**Baker PTA General Meeting Agenda**
**Thursday, April 11, 2024**
**9:30am – VIRTUAL ONLY**

Call to Order 9:34am

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Today's Agenda: motion to approve by Dr. McClintock-Comeaux; seconded by Kristen McIntyre

Approval of January 18th Meeting Minutes: motion to approve by Halley Casey; seconded by Lisa Schafer

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:**
**Dr. Dan O'Rourke, Principal, Boyce Middle School**

- Dr. O'Rourke discussed the transition for the students from Baker Elementary to Boyce Middle School, and how teachers and parents can aid in the ease of this transition. Support will be there for them at school, and it is important to have support at home as well.
- At Boyce, students are assigned to 1 of 4 Teams, which then have 3 homeroom teachers per Team. Students will move around to classes throughout the day with other students from their same Team.
- Boyce hand schedules each and every student — meaning, the Staff actually looks at each student and considers how to place them on which Team depending on that student's needs. (Rather than using a computer to automatically place students.)
- **Upcoming Important Dates:**
    - **May –** All 4th grade families will receive a survey from Boyce asking for input on your student in order to help Boyce Staff schedule/place your student on a Team/homeroom. This is also the time when you can decide whether to opt-in to the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program (MYP IB) because IB students are assigned to certain teams. More information on the MYP IB program can be found at: International Baccalaureate / What Is MYP? (uscsd.k12.pa.us)
    - **Late May –** The Boyce Counselors will visit each elementary to talk with 4th grade classes about the upcoming Move-Up Day and how the transition works.
    - **June 3rd – Move-Up Evening Event for Parents**, Boyce Middle School Theater. Great informative event to learn more about how Boyce schedules and teams work, etc.
    - **June 4th – Move-Up Day for Students during School Day.** Students from all 3 elementaries will take buses over to Boyce where they will be welcomed by the Boyce Band, get a tour of the school and learn more about what to expect on their first days at Boyce.

**Ms. Amy Antonio, School Counselor, Boyce Middle School**

- Ms. Antonio agreed with Dr. O'Rourke's sentiments on what helps students transition from elementary to middle school. They both also asked that parents do not make requests for their children to be in specific classes, especially to be with a certain friend (as friendships can change so much at this age). They asked for trust from the parents and the children, that they will place them appropriately where they should be to thrive.

**Treasurer's Report** (Alyson Stockton)

- Cash Balance: $28,841.12
- Income:
    - Spring Book Fair: $1190

    - Chick-fil-a Spirit Night: $526.93
    - Primo Hoagies Spirit Night: $183
    - Read-a-thon: $1,236.76
    - Bingo: $785.09
- Expenditures:
    - $655 for Field Trips
    - $600 Assemblies
- MEMBERSHIP VOTE — After further review, the Board is proposing to cover 100% of all field trips this year.
    - 2023-24 Total Field Trip Budget for all Grades = $5500
    - 2023-24 Total Field Trip Actuals for all Grades = $7441 *(may fluctuate slightly depending on actual number of students attending the last couple trips in May.)*
    - As some may recall, we had voted in previous meetings this year to cover small overages per Grade while also proposing to have some parent contributions.
    - However, since we have the cash on hand and no pressing need of the $1,000 "gifts to school" line item, the Board is proposing to funnel that into the over-budget field trips for third grade, first grade, and second grade.
    - A MEMBERSHIP VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE TO PAY 100% OF ALL 2023-24 FIELD TRIPS — THIS VOTE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The 2024-25 Proposed Budget was presented.
    - Notable updates: We have updated a number of line items to more accurately reflect the estimated income and expenses based on the most recent figures. E.g. Boo Bash income was updated to $15K, Read-a-thon income was decreased to $2K. We also updated field trips to $7500.
    - The 2024-25 Proposed Budget is posted on the Baker PTA Website here: Baker PTA / PTA Meeting Info (uscsd.k12.pa.us)
    - A formal vote to approve the 2024-25 Proposed Budget will be taken during May 23rd General Meeting.

**Teacher's Rep Report** (Mrs. Connor) - Mrs. Connor is so thankful for all of the support of the parent volunteers that have been helping in the Baker Library. Volunteers can sign up at the Sign-Up Genius link in the bulletin.

**Secretary's Report** - None to Report

**President's Report** (Kelly Meyers)
- Baker PTA Executive Board Nominations: We are pleased to announce the following parents have graciously accepted to be Nominated to our 2024-25 Executive Board:
    - Vice President: Halley Casey
    - Treasurer: Heather Elmer
    - May 23rd will be the official vote & installation during the General Meeting. New Board takes over on July 1.
- Committee Chair openings:
    - There are about 10 Committee Chair openings.
    - Our goal is to have all of 2024-25 openings filled by the end of the year.
    - To view the openings, please visit our webpage here: Baker PTA / PTA Committees (uscsd.k12.pa.us)

**Vice President's Report** (Amanda Palermo)
- Home Room Coordinators:

- For End-of-Year Teacher Contributions, please CC Amanda Palermo so that she can keep track.

**2nd Vice President's Report** (Dr. McClintock-Comeaux)

- Dr. McClintock-Comeaux said the Talent Show was a great success. An immense thank you to everyone involved.
  - Ms. Holly Fisher is a joy!
    - She arranged for t-shirts and the video. There were over 100 students involved, and she even got sponsors this year!
- Baker special area teachers created a Poetry Walk (similar to a Book Walk format) featuring nine poems from the book, "Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs."
- STAR Night is coming up on May 9th
- Entering PSSA time in 2 weeks
  - This is an opportunity to shine, don't stress!
  - This will change schedules a bit.

