Baker PTA General Meeting Agenda

September 19, 2024

9:30am, Virtual

- Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 9:30am
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of May 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Announcement/Guest Speakers- Libby Mascaro and Katie Talarico-Ramirez
    - PTC Wellness Committee
        - Book club initiative: The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt
        - PTC Wellness Committee Special Guest Speaker:
        - Libby Mascaro (mom of two high schoolers) created the Wellness Committee in 2017. She had a personal tragedy in her own family when her mother ended her own life in 2013, which sent Libby on her own personal mental health journey. After talking with school board member Daphna Gans, Libby saw a need for a district wide resource for all students to help support their physical and mental health, and thus the PTC Wellness Committee was born. Since its inception, the Wellness Committee has worked with a number of mental health and community organizations. The Committee's goal is to support and ensure the physical and mental health for all K thru 12 students in the district. In the past, the Committee has brought in authors to speak to parents, organized "Green Out" nights at sporting events, and has also sponsored educational events

for the teachers/staff. This year, the Committee is launching a book club – which is being spearheaded by fellow USC mom Katie Talarico-Ramirez. The first book to be discussed will be the recently published "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. This book has gained major traction among the public, educational system and even the government level. It talks about how between 2010~2015, children switched from play-based childhoods to screen-based play. The book talks about ways to curb this reality by delaying smartphone ownership and social media usage with children and removing phones from the schools.

- The Wellness Committee is organizing 4 sessions for families to join --- the first one will be October 15th from 9am to 10:30am at the High School LGI. Later sessions will be in Nov, Feb and April.
- Watch for more info to come out in tomorrow's district-wide email bulletin from Tina Voijko. (Kelly Myers)

- Treasurer's Report- Heather Elmer
    - Income
        - We have a total of $19,158.75 in the bank currently.
        - Membership Dues - We have collected $1,470 as of right now.
        - Donations - $47.67
        - Boo Bash - We have $2,450 so far.
        - Special Events Sales
            - PTA Note Pads - $20

- Income Total: $3,987.67
- Expenses
  - PTA Membership Dues (to be paid) - $510
  - Field Trips - $795
  - Gifts to School
    - New Family Welcome - $150
    - Headphones - $585
    - Student Planners - $791
      - Total: $1,526
  - Staff Appreciation -
    - $586.55
  - 4th Grade Level Activities -
    - $372
  - PTC Dues (Printing) - $112.45
- Expenses Total: $3902.00

- Secretary's Report (Correspondence) -
  - None to report - Emily Hand
  - We received the letter from the District recognizing us as an official Parent Teacher Association (PTA) (Amanda Palermo)
- President's Report- Amanda Palermo
  - Amanda attended the PTC meeting yesterday.
    - Directory updates are currently going on and should be completed by next week.
    - As of October 5th, only people that have paid their PTA Membership dues will have access to the directory.

        - In order to access the directory, you need to pay your PTA membership dues (only need to pay dues at one building, if you have multiple children in different buildings)
        - There is no printed directory this year.
        - Kelly Myers emphasized that it is very important to verify your information for the Directory on Membership Tool Kit. You need to do this so that the PTA has access to your e-mail/info for all the Baker PTA correspondence. If you don't update it, you won't receive the correspondence.
- Vice President's Report - Halley Casey
    - All Home Room Coordinators have been chosen. Several have introduced themselves to their classroom parents, or will be soon.
        - They will be reaching out and gathering volunteers for parties, as well as discussing assembling donated classroom baskets from the homeroom for the Boo Bash.
            - Your support is crucial to their success. Thank you to the Home Room Coordinators and parents!
- 2nd Vice President's Report- Dr. McClintock-Comeaux
    - Thank you to all that came to Open House, it was a great turnout.
    - Ms. Herbay is currently out (approx. 6 weeks), Mrs. Turino is in during her absence.
        - Mrs. Turino is a Certified Art Teacher. She was able to overlap while Ms. Herbay was still here and trained with her for a few days.
        - Teacher Appreciation - Milkshakes were so appreciated by

everyone, so grateful for treats and recognition.
        - Off to a great start this year!
- Teacher Representative - Mrs. Connor, Baker Librarian
    - Mrs. Connor was not able to make it, but Amanda Palermo relayed that Mrs. Connor is working on an author visit.
- Committee Reports/Upcoming Events
    - School Supply Kits - 167 supply kits sold this year (slightly down from last year) for around $700 in profit.
    - After-School Activities – Kelly Meyers / Kelsey Minerd
        - Will be sending out information in the bulletin in email tomorrow; mark calendars for the day when registration opens
        - Registration will be handled the same way as the spring, open at 7am on October 8th, highly sought, there will be a Google form, very competitive, some classes fill up super quick. If you don't get the first pick, we will try to get you in your second choice. Will be offered again in the spring. One pick per kid.
        - Robotics will be the exact same curriculum (Kelly Myers)
    - Baker Gives Back — Katie Marsh / Kara Krebs
        - This club is made up of 3rd & 4th graders that perform service projects and volunteer their time to give back to Baker, township and community.
            - They had their second meeting this morning where they prepared for their first collection drive, which will be School Supplies for the Education Partnership happening next week.

