Baker PTA Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda - Agenda amended to add Dr. O'Rourke as guest speaker. Motion by Alliyson Feldmann, seconded by Kelly Meyers.

Approval of January 2023 Meeting Minutes - Motion by Lucy Curran, seconded by Dr. McClintock-Comeaux.

Treasurer's Report - Alyson Stockton

- The treasurer's report was presented. The report is reconciled monthly, and Quickbooks is the software that is used. We currently have a cash balance of $24,997.07. If you would like more detail on this, please reach out to Alyson.
- There was a $500 loss on Bingo night, but this is not a fundraiser, and was a nice opportunity for families to get together. Tile wall artwork is still being collected. The PTA pays for the installation, while families pay for the tile itself. Staff appreciation week is coming up.
- Proposed budget for 2023-2024 was presented. The PTA wants to fund things fully that provide the most benefit for our students. Field trips and grade level socials are two of the main things that the PTA would like to be able to fund for next year. The harvest party and winter party are the two district-wide approved parties for each grade. We still do a valentine exchange with each class, but an actual valentine party seems to be most suitable for the Kindergarten classrooms.
- Certain unit/council expenses that we have each year include dues to the PTC, insurance (to protect us against fraud), minimal copy and meeting expenses, as well as audit expenses. The PTC is currently setting up an audit committee to handle audits for each unit.
- We are forecasting $1600 for 4th grade level activities, and will be asking parents to subsidize. This year, parents were asked to pay $25 which includes the pool party (with food and drink), memory book and t-shirt. Grade level socials were increased to $500 per grade. Classroom parties remain at $25 per class per party (harvest, winter and Kindergarten Valentine). There is a slight increase in the budget for Baker's Got Talent variety show due to increasing costs.
- The gift to school this year will include a spotlight to be used for the spring musical and for Baker shows/presentations. The blacktop behind the school building will also get a fun face-lift with freshly painted games/activities such as hop-scotch, etc.
- There will be an increase in the field trip budget. Teachers have locked in what they would like to do for next year, so we know what we will need to budget for. The 3rd grade trip to the zoo is the most expensive, and we will likely ask parents to subsidize.

- The proposed budget will be posted on the website, and will sit for the next month. It will be approved at the May general PTA meeting.

Teacher Representative Report - Ms. Berrott

- The 4th graders are super excited about all of their activities coming up. Communication has been very proactive regarding the 4th grade level activities, thank you.
- Teachers continue to be so appreciative of the PTA efforts. The soup lunch was wonderful.
- The 4th graders took the MAP test recently. Scores will be shared soon.

Boyce Middle School Presentation - Dr. O'Rourke and Ms. Autieri

- Dr. O'Rourke (Boyce principal) and Ms. Autieri (5th grade school counselor for next year) presented information for 4th grade families.
- On Tuesday, June 6th, current 4th graders will be bussed to Boyce so that they can see where they will be going to school next year. They will rotate through various activities and get a tour of the school.
- On Monday, June 5th at 7:00 pm, there will be a parent night for 4th grade parents to come and learn about Boyce Middle School.
- Often times the transition to Boyce is more difficult for parents than it is for the students. The students will have a 6-day schedule, but they really do learn it fast. Staff take a lot of time to help the students transition, and are around to help with any questions.
- Ms. Autieri will visit each 4th grade classroom before the end of the school year to talk to the students, and to answer any questions.
- A lot of time goes into assigning each student to their specific team at Boyce. There are 4 teams for 5th grade and 4 teams for 6th grade. Each team is composed of 3 teachers (homerooms). Assignments are made to set the students up for success. There are students that have different needs (IEP's for academic support and gifted). Academic needs preside over being put in class with a friend.
- Students have a 20 minute recess and 30 minute lunch each day. They move with their homeroom between the three teachers of their team (70 minutes each class). They also have 2 specials each day, and Pride Time (time for extra help) at the end of the day. The specials include expressive arts, physical education, guidance and world language. In 5th grade, students will have 12 weeks of each language (Spanish, French, German). By the end of 5th grade, students will decide which language they want to do for 6-8th grade.
- A transition form will be sent out to parents electronically by the end of April/beginning of May. Any information you can give regarding your child is welcomed.
- IB is a very similar experience to the traditional homerooms. Most teachers are able to teach both. The assessments and curriculum are the same. The main difference at this point is the IB service hours, and a slight difference in global context. In high school, IB students complete a portfolio of learning (this is the major difference in high school).

Secretary's Report - Anne Scher

- Nothing to report.

