

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting May 21, 2024

Members in Attendance: Davin Mickelson, Beth Schickert, Tracy Kelly, Eric Thorson, Mindy Thorson, Melissa Altringer, Jenny Walbridge, Kathleen Elletson, Brian Griebenow, Ben Ferin

Guests in Attendance: - Christ the King church: Pastor Rebecca Sullivan, Elida Olson, Billie

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 by Mindy

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved as submitted

2024-2025 Holiday Store Discussion:

- Note: deviated from agenda to start with this topic due to scheduling
- Invited guests from Christ the King church, as per action item from April PTA meeting, to introduce contacts and discuss high-level options for Holiday Store for upcoming school year (2024-2025)
- PTA members shared some of the focus areas for Birch Lake, including a focus on academics for events during school hours and inclusivity for all participants. Also, the room used for the 2023 Holiday Store will likely be unavailable for next year's event.
- Preliminary discussion topics included:
 - Event could be hosted at church, utilizing open classrooms or Fellowship Hall
 - Need to consider dates/times that would fit with the church's schedule
 - Church would likely be able to supply several volunteers, as interest has been expressed
 - Next steps: incoming executive board to keep contact with Pastor Rebecca over the summer to align on date(s) and location. Holiday Store specifics to be determined when PTA reconvenes in September

School Board Report:

- None

Principal's Report:

- None

Teacher's Report: *Kathleen Elletson & Brian Griebenow*

- See attached slides for grade-level updates
 - Math Night: well attended and received lots of positive feedback. Mindy commented that it could have even been a longer duration, as there were so

- many activities, games, dinner, raffle, etc.
 - Grade 4/5 Student Council constructing a Little Free Library, to be located in front of school, official registration paid by the PTA
- Skate Time
 - Brian shared a lot of aspects that made Skate Time a success: a lot of parent volunteers, raised more money than expected, lots of positive feedback from students, maintained strong relationship with Skate Time vendor
 - Spring timing worked well as it was \$1 less/skater and allowed more time for raising funds
 - The 6 skate aids purchased via grant were heavily used, and 5 of the 6 actually broke. Brian will look into repair or Amazon warranty.
 - Desire to propose holding the event again for next school year
- Skyzone: date changed from June 5 to May 30
- Field Day / Color Run
 - Planning on having 11 stations
 - Color: do not need to purchase any additional color. Currently have 5.5+ boxes in inventory
 - Davin placed the freezer pops in the freezer and marked which ones to use first
 - Day-of planning discussion:
 - Need volunteers to help set up, to throw color and host stations, and cleanup
 - Route will be marked beforehand and will be 1 loop around the field.
 - At the rest station, will set up a “class photo” area. May consider doing before/after photo

Treasurer’s Report: **As of 5/27/2024**

- Income:
 - Box Tops \$104.80
 - Culver's Fundraiser \$373.90
 - *(Earned \$125.05 @ Red Robin - check not yet rcvd)*
- Expenses:
 - Classroom Support checks for Berlin, Theissen, Dalbec, Solheim, Weiss, Wells, Hanes O’Keefe, Welter, Shook, Skildum, and Nestrud \$2092.34
 - Conferences - Pizza Dinner (Feb) \$177.91
 - Play expenses (shirts) \$480.00
 - Skatetime \$964.00 (Remaining \$\$ earmarked 1 year)
 - Student Council expenses (LFL registration) \$134.25
 - Color Run (Freeze Pops) \$39.92
 - Graduation expenses (frames, cake plates) \$165.49
 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Jack Yost \$51.56
 - Patrol Support (Valleyfair tickets) \$470.21
 - Dance expenses \$502.44

- School psychologist's grant \$17.00
- ECFC PTA donation for Pre-K \$175.00
- No changes, budget-to-actual approved as-is

Past and Ongoing Events:

- MN State PTA Convention
 - Tracy and Ben were in attendance. About 100 total attendees. Birch Lake PTA received a Gold Award for 40% membership increase. In the National PTA session this summer, a \$1 National dues increase will be proposed. If approved, Birch Lake PTA will need to determine how to handle.

Upcoming Events:

- Field Day/Color Run: discussed in Teacher's Report section

New Business:

- PTA Grant Request: request from Anna Markwardt (school psychologist) for \$17 for materials to support emotional / social learning. Approved.
- Executive Board for next school year
 - Tracy volunteered to serve as President. Beth volunteered to serve as Treasurer. Vote taken and unanimously approved.
 - 2024-2025 PTA Executive Board
 - President – Tracy Kelly
 - Secretary – Ben Ferin
 - Treasurer – Beth Schickert
 - Ben will email outgoing and incoming executive board members to set up transition and handoff. Need to set up Bitwarden or similar for passwords. Beth will observe upcoming PTA Audit activities.
- Brian confirmed storage closet cleanout on Friday June 7th starting around 8AM. If able to help clean out PTA materials, please join.

Meeting Adjourned by Mindy at 7:25 PM