

BLAKELY PTO GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

April 16, 2015

11 a.m.

I. Welcome

Guest: Jake – from boys and girls club

New Program: Plan For The Planet Academy

May 9th, Saturday, all day 9-5, then ongoing every Tuesday after school

New club location – Coppertop

Program is open from ages 7-12. Blakely, Wilkes, Ordway, Sakai, Woodward

Focused on planting, teaming up with parks forestry dept., weed warriors

Academy – how everything start. Kids come, learn about climate change, program, 3 prongs: 1.

Planting, restoring forest. 2: Attend city council meetings, talking about initiative to make BI

greener, cleaner place. Ask kids what they want to work on, give ideas. 3. Talking to

international organizations, Plan for the Planet (official tree planters for UN). Can raise money

for example an island being affected by sea level rising.

II. Principal's Report (Reese Ande)

Thank you to PTO for all the work and funds raised. With help of parents raised \$13000 for Outdoor Ed, bringing the cost down to the lowest it's ever been. Tremendous gift to the students and families.

On the Way to School: Documentary. 4 families throughout the world, documenting their daily struggle from wake up to get to school. Shows struggle kids go through to get to school – could be good to show to students, give them perspective. Considering evening community event for parents and or kids. Hoping will happen before end of year. Could be PTO sponsored movie.

SBA testing – preparing parents for testing scores to be substantially lower based on new computer-based testing format. Pilot showed scores at minimum 30% lower than previous tests that showed Blakely at 95% in math, for example. It's a very difficult test. Writing will be especially difficult for a 3rd grader, who has never been exposed to this kind of test, amount of text on a page. Test is not timed. Final answers are typed but research is showing that keyboarding is not impacting overall score of the child. Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing keyboarding software program is available for kids.

Science Specialist next year – Class will be held in Portable B. Diane Bedell will be assigned to Blakely. All kids will get 50 minutes of science every week next year.

Report cards and Conferences (pilot next year)– next year will be semester system as opposed to trimester system. There will be a parent-teacher conference in October. First report card will be end of January; conference will be held in January. Second report card will be issued at end of year.

New BISD Executive Director of Special Ed – Diane Leonetti
New BISD Asst Superintendent – Julie Goldsmith retiring.

III. Approval of January and March meeting minutes

March – Liz Walters motion to approve
Karen Hall second
Motion Approved

V. Budget Review and Discussion

See attached notes

Grants Fund line item should be included in budget - funds will be amount left over from Auction
Include math club in Before & After School Programs
ST Math – if mandated by district, district should pay
Jen and Karen will talk to Reese about \$3500 for ST Math
Ask Reese about 4th grade spelling software
April will provide auction income figure

VI. 2015-2016 Board and Other Key Vacancies

1. Preliminary Slate

Co-Presidents	Anna Steen
	Erin Cyger
Treasurer	Lisa Timmons
Secretary	April Murray
Enrichment	Tricia Kurtzman
Volunteer Coordinator	Lara Demos
	Lee Muir
Communications Coordinator	Dani Stoehr
Grants Coordinator	Need somebody

2. Draft descriptions of Board/Other Key positions and Listserv

Auction Co-Chairs Need somebody

VI. Other Business:

1. Update on Outdoor Ed—scholarships

Raised \$13,000. Cost down to \$180/student.

2. 2016 Auction – Venue is likely Islandwood. Expenses increased \$3000 from last year to this year. Dramatically fewer items were self-paid in 2015.

3. 4th grade reproducibles – put out at Science Fair for parents to see/available to purchase from now until end of year.

4. 4th grade graduation gifts – talk to Reese
5. PTO work party day
6. Next meeting – May 14th at 9 am

Next General PTO Meeting: May 14th @ 9:00 a.m.