

Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes 2-12-15
9:00 AM

Presiding Officer: Karen Hall

- I. Welcome
- II. Guest Speaker: Jeff McCormick, Director of Assessment for BISD. Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA)
 - Feb 24th 7:00 pm parent night for smarter balance for Sakai parents, will look very similar to today's presentation.
 - New standards from the state, higher expectations.
 - This will be the last year doing MAP testing. Replaced with an interim SBA test – more authentic, beneficial.
 - Why changing? To align with Common Core. Common Core fully adopted this school year.
 - Expect that in first year or two, there will be more students not reaching grade level requirements.
 - State Estimates: 4th grade: ELA 41%, 37%. 7th grade: 38%, 33%. 10th grade: 41%, 33%. But BISD scores are expected to be higher.
 - Overview of this spring's SBA test
 - Computer based, adaptive. 3 parts for ELA, 3 parts for Math.
 - For grades 3-8, replaces MSP in reading, writing, math, but not science.
 - Test is NOT times. Estimate 3-4.5 hours per subject area, can be spread over several days if needed.
 - Writing part is highly encouraged to write out on scratch paper, then input in computer after. Everything will be entered in computer.
 - Online tools: highlighter, calculator, zoom, digital notepad, English dictionary and glossary
 - Reese: Re writing part, current plan is to have kids compose rough draft on iPads, then take that to computer lab.
 - suggested to give kids extra typing exposure in class, home.
 - Spelling less important, more about writing content. Graded by humans.
 - Multiple Choice questions – could have multiple correct answers, no obvious distractor. Must read question very carefully. Teachers will be teaching kids this. Designed to show what kids really know, not allow them to guess their way through a test.
 - Accommodations – If child has accommodations on file, will automatically be made available to them.
 - Recommend sending kids message that this is just one test. Just do your best.

- Strategies schools and teachers are using to prepare
 - Reese: Teachers have seen practice tests, style and format. They are working with kids to help expose them to these new types of questions.
 - Teachers are learning Common Core Standards, reviewing SBA sample items, practice tests and sharing them with students.
 - School and district staff are ensuring technology is in place, planning test schedules and appropriate prof development for teachers.

-Suggestions for parents

- Go to Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program to take a practice test yourself, become familiar with test.
- Edmonds student in pilot had these recommendations: To kids: try your best, don't rush, practice typing on computer. To parents: don't pressure or stress out your kids, do practice tests with kids, practice writing a lot on computer, give breaks, thoroughly explain answers.

- Reese: 3rd grade parents: will have SBA results back before the end of the year, because 3rd grade is a critical year for reaching ELA requirements for future success. Score of 2, 1 = not passing. If score a 1, will have individual conference plan meeting with teacher, Reese, unless child already has an IEP.
- 3rd/4th will take Math test on May 1st. Results back in June. Very helpful to have this information much earlier, will impact school improvement plan.

III. Principals Report:

- Recess problems: Kids knocked to the ground playing soccer, lots of conflict. Soccer has more concussions/injuries than football. Have competitive kids, getting physical. Mainly problem with 3rd and 4th. Not happy with how kids are behaving and responding in competitive games at recess. Want to help them learn to be successful in this. Putting call out to parents to volunteer and help at recess. Difficult to get parents to help with this and be comfortable mediating.
- If kids want to participate in soccer, will have to attend a meeting to understand the rules and consequences, and sign agreement. Reese will help parent volunteers learn how to handle conflicts. After soccer, will address kickball, then tag, etc. Problem is very big, not just a few kids. Adult support is needed.

IV. Approval of December meeting minutes. (Approval of January minutes postponed until next meeting.)

Karen: Motion to approve minutes from December. Approved.

- V. Treasurer's Update (April Murray)
 - Almost done paying for teacher grants for this school year, funded my last year's auction.
 - Bookfair very successful – over \$6K in sales.

- VI. Readathon (Heidi Blair)
 - Handing out pledge envelopes to 4th graders today. Will have a couple weeks to fill out. Read A Thon is March 2nd-6th.
 - Agreed to tell parents hoping to raise \$100 per child.

- VII. Bingo Night (Lee Muir)
 - Feb. 27th – Entertainer has been booked
 - Sign up for volunteers will go out after flyer goes out
 - Possibility for having small door prizes for those not winning

- VIII. Recess Volunteers (Lee Muir)
 - (covered in earlier discussion)

- IX. Post-Auction Update (Anna Steen, Lisa Timmons)
 - More people participated (at auction and volunteering) and spent higher funds
 - It was a great celebration of our community
 - Gross over \$81,000 but do not have expenses in yet
 - 35 more families donated this year. Hope to keep that momentum.
 - Need to decide if having event at Islandwood next year, very few weekends left.
 - Childcare option was very appreciated, helpful

- X. Post-Book Fair Update (Karen Hall)
 - Ms. Poole was very sick but parent volunteers pulled it off. Very successful.