        - Information fliers will be coming home to parents' in the next couple days.
        - There will be boxes put outside of each classroom. If you would like to donate, please send supplies to school with your child.
        - Supplies from each box will be collected at the end of the week. (Kara Krebs)
- Boo Bash – October 4th – Betsy Wilson / Amanda Walton
    - Presale is LIVE and active, purchase by Monday, October 1st for wrist bands and raffle tickets to come home with your student. Makes it so much easier to get them ahead of time, as well as filling out your raffle tickets at home.
    - Cake Walk needs cakes - Please donate cakes, cupcakes and drop off to the office by 3:00pm on October 4th.
    - Guessing Jars, Silent Auction items & Concessions donations are still needed as well.
    - Amazon WISH List will be in the PTA Bulletin; it ships right to Baker!
    - Volunteers sign-ups coming out very soon
    - Baker Boo Bash has an official email now, please send questions & other communication via email to bakerboobash@gmail.com (Amanda Palermo)
    - Boo Bash is the biggest fundraiser by far of the year. All of the effort, donations, and volunteering is so appreciated. (Kelly Myers)

- Celebration Books - Diana Slanders
    - It is underway with 16 books that have been purchased so far.
    - Diana is working on getting the labels printed. Once they are printed and applied to the books, Mrs. Connor will present them to the students to be able to be checked out.
        - Celebration Books is a fun way where one can donate a book to the library to honor/celebrate/memoriam someone, etc. Your child can be the first one to check the book out, then it will stay in the library for good for all students to check out. (Amanda Palermo)
- Fall Spirit Wear – Katy Cain
    - Fall Spirit Wear Sale is currently LIVE (USC/Baker spirit wear)
    - If you place your order by October 2nd, items will ship free to Baker
        - If your order is placed after October 2nd, it will arrive by October 24th to pick up at Baker.
        - Katy Cain will sort and get in touch with more information closer to that date.
    - Sales will be open and always available for things to purchase.
    - There is a new logo for class shirts, these will also always be available. (Amanda Palermo)
- Fall Book Fair – Diana Slanders / Erica Morr
    - Book Fair will be held the evenings of October 23rd & 24th from 5-7:00pm.
    - It will NOT be open during the day during Teacher/Parent

conferences.

- Setup will be after school on October 22nd.
- The preview for the students will be the next day during the day. This is where they can view the books and make their Wish Lists.
- Volunteers are needed immediately after school on October 22nd for setup (kids can help too). (Amanda Palermo)

- Grade Level Socials
  - 4th Grade – Simmons Farm Trip- 10/13/24
    - 1-4:00pm
    - September 25th sign up deadline - if you are interested in going, please sign up.
    - Contribution from parents for tickets - $22/person for this social. The majority of the 4th Grade Social funds go to the end of the year pool party, which is why this Social needed contributions.
- 3rd Grade Tile Wall
  - Last year's tiles for the Tile Wall are already installed and look great!
- Spirit Nights
  - Working on Spirit Nights for the fall.
  - A Spirit Nights Chair is still needed.
- Staff Appreciation – Bethany Salmen
  - The Milkshake Day event on September 12th went well! Thank you to all of our volunteers! (Amanda Palermo)

- New Business - None
- Unfinished Business
    - From Virtual Chat: Daisy Miksch mentioned that the Baker PTA budget is healthy, and she asked if there would be a family admission price vs. a per child price for Boo Bash.
    - Dr. McClintock-Comeaux verbally responded and said that we have not done that yet in the past, but it might be up for consideration.
        - He explained that the school does not gain year over year. A lot of the expenditures will be later on through the year for field trips, assemblies, etc. The Boo Bash is the largest fundraiser, and a smaller amount is from the Read-a-Thon. So the income and expenditures balance each other out.
    - From Virtual Chat: Janet Schmidt asked if parents dressed up for Boo Bash.
        - Dr. McClintock-Comeaux responded and said that typically no one wears costumes. Some wear festive shirts. It is more of a carnival theme.
- Adjournment - 10:10am

Attendees:

Dr. Patrick McClintock-Comeaux

Amanda Palermo

Heather Elmer

Kelly Myers

Emily Hand

Halley Casey

Alexandra Zanic

Kara Krebs

Katie Talarico-Ramirez

Katie Slaker

Libby Mascaro

Natalie Jaskowski

Samantha Adler

Yeou Yo

Theodore Kalas

Gina Pelusi

Katie Kleinbaum

Christian Pelusi

Daisy Miksch

Pam Scureman

Gretchen Gopela

Janet Schmidt

Miksch Miksch

2 phones