



Prepare Each Student To Be Successful

Boston School Forest

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STEVENS POINT
AREA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boston School Forest Advisory Council January 24, 2024 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge

1. Arrival & Welcome

- Present: Kelly Rowe, Barb Portzen, Angela Hintz, Sally Ellingboe, Jessica Smith, Karla Lockman

2. Review/Discussion of Q1 Meeting Notes (review on your own)

- New Members: Welcome to Miranda Moody, Assistant Principal at PJs and Jacque Gerritsen, Teacher at Washington. Miranda will represent the Principal role on the Advisory Council and Jacque will represent the SPED Teacher role. Thank you and Welcome!

3. Financial Report

- Polar Pond Plunge Business/In-Kind Donations – Zest Bakery & Coffeehouse 48 cookies, Dunkin' Donuts 50 x \$5 cards; Mama Elda's 50 x \$5 coupon; Papa Murphy's 50 x free pizza; Culver's 50 x free value basket; Feltz's Dairy Store 50 x free cheese curd coupon; Mission Coffeehouse 50 x BOGO coupon; McDonalds 840 hot cups; Plover EMS; Jason Dostal
- Polar Pond Plunge - **Total \$2,335.25**
 - Check Donations – Brzezinski Family \$200, Point Brewery LLC \$50, James and Deborah Billings \$50, Dave and Christine Greco \$25, Larry and Mary Feltz \$25, Janessa Reid \$20, Mike and Audrey Esser \$25, Dave and Kathie Plaisance \$50, Kendra Liddicoat \$50, Dennis Raabe \$20, Karen Trzebiatowski \$100, Jennifer Melville \$70, Gigi Stahl \$70, Chris Nyman \$100, Ted Kowalski \$35, Mike Feltz \$50, Brian Leahy \$20, Lily Meeks \$20, Chris Scott \$10, Karla Lockman \$10, Ben Franklin JH \$300
 - Cash (or lumped) Donations – Jennifer Knecht, Miranda Moody, Kurt Freund, Morgan Pitner, Kam Anderson, Landon Dehnel, Ivannia Mimier, Jeff Mlsna, Joel Burgener, Derek Kirklewski, Olivia De Valk, Olivia Leach, Jason Bull, Mary Kluck, Anna Lamb, Molly Demrow, Eliot Eron, Shana Pitcher, Bre Leahy, Michelle Cornell, Becca Ives, Molly Williams, Teri Pinter, Dean Hodsdon, Callie DeGroot, Josh Hodsdon, Amanda Stevenson, Jacque Gerrittson, Hannah Jackson, Cheyenne Cornell, Edith Franzen, Illyana Scheniderman, Ella Moertl, Tatianna Sherman, Kaitlyn Kort, Anna Johnston, Luke Frisk, Alex Brzezinski, Amberle Schwartz, Abby Jackson, Losinski Family, Thomas Fields, Lovandowski Family, Mike and Kelly Caufield, Williams Family, Briggs Family, Dale and Amy Okray, Orrin and Jo Luedke, Franklin and Finnley Schmidt, Chandonais Family, Ron and Jodi Plaster, Lynell Martens, Ives Family
- General Monetary Donations – Jason and Leigh Kraemer - \$1,000
- Winter Open House Food Stand – Profit for BSF \$183 (Profit for FFA \$238)
- General In-Kind Donations – Jean Diedrich Kwik-\$100 Trip Gift Cards and thistle bird feeders; Eagle Tree Care LLC \$2190 in labor and equipment; Izaak Walton League \$100 books; Bound to Happen Books; Shannon Hainzlsperger snow gear
- Grants

- Aldo Leopold Audubon Society \$230 for balsam trees
- Karla wrote up the grant template and narrative for Wheels to Woods (SAF) and WI Natural Resources Foundation and shared it with 4K teachers and site managers.
 1. Discussion: The NRF changed their guidelines so that a field trip can't happen until May 12 or later despite a grant submission deadline of March 31. So, that eliminated this grant from our 4K funding prospects. Kelly said that the 4K teachers had a meeting and they discussed ways to fund transportation to BSF. We do want this to be affordable to all students 4K-10th and not charge families extra money for this trip.
- Fund 21 expenditures – HuffCutt \$18,735; Fahrner's Excavating \$1,300; Sign Pro \$380 for CC ski signs, Food for special event (reimbursed)

4. Old Business (Use and Activity)

- Student groups
 - 5th grade – 488 students, 98 adults
 - 10th grade – 474 students, 8 adults
 - 1st grade – 492 students, 202 adults
 - 4th grade – In progress
- Scout groups
 - Scout Troop – 4 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (11/27/23) – 16 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (12/4/23) – 18 people
 - Cub Scout Pack 222 – 22 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (12/18/23) – 19 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (1/8/24) – 20 people
 - Samoset Council – 28 people
 - Cub Scout Pack & Troop 297 – 10 people
 - Eagle Scout – Derek Brooks is working on a proposal to put in a split rail fence bordering 1 or 2 sides of Sandy Land replacing rotting logs with an obvious boundary between the play area and the parking lot.
- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
 - Polar Pond Plunge Volunteers - 20 people
 - Polar Pond Plunge Participants/Spectators – 225 people
 - Winter Open House Volunteers – 54 people (with FFA)
 - Winter Open House Participants Day 1 – 203 people
 - Winter Open House Participants Day 2 – 177 people
 - UWSP Student Observations – 26 people
 - Woodlands Church Leadership Retreat – 21people
 - Portage County 4-H – 13 people
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club November Mtg – 59 people
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club January Mtg – 37 people
- Past events & activities
 - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom (EBOC) Updates –
 1. Vault Privy Update: The vault toilet was delivered and installed on December 7, 2023. A huge thanks to Alex, Fahrner's Excavating, and the Huffcut delivery guys for doing a great job.
 2. The environmental education equipment box was funded by Cellcom. All of the supplies are in and labeled in totes and ready for use.
 3. The Schmeekle cedar sign that says "Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom" was quoted to us at \$738 (with a 10% education discount) instead of our estimate of

