

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting

April 16, 2024

Members in Attendance: Davin Mickelson, Beth Schickert, Tracy Kelly, Eric Thorson, Julian Stanke, Melissa Altringer, Kathleen Elletson, Ben Ferin

Guests in Attendance: - none

Meeting Called to Order: 6:12 PM by Davin [Note: There was a power outage just before 6PM so the meeting was slightly delayed and the agenda was adjusted for this meeting.]

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

School Board Report:

- None

Treasurer's Report: *Davin Mickelson*

- Income
 - Children's Performing Arts/Theatre Night Out: Finding Nemo: \$4
 - Glow Dance cash donations: \$219
 - Skate Time: \$189 cash + \$42 via Venmo deposited for Mr. G
 - Addams Family play fangrams: \$36 via Venmo
- Expenses
 - Mr. G's Grant for Skate Aids: \$413
 - MN State PTA Convention Registration for Ben: \$100
 - Play Expenses for cast photos and crew thank you gifts: \$231
- No changes, budget-to-actual approved as-is

Past and Ongoing Events:

- Glow Dance:
 - Big turnout, and well attended. Several students/parents/teachers have given good feedback to Julian and PTA members following the event. PTA members discussed learnings and feedback:
 - While there were lots of black lights, overall the gym was kind of dark and there were some collisions
 - Could have had more light and maybe signs for the food/water table
 - Face painting line blocked the food/water table. Face painting was a huge hit based on how long the line was all night
 - Could face painting and food be located in the hall or would that be too crowded or be a risk that people would wander into the school
 - It was proposed to strongly consider making this event an annual tradition, as

this year was such a success and we have a lot of the equipment and learnings from this year

- Box Tops for Education
 - Ben mentioned an email about Box Tops partnering with Walmart+. If you have a Walmart+ account, you can directly link to your Box Tops account to support BLE without scanning receipts
https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/how-to-earn/walmart-connected-accounts?utm_source=Email_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BTFE_04_10_2024&vcode=AQAAAAEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEBAQEGOWSIAIU LV4Mq7izsRpxOpxCLf8gXSk9zgdvABTdfHTgNBW1XNJAD6ayySI78gKCFtqu8ksnpJbNTQ29TnnIA%3D%3D

Teacher's Report: *Kathleen Elletson*

- See link for updates by grade
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11MP0VEAGCoJFq0EAXXSrefWHvgrjic491JSCYcJESu8/edit#slide=id.g2aeb3142200_0_7

Principal's Report: *Julian Stanke*

- Julian expressed a big "Thank you" to the PTA for hosting the Glow Dance
- Playground renovation / upgrade discussions are back in review with the district. They are exploring funding options and should have more updates at the May PTA meeting. Julian suggested we think about if Birch and Otter pairing up for fundraising for the playground could make sense. Timeline for renovations would be spring 2025, ready for 2026 school year.
- Kindergarten roundup today (4/16/24) – incoming student open house and conferences with teachers
- MCAs started for 3rd – 5th graders. The mints were appreciated and may submit another request for more so there's enough for the rest of the testing. Next up is Math and then Science.
- Math night is May 2nd from 5:30-7PM
- 5th Grade graduation upcoming. For this, they are also inviting 2024 graduating seniors that were BLE alum to attend.
- Skate time is in progress and going well so far. Students have been excited to try out skating.
- Staffing:
 - Anna Markwardt (school psychologist) is quickly getting up to speed and integrated into BLE
 - Jeremy Shur (new head engineer) started this week
- Planning underway for 2024-2025 school year. District-wide budget cut of \$1.4MM, but should not have a significant impact on Birch (BLE keeping the same number of homerooms)

Upcoming Events:

- Red Robin fundraiser: 20% of food sales back to Birch PTA. May 15, 2024 at the location on 1090 Gramsie Rd, Shoreview. You MUST mention the flyer or bring it in to have your sales counted.
- Intentional Social Interaction (ISI) dinners upcoming:
 - Otter Lake on Thu April 25
 - Oneka on Tue April 30
- Color Run planned for Mon June 3. Mrs. Elletson to follow-up with Mr. G about supplies and what/if anything is needed.

New Business:

- Sat 4/20: Ben will be attending the MN State PTA convention. He will plan to bring back highlights and notes and share at the May meeting.
- Next meeting May 21 will be the last meeting of the 2023-2024 school year. It was discussed that during the May meeting, we should discuss and recruit for officer positions for next year. It was suggested to send out emails to the PTA distribution list over the next couple weeks to encourage PTA members to attend the May meeting, especially if they are interested in becoming more active members or taking on an officer position.
- Impacks: Tracy will kick off discussions about if we participate in Impacks again for next school year, and go through details of what is needed for that program.

Meeting Adjourned by Davin at 7:18 PM