

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting February 20, 2024

Members in Attendance: Davin Mickelson, Tracy Kelly, Mindy Thorson, Eric Thorson, Ben Ferin

Guests in Attendance: - Kathleen Elletson

Meeting Called to Order: 6:06 PM by Mindy

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

School Board Report:

- None

Principal's Report:

- Conferences went very well and had great participation, thanks to PTA for providing Carbone's for teachers! Carbone's has been great to work with.
- One School, One Book: A Boy Called Bat. BLE featured in the 62.4 video from WBLAS. Encouraging all families to read along, and online videos are available for students to listen, in both English and Spanish.
- MN Wild visited last month in an event focused on healthy habits and donated ~\$1000 of floor hockey equipment! Students had a great time!
- Valentine's Day celebration adjustment was a success this year, focusing on in-class activities around friendship and sharing appreciation and care for one another through handwritten cards and notes
- BLE staff is collaborating with Educator's Thriving this past month about the "5 Pitfalls of Educators" and ways staff can support themselves and each other through common challenges
- Open Gym this week and moving school dance (Glow Theme) to next month to allow more time for planning and providing inclusive promotional materials for all families. Lots of exciting and energy in planning and making this happen!
 - Exploring connection for possible DJ (local high school student) to really make this event exciting for all
- Hosted screening of "The Right to Read" documentary at BLE earlier this month for staff, school board, and district leaders. Reinforces commitment that WBLAS has to our new literacy curriculum (CKLA) and how it can support breaking down traditional barriers in our marginalized communities and their ability to become literate.

Teacher's Report: *(update from Kathleen Elletson)*

- See link for updates by grade
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1i3VI0tmJ-CpuIX9gwrVLWBlw5CF_BqFWXPGg5YKQ_7w/edit?pli=1#slide=id.g269a3de203d_0_181
 - Really good review with pictures of activities by grade level. How do we share more broadly with parents?
- For PTA meetings through end of year, different teachers will rotate for additional representation

Treasurer's Report: *(update from Davin Mickelson)*

- Income:
 - Kowalski's Groceries for Good Causes donation \$400
 - Lost our spot due to low participation, can revisit with store in June
 - Box Tops \$63.80
 - Down nearly 50% from last year
- Culvers night net \$386. **Next Culvers night is Tue April 9!**
- Expenses:
 - Student council fabric grant: total came in at \$195
 - Staff holiday party food: \$375
 - One School One Book supplies: \$306
 - Play scholarships \$325
- No changes to budget, approved as-is.

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

Upcoming Events:

- February 23 Open Gym: 5:30-7PM
 - 90min duration worked really well last month
- March 22 Family Dance: 5:30-7PM
 - Glow themed
 - Exploring music / DJ options
 - If interested in helping out, send a note to birchlakeelementarypta@gmail.com
- Children's Performing Arts: "Finding Nemo Jr" live theater. Feb 16-25, use code BIRCHLAKE for \$1 off and \$1 of each sale goes to PTA

New Business:

- Mindy discussed a conversation around PTA fundraising messaging. Explaining why we fundraise (goal is to provide inclusive, free events for all students). May be worth

- incorporating the “why” messaging with BLE families
- 2024-2025 PTA Board Member recruiting
 - Need to start thinking about succession planning
 - May also be a good opportunity to align on roles needed, responsibilities, terms, etc.
 - Request to approve funds for Kindergarten supplies from the Classroom fund.
 - Motion submitted and approved.

Meeting Adjourned by Mindy at 6:57 PM