\$500. We will try to cut back on the Stratford sign or find an alternative to stay under \$1200 for both signs.

4. The website has been updated with a tab that states “Outdoor Classroom” There are links to the history, donations, and sample lesson plans and available equipment and materials. The sign-up for use will likely be a Google Form online. Karla will need to check this twice each week, send confirmation and correspondence emails with arrival/departure times and dates. Reservations will be posted to our online calendar on the BSF website rather than the internal BSF Master Field Trip Schedule. Email invites for an April/May “soft” opening will be sent to St. Paul’s, Pacelli Catholic Schools, different home school groups, Waupaca Learning Center, and Grove Elementary in WI Rapids.
 5. Discussion: The members present at the meeting tonight felt that it was appropriate that there is no cost associated with the use of EBOC but instead we will promote it as “Donations Welcome.” This is good because Emery Babcock wanted the Forest to be free and accessible to all youth. Angela suggested a check in and check out form for the supplies with some wording in either those documents or the sign up agreement that schools may be charged for the replacement of broken or lost equipment. There are plans to survey the EBOC users this spring to provide feedback and improve the process/space.
- High Nitrate Remedy – Kris from Culligan Water is working to complete the DNR/EPA paperwork and we are still on schedule for the water treatment system to be installed over spring break.
 - Polar Pond Plunge – The Polar Pond Plunge was very successful We had a record 49 people who plunged into the icy pond waters to support the Boston School Forest. We had many returning and new plungers this year. A special thanks to our rescue diver Jason Dostal and Plover Fire Department for the vital safety support. Together, we raised \$2,335 for the vault toilet near the Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom.
 - Winter Open House – This year’s 2-day event was perfect. There were just over 200 people who attended Day 1 and just under 200 people who attended Day 2. The snow conditions were great for skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. There were also nature crafts and play areas available for families. Thankfully, many SPASH students signed up to volunteer and they were just amazing with a positive energy and joyful attitudes. We received many positive comments about our student helpers. We had hot chocolate and S’mores for free. New this year, we tried out a food stand. The lunch meal deal was sold for \$5 and included a hot dog, chip bag, banana, rice Krispie treat, and juice pouch. FFA provided the student servers and we will split the profits. FFA is interested in running the food stand at the Earth Day Celebration event as well.
 1. Discussion: Barb asked if we planned to include other groups and give them an opportunity for fundraising a food stand with BSF. Karla agree that we should consider that for future events. We will reach out to some club advisors and inquire about the interest.
 - Mandana Bliss Award – We were pleased to honor Jean Diedrich with the Mandana Bliss Award at the January School Board Meeting. Jean was recognized for her exceptional dedication to Boston School Forest and our community. Congratulations Jean!
 - UWSP Educator Intern – A huge thanks to Grace Henes for serving as our Winter Educator Internship in January. Grace is an Env. Ed. Major at UWSP and did a great job.
 - Lake Pacawa Story Walk – BSF continues to partner with the Village of Plover Parks by preparing and swapping out the stories. PW PTO sponsored the book for September-October. The book for January February is Under the Snow by Melissa Stewart

5. New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs
 - SPASH Intern – A huge welcome to Gabby Richling who is our SPASH student intern this spring semester. She joins Keanna and Luiza who will continue their internship through the remainder of the year.
- Upcoming Events
 - Earth Day Celebration Sunday, April 21, 2024 – Plans are coming along. We are hopeful to have 20+ activity stations. Tom Pease has committed to performing for \$425 this year. We will again use the CFCW fund to cover this cost. Activity station hosts are being confirmed and event flyers will be distributed starting in February.
 - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening – Mark your calendars for Friday June 7 at 6:00pm. We plan to invite community stakeholders, sponsors, and friends and family of Emery Babcock. Light refreshments and lemonade will be provided. Karla will coordinate with Sarah O'Donnell for a press release.
 1. Discussion: Karla indicated that this date works with the Babcock Family. Angela said that there may be in a conflict as the administration has the incident command training that day. It's a long day of stressful scenario training and a lot of time they are burnt out at the end of it. I can look into a different date. One of Emery's sons comes from Minnesota so we'd also like for him to be present.

6. Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Great Lakes Webinar – A free webinar will be held on February 27 3:00pm – 4:00pm. If you'd like to learn more about schools forest in this region of the U.S., feel free to sign up. Karla is attending. Registration is online <https://dpi.wi.gov/environmental-ed/events/great-lakes-school-forest-webinar>.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Quarter 3 Meeting – Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 4:00pm
 - Quarter 4 Meeting – Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 4:00pm

7. Adjournment