in attendance.

Community Building: g We will be meeting on Tuesday, September 26 at Muddy's at 10:30 a.m. We are inviting all parents and guardians to attend.

House Sorting Night: This event is pending. We plan to take House t-shirt orders at this event. We will ask parent volunteers from grades K-2 to help take t-shirt orders.

Book Fair: The Book Fair will be October 10-13th. Volunteers are needed and Nellie Escorcia will have a SignUp Genius ready by September 26th. We will need 3 volunteers a day from 8-8:45 a.m.

Candy Collection Contest: We will be hosting a Candy Collection Contest from October 2nd - to October 20th. We will use brown grocery bags to collect the candy. The class that brings in the most candy by the pound will win an ice pop party. The party will be arranged with the teacher of the winning class.

Buddy Walk: The Down Syndrome Network of Onslow and Carteret Counties Buddy Walk will be on Saturday, October 7th at 10 a.m. Our team name is Blue Creek Elementary PTO, and registration is still open.

Student Enrichment: Mrs. Hawthorne has requested 6 Pumpkin Jack books for the Media by October 16. They are available on Amazon for \$57.72. This would be a donation made to the Media Center from PTO for an upcoming 1st-grade lesson. The purchase was voted on and approved.

Blue Creek Corale: Ms.Homer is organizing a chorus this year for 3rd- 5th graders. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, October 3rd, and Wednesday, October 4th after school until 6 pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, 10/17/2023 at 5 p.m. in the multipurpose room

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Shaliz Arias, Secretary