**Committee Reports/Upcoming Events**

- After-School Specials (Kelly Meyers)
  - Reminders just sent out for sessions starting next week.
- Spirit Wear Sale: Get in touch with Katy Cain if you did not pick up yet.
- School Supply Kits:
  - Baker PTA arranges for this optional service every Spring as a way to help save time for parents shopping for school supplies.
  - Supply Kit Sale will open in May and close in June.
  - Pick up date will be Wednesday, August 7th at Baker Gym entrance. 10am to 12pm.
  - Sale Information will be coming out soon on how to purchase.
  - This is a small fundraiser for Baker PTA. A few dollars per kit goes to Baker PTA. Thank you for your support! Last year, we sold 200+ kits and raised over $900 for Baker PTA.
- Arts in USC – Halley Casey / Bethany Salmen
  - Over 100 Submissions just from Baker! We had the highest participation among all the buildings! Great job Baker!
  - All artwork was displayed at the Township Library during the month of March.
  - Once artwork comes down a decision will be made of where to display them for STAR night. *Update: Artwork will be returned to students via their teachers. Winners will have their artwork displayed at Baker S.T.A.R. Night and then will be returned to students via teachers.*
- Baker Gives Back — Katie Marsh / Kara Krebs
  - Next event is the Pajama Collection Drive during the week of April 22nd, so drop off if you can!
- Baker Bingo – Lucy Curran / Meghan Mechlem (Kelly Meyers)
  - Event was well attended and Fort Couch was a good location.
- Spring Book Fair – Diana Slanders / Erica Morr (Diana Slanders)
  - Overall it went well! The credit card machines were a bit slow, but two lines were made, Cash & Credit Cards, and this seemed to help facilitate the lines moving quicker. People

were also able to save their books behind the registers and come back to pay for them once the crowd in the library had thinned.

- Grade Level Socials
    - Amanda - 2nd grade social went well!
    - 1st Grade Social - April 19th
    - Kindergarten Social: May 17th
    - 3rd Grade Social - April 14th — postponed to May 5th!
    - 4th Grade Pool Party - June 4th
        - Lisa Schafer asked if the budget allotted for the 4th Grade Pool Party would be changed depending on class size since they vary year to year. Pamela Scureman said it was a valid point and Sarah Cranganu gave feedback on what was spent on the previous year.
- 3rd Grade Tile Wall – Leigh Slowey -
    - Update: Tomorrow is the last day to submit. If there are submissions past that date, they could be accepted pending timeline.
    - Be wary of Trademark/Copyright issue; ex:) video games (and their likeness) or sports teams would be an issue, etc. E-mail Leigh to check on logo if you have a question.
- Read-a-thon – Jessica Schroeck / Jocelyn Munro (Kelly Meyers)
    - As a whole it went well, we had a record number of reading minutes this year.
    - Fundraising has been dwindling down.
    - Bedtime Stories went well, everyone seemed to really enjoy it, especially the teachers reading.
- Spirit Nights – (Diana Slanders)
    - One more left on May 16th at Millie's in Bridgeville.
- Staff Appreciation – (Bethany Salmen)
    - Staff Appreciation Week (week of May 5th)
        - All staff are included, office, bus drivers, etc.
        - Gift cards, flowers, etc.
        - There will be some type of lunch every day that week for staff.
        - There will be a theme every day of the week.
    - End of the Year – Raffle Baskets!
        - Dr. McClintock-Comeaux is passing out tickets to the staff to submit a chance to win a basket at the end of the year.
        - Seeking Donations! We are still collecting themed raffle baskets to be raffled off to Staff during final week of School. Sign up if you would like to donate one – go in with friends to make it more fun and affordable! PTA: Baker PTA Raffle Baskets (signupgenius.com)

**New Business**

- Proposed 2024-25 Calendar is posted on the Baker PTA Website and will be voted on at the May 23rd Meeting.
    - For the most part, events are scheduled based on same timing as this/last year.
    - Fall Book Fair: Due to longer-than-normal Fall Break in early November, we have scheduled the Book Fair for late October. This also helps alleviate parking lot congestion with the election day and parent conferences that we had last year.

- Spring Book Fair: We scheduled the book fair to be right BEFORE Read-a-Thon rather than on the same day at Bedtime Stories. Although it was very fun and convenient to have the Book Fair open during Bedtime Stories, it resulted in too long of lines since the Scholastic registers just can't keep up with back to back credit card transactions.

**Unfinished Business**

- Jan 27th Inaugural Baker Cultural Heritage Fair was a success!

Adjournment 10:52am

**Attendees** (Virtual Only)

Dr. Patrick McClintock-Comeaux

Kelly Meyers

Amanda Palermo

Alyson Stockton

Kristen McIntyre

Emily Hand

Halley Casey

Lisa Schafer

Amy Antonio

Ashley Workman

Dan O'Rourke

Danielle Zawodny Wetze;

Diana Slanders

Gina Pelusi

Heather Elmer

Kara Krebs

Kelly Quinn

Leigh Slowey

Linda Connor

Lindsay Minerd

Pamela Scureman

Sarah Cranganu

Stephanie and Long Pham

Tere Zerfa

Tish Gordon

Natalie Jaskowski