President's Report - Kristen McIntyre

- The proposed 2023-2024 calendar looks very much like this year. It will be posted on the website and in the weekly PTA Bulletin. We are again planning to coordinate the school supply kit pick-up with the New Family Welcome.
- It was asked if Boo Bash could start earlier for more daylight, but there is an issue with EDS. Parents have to be able to pick up their child up until 6pm. Lighting options will be discussed for next year.
- The Fall Book Fair will be a one day sale next year due to parent/teacher conferences being in 2 separate weeks.
- The Spelling Bee was moved later in January to give students more time to study and prepare.
- The dates for Baker's Got Talent have not been confirmed yet.
- For Read-a-Thon, we are planning to have a hybrid Bedtime Stories with both in-person and virtual readers for next year.
- Gift to school changes each year due to needs and funds. We are planning on the spotlight for the musical/performances, and also painting of the blacktop in the back of the school for this year.

Vice President's Report - Kelly Meyers

- We are doing an awesome job of recruiting committee chairs for next year! We are still in need of chairs for spirit night, after-school activities (this hasn't been done since before COVID, we can help with ideas), Baker gardens, and a co-chair for the 4th grade memory book.
- The grade level socials were so much fun this year. If you were a chair, and still need to submit for reimbursement, please do so ASAP. All reimbursements need to be in by May 26th. Thank you.

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

- The Specials teachers and Ms. Connor have created The Baker Elementary Poetry Walk to celebrate national poetry month. The Poetry Walk is open after school hours for families and the community to come and read the poems and do the activities. The walk is located in front of Baker and on the right side of the school entrance. We hope to keep this up through STAR night on May 11th.
- On a sad note, Mr. Cremonese (physical education teacher) will be moving to the high school where he is also the strength and conditioning coach.
- 3rd and 4th grade have the PSSA testing coming up. Attendance is very important. We don't want this to be a stressful event for students. This is an opportunity for them to show what they know.
- 4th grade musical had to be moved a day because of the primary election.
- You may have lunch with your student if you sign him/her out in the office. You are welcome to eat lunch outside. Parents/visitors are not allowed to eat lunch in the building. Students must be signed back in when lunch is over.
- OLSAT results will be sent to parents, but it takes a while to get the results.

Officer Nominations - Kristen McIntyre

- Vice President - Amy Baldasare
- Secretary - Emily Hand

The nominations will be voted upon and installed at the May meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Baker Bingo - Amy Baldasare, Lucy Curran**
  - There was a good turnout. Scholastic dollars were used for prizes. Thank you to all who volunteered. There were some no-shows who placed orders for pizzas. We aim to break even, but ended up losing money this year.
- **Third Grade Tile Wall - Amy Baldasare**
  - The deadline has already passed, but only 53 have signed up to participate. We may extend the deadline, and send out another reminder. Installation will happen over the summer.
- **Spring Book Fair/Readathon - Sarah Cranganu**
  - Readathon funds raised were $2200.
- **4th Grade Party - Sarah Cranganu**
  - Date changed for the 4th grade party to June 6th due to Boyce Move Up Night being on June 5th.
- **Field Day - Betsy Wilson**
  - Kindergarten will be held Wednesday, May 31st. June 2nd for grades 1-4. There will be Rita's and a bounce house along with all of the other games.
- **School Supply Kits - Kristen McIntyre**
  - Information will be forthcoming. The drive happens at the end of the school year.
- **Spirit Days - Kristen McIntyre**
  - We have done well so far. We are hoping to have a final spirit night at Condado in May. More information is coming soon.
- **Spirit Wear - Kristen McIntyre**
  - The spring sale made $326. Items should be coming soon. There will be a pick up day at Baker.
- **Staff Appreciation - Kristen McIntyre**
  - May 1-5 will be staff appreciation week, with a camping theme. There will be an event each day, as well as a gift card raffle. If you have any gift cards to donate (any dollar amount is fine), please drop them off at the Baker office. Be sure to write the dollar amount on the gift card. Many thanks!
- **Arts in USC - Alliyson Feldmann**
  - There is not any information to share at this time. There is a meeting being held tonight (4/13). If you have helped with this before, please reach out to Alliyson with ideas. Thanks!

The next general meeting will be held on May 18, 2023. The budget and calendar for next year will be approved, and the vote and installation of new officers will take place.

Adjournment

Appendix A - Attendees

1. Kristen Mcintyre
2. Kelly Meyers
3. Dr. McClintock-Comeaux
4. Alyson Stockton
5. Sarah Cranganu
6. Anne Scher
7. Kristy Berrott
8. Alliyson Feldmann
9. Amanda Palermo
10. Amy Baldasare
11. Betsy Wilson
12. Dr. O'Rourke
13. Ms. Autieri
14. Diana Slanders
15. Emily Hand
16. Emily Nicholson
17. Lucy Curran
18. Lindsey O'Donnell
19. Natalie Jaskowski
20. Kara Krebs