



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 29, 2024 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge

- Arrival & Welcome
 - Present: Jacque Gerritsen, Gretchen Marshall, Terry Rothmann, Sally Ellingboe, Angela Hintz, Kelly Rowe, Miranda Moody, Brenna Lockman, Gabby Richling, Jeff MIsna, Karla Lockman
- Review/Discussion of Q1 Meeting Notes (review on your own)
- Financial Report
 - General Monetary Donations – McDill PTO \$250; McKinley PTO \$250; Kathryn Gottwald \$20; FFA Food Stand BSF net \$94; Cash donations at Winter Open House \$42; ODC Stevens Point \$25
 - In-Kind Donations – Steve & Hudson Miceli Moose shed antler; Kyle Kluck Trucking load of rock; Sally Ellingboe 50 pair mittens; Lands End 5 pairs of snowpants
 - Polar Pond Plunge Check Donations: Cory Hirsbrunner \$200; L&M Feltz \$25; Orrin and Josephine Luedke \$50; James and Deborah Billings \$50; Dave & Kathie Plaisance \$50, David and Christine Greco \$50; Michael & Stephanie Feltz \$150; Stevens Point Brewery \$50; Ben Franklin Junior High \$302.39; Meg Erler \$100; Founders of Freedom Coffee \$400;
 - Polar Pond Plunge Cash Donations = \$727 and were received from Brzezinski Family, Final Score, Szymkowiak Family, Williams Family, Losinski Family, Chandonais Family, Levandowski Family, Josh Hodsdon, Dean Hodsdon, Teri Pinter, Jen Knecht, Kurt Freund, Kam Anderson, Miranda Moody, Maya Moody, Charlie Sensenbrenner, Jeff MIsna, Sam Dinga, Jacque Gerritsen, Hannah Jackson, Erin Jacobson, Brian Leahy, Bre Leahy, Ann Kleifgen, Molly Williams, Alex Brzezinski, Ally Koehnke, Will Scheder, Luke Frisk, Jackson Korger, Derek Kirklewski, Joel Burgener, Jason Bull, Dawn Kerske, Trey Larson, Olivia De Valk, and Isaac Burgener.
 - Polar Pond Plunge Business Sponsors – Dunkin’ Donuts 50 \$5 coupons; Mission Coffee 50 BOGO coupons, Springville Sports Barn 40 \$5 coupons; Julie’s Norski Bakeri 4 dozen cookies; Culver’s 50 free value basket coupons; Feltz’s Dairy Store 50 containers cheese curds; Founders of Freedom Coffee 40 packets of coffee plus 6 bags coffee for event; McDonalds 700 cups with lids; Anytime Fitness cups and coupons; Central Door Solutions 40 can cozies; Food+Farm Exploration Center 40 free entry coupons.
 - Grants – Applied for Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin Partners Grant for \$5,000 for Pedal Power.
 - Fund 21 expenditures – Campus Cycle \$825 for 4 pair skis, poles, and bindings; Amazon \$204 for ski bindings; Amazon \$112 for trail cam; Amazon & Menards \$2,070 for trail lights
 - Donation account balance as of December 31, 2024 - \$99,000
- Old Business (Use and Activity)
 - Student groups
 - 5th – 476 students; 86 adults

- 10th – 435 students; 6 adults
- 1st – 463 students; 163 adults
- 4th in Progress

- Scout groups
 - Eagle Scout Project – Cole Siegel completed his Eagle Scout project of landscaping around Noble Lodge. It was a big job that took him several evenings and some weekend days be we are so happy to have it completed! Thanks Cole, and congratulations.
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 11/7/24 – 20 people
 - Samoset Council Boy Scouts 11/21/24 – 23 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 12/12/24 – 22 people
 - Cub Scout Pack 222 12/16/24 – 55 people
 - Samoset Council Boy Scouts 12/19/24 – 23 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 1/9/25 – 24 people
 - Samoset Council 1/16/25 – 23 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 1/23/25 – 22 people
 - Boy Scout/Cub Scouts 297 1/25/25 – 25 people
 - Boy Scout Troop 201 Volunteers 1/27/25 – 4 people

- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club 11/11/24 – 49 people
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club 12/9/24 – 26 people
 - Portage County 4-H 12/14/24 – 14 people
 - Portage County 4-H 12/15/24 – 18 people
 - Polar Pond Plunge – 200 people
 - ODC Adult SPED group – 11 people
 - Winter Open House – total 246 people
 - UWSP Observation Students – 30 people

- Past events & activities
 - Polar Pond Plunge – Another year and the event was amazing! We have such a supportive community! \$2,174.39 was raised for the security cameras at BSF. Thanks to all the brave plungers, local businesses, and people who made donations. The highlights video can be found on You Tube: https://youtu.be/2M4Fv_lLoBs
 - Winter Open House - Day 1 was held on January 20th the high temperature was -8. We had 37 people come to the event and 32 volunteers, interns, and staff. We added Day 2 on January 27th and the temperature was 38 degrees. We had 161 people attend and 14 volunteers and staff. A huge thanks to Alex who made snow for 40-50 hours and to the staff, volunteers, and Scout Troop 201 to haul the snow over to the ski loop using shovels and sleds. Total people at Winter Open House (both days) = 246. The Food Booth was staffed by the FFA. Lunches brought in \$444 and after covering cost of food/supplies (\$250), \$100 was sent to FFA and \$94 was the profit for BSF. Cash donations received were \$42 which will be put towards a Kwik Trip gift card for worms.
 - Water Treatment System Finalized – On December 12th, the water treatment system was completed. The PCHHS water quality test (which gets reported to the DNR) revealed < 1 ppm Nitrate. Yay! We've submitted the paperwork for County grant that will reimburse the district \$20,000. Water will still be posted for 1 year (4 consecutive tests).

- Building Security – Thank you Chris Budzinski for supporting BSF with arming Noble and Oelke Lodge. The work for this is scheduled on February 11th and 17th which are no school days for students.
- Security Camera Update/Request – Thank you Jesse Suehs for getting us the quote for the Hahnwa Vision fish-eye security cameras. Technology has 4 cameras for us; 2 for Noble Lodge and 2 for Oelke Lodge. These have a panorama effect and will be able to see down the driveway and out towards the cabins and ski shack. The cords and installation will be done by Van Ert and is projected to cost \$200-\$500 per camera.
 1. Action Item: Request \$2,000 for donation account for 4 outdoor security cameras.
 2. Discussion: Gretchen asked about the responsibility of the district to fund cameras to be consistent with the other schools. Jeff clarified that the initial security cameras were part of a referendum. The district is paying for arming the buildings and the fish-eye cameras themselves. BSF requests donation account money for the purpose of installing the cameras and the cable networking.
 3. Gretch moved for the approval. Sally seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Trail Camera Update – Alex tested out the trail camera and it works well. Good blue tooth to his phone when he is standing underneath. Good battery/solar recharge. Pictures and video clear. We will order more cameras with the donation money approved at the last meeting.
- Trail Light Update – The first set of lights between the parking lot and Noble Lodge are complete and already so appreciated by the evening groups. Please check them out on your way out. The next set of lights between Noble Lodge and the green bathroom building are set to go in this spring and will be installed by the Spring Into Action Team from Woodlands Church. The lights turned out so well that we are also looking to add a set connecting Noble with Oelke Lodge. Woodlands Church may be able to fund this. If not, we should know by the April Advisory Council meeting and will ask for money then.
- Log Replacement – The Log Doctors have agreed to do the work and a PO was made to replace rotting logs on the side of Oelke Lodge.
- Winter Educator Internship – We loved having Nina Pallo, Aleda Chambers, Shannon Kearney and Eli Wolff at BSF for their 2-week internship. Together they volunteered 176 hours. Aleda is still interning with us and is getting 1 credit from UW-SP.
- Lake Pacawa Story Walk – Currently on display is Don't Bring an Alligator to School and was sponsored by Gepetto's Toy Shop downtown Stevens Point.

