

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting

March 19, 2024

Members in Attendance: Davin Mickelson, Beth Schickert, Tracy Kelly, Mindy Thorson, Brian Griebenow, Eric Thorson, Julian Stanke, Melissa Altringer, Kassie Shook, Ben Ferin

Guests in Attendance: - Jessica Ellison, Jessica Tacheny, Todd Flygare

Meeting Called to Order: 6:03 PM by Mindy

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

School Board Report: *Jessica Ellison*

- High School progress: basketball gym will be named “Galvin Court” after Jim Galvin, retired WBL teacher and basketball coach
- Evaluating Elementary World Language Immersion task force. Will provide a board update later this spring. Working to understand what this could look like for White Bear Lake school district.
- Upcoming Intentional Social Interaction (ISI) dinner at Willow on March 28 from 5:30-7:30PM. <https://manyfaceswblarea.org/nourish/>
- Middle school play “The Descendants” upcoming in April

Principal's Report: *Julian Stanke*

- Current BLE enrollment at 226 students
- ISI Dinner: goal to host an ISI dinner at Birch next year as another opportunity to create connection and drawing in families and community to Birch
- Elementary play next week “The Addams Family” at Hanifl Performing Arts Center
- “Swap and Shop”: Ms. Delanie and Ms Ella want to host at Birch at the end of April. Event would be an open event to bring/take gently used clothing, books, toys, and household items. This event would be messaged as a way to “reduce, reuse, recycle” in the community. Open request to partner with PTA to support this event, by either providing volunteers or funding for light refreshments, such as lemonade or hot cocoa.
- Staff changes/updates:
 - Anna Markwardt started this week as school psychologist, getting introduced to students this week
 - Ellie Gutterer will be moving to full-time social worker for North Homes
 - Delanie Ficek will be now at Birch Lake full-time
- MCA testing starting mid-April through May for 3rd-5th grade. Test prep sessions starting now.
- Reading Buddies: in week 4, currently doing 1 hour on Tuesdays. Buddies will be

donating books and got approval for a Birch Lake Elementary-wide pizza party to celebrate the program.

Teacher's Report: Kassie Shook

- See link for updates by grade
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1i3Vl0tmJ-CpuIX9gwrVLWB1w5CF_BqFWXPGq5YKQ_7w/edit#slide=id.g2aeb3142200_0_7
- Media commons: relabeling project is completed, ahead of schedule
- One School One Book: pictures and updates to be provided at next month's PTA meeting

Treasurer's Report: Davin Mickelson

- Income: February Culvers fundraiser \$386.61. Next Culvers night is Tue April 9
- Expenses:
 - Classroom Reimbursement checks to Mrs. Elletson, Ms. Wells, Ms. Dalbec \$420
 - Math Night Prizes \$302
 - Sandbox Play Sand \$34
- No changes, approved as-is

Past and Ongoing Events:

- Open Gym: well-attended, counted ~45 kids plus parents at the peak.
Recommendations for next open gym:
 - Provide additional guidance for parents/kids: areas that are off-limits, such as outdoors and equipment closet; parents should plan on staying during the event to monitor their kids
 - Have some designation for PTA members so parents/kids know who to go to with questions or to ask for help
- Skate Time: Approximately \$3,000 raised so far. Will cover the ~\$2400 cost (incl. skates, helmets, wrist pads). Plan is to hold the remaining funds in the PTA bank account as seed money for the event for future years so we don't have to rely on the Give To The Max fundraising. Mr. G has reached out to NHS and WBL HS hockey for volunteers/help.

Upcoming Events:

- Field Day: Mr. G will present the plan/ask at the next PTA meeting
- March 22 Glow Dance Party: 5:30-7PM
 - Another reminder to be sent out this week, also requesting volunteers starting at 2:30PM for setup.

New Business:

- Grant Request from Mr. G: up to 6 skating aids from Amazon at \$68.99 each.
 - Mr. G will first connect with the WBL Hockey Association to see if they have any

- equipment or funds they would potentially donate. If none available, then will spend the grant money.
- Vote taken and grant was approved to spend the grant money after connecting with WBL Hockey Association.
- 2024 Minnesota PTA Convention
 - Saturday April 20. \$100 in the budget to send a representative from BLE PTA. Ben Ferin volunteered to attend and will follow-up after about registering.
- PTA Closet Cleanout
 - Mr. G will start looking through as able. Tentatively planning on doing a cleanout on Fri June 7, will look for volunteers to help.
- Only 2 more PTA meetings this school year. At April meeting, will review recruiting and plan for officers next school year.

Meeting Adjourned by Mindy at 7:30 PM