- New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs

- Hunter Education Class – Karla proposed offering a DNR safety class series as part of our summer school offerings. For the 2025 summer, it would be just hunter education. Karla will go before the school board with Jeff and Chris in February to answer their questions. Deer hunting has a cultural connection to central Wisconsin and this course focuses on safety with both firearms and tree stands as well as an emphasis on responsible and ethical hunting. A hunter education instructor training could happen in March/April and we would use the DNR trailer of supplies which includes inert firearms (real firearms but with the fire pin removed and welded over and painted in safety orange). All of this is at no cost to the district. Questions? Ideas?
 1. Gretchen stated that offering hunter education class in schools is actually very common. Many schools have this as part of their agri-science or natural

resources classes. She also said that many kids especially growing up in town don't have access to experiences like hunting and this course could get students who aren't from hunting families interested in the sport. Outdoor skills doesn't only mean identifying trees and bugs, but also ethical sportsmanship like hunting and trapping. Spending time in nature is a valuable tool for health and wellness. Jeff said it was challenging getting Melanie into a course because there aren't many offered at times and dates that were convenient for families. Karla added that in the future, we could expand to include more DNR safety courses such as ATV/UTV, snowmobile and boat safety.

- Indoor Play Space – After much reorganizing, we've moved the curriculum storage under the stairs, in the laundry room, and to Birch cabin opening up a space we will convert into the Discovery play space area. Ideas include a reading nook with second story, log bench, tree stump "play house," indoor playset. Questions? Ideas?



1. Action Item: BSF requests \$2,000 from the donation account for ordering/building the Discovery Center playspace expansion.
2. Discussion: Karla added that Amberle will paint the branches of a tree up and around the walls and the ceiling so it looks like the kids will be climbing in a tree house. Karla will work with Chris Budzinski so that playground safety guidelines are observed. Alex will be our lead builder and we have most of the wood from milled BSF trees. Kelly said that the 4K teachers/sites have special projects and competitions throughout the year. The March project will be raising money for this indoor playscape. Hooray! Thank you for this collaboration. Everyone was so supportive.
3. Kelly made the motion for approval. Jeff seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Compact Tractor – There is a growing need for a compact loader tractor. For two years we have made snow and move it by shoveling it into a trailer or sleds and moving it to the hill or ski trail. We also use wheelbarrows to move wood chips and gravel far distances along the trails. There are also several times each year that we move wooden benches throughout the property. A compact loader tractor would drastically reduce the amount of time and physical labor these necessary activities take. Therefore, we are going to put the word out that we are looking for a donation of a tractor (with bucket and brush hog/mower). We will consult with Allen H., SPAPSD mechanic before accepting a donation so that he can verify that the District will be able to do maintenance on it (oil changes, etc.) If a suitable donation can't be found, we may come to you in April or June and ask for donation money to be used for this. Questions? Ideas?

1. Karla will check with Big Iron, Riesterer and Schnell, or Sand County Equipment businesses. Jeff suggested to check with Buildings and Grounds as he thought they used to have a small tractor. Karla will reach out to B&G for support and advice.

- Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Celebration – April 13, 2025 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Things are shaping up for another great event! We already have 16 activity stations lined up.

- Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Sally shared that long time BSF champion Steve Bogaczyk died this week. In the [obituary](#), it was written, “One of his proudest achievements was helping establish the Boston School Forest for the Point Schools, where Mr. B's Lodge is named in his honor. He served on the Forest's board of directors for an incredible 50 consecutive years, resigning in 2018!” Visitation and funeral services are Friday, January 31.
- Karla would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the BSF staff! They’ve worked so hard to make snow, haul, and rake snow again this year. Thanks to them for working the events, subbing for sick staff members, and adding on a Day 2 Winter Open House and for all the great ideas and efforts to make BSF a great place of learning and fun for students and families.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - 4:00pm
 - Monday, June 9, 2025 - 4:00pm

- Adjournment