

Blakely PTO Minutes

- I. Welcome
- II. Principal's Report

Reese: Tomorrow is Halloween parade – starts at 1, something totally different. Parent stations. Not going into classrooms because takes forever. Two different lines moving two different ways, going around the building twice – students will see 2/3 of classmates costumes. Hope to get it done in 25 minutes or so.

C.A.S.T. Collaborative Academic Support Team. – This will address all students, not just HC, which was addressed last year. Instructional support, helping our struggling learners. CAST supports ALL learners. Different RTI (Response to intervention) models, this is an example of one. Our response last year was to talk about each kid, resources, needs, develop plan to support each kid. Don't want to see a kindergartener that has an identified need and in 4th grade still has that same need. For ex: if child had illness or health condition, wouldn't treat it that way – we would be following their health concern. We need to do the same thing for academic needs, so we need to do a better job as a building, and a district. We are addressing how do we better support all these kids. CAST makes sure we are meeting needs of every Blakely student. Last year we ran a pilot of 9-10 teachers who went through the training. This year every teacher is doing it – every single student will be talked about 3 times a year. For some it will be just saying they're doing well, but every child will be discussed. 3 full days of CAST to get thru every classroom. Each teacher will come to their team with spreadsheet of each child. Team is Reese Ande, classroom teachers, data lead teachers, special ed teacher, title 1 teacher, instructional coach (Warren Reed), counselor (Karen Knight), ELL (English language learner) teacher and Indian Ed Coordinator, when applicable. Process is not just about academics – about social/emotional behavior too.

Q: What's balance of academic vs social/emotional? A: 50%. Lots of students with emotional needs, and that's often forgotten. We forget that there are so many kids with needs on BI.

Classroom teachers will be released by a roving sub to meet with CAST team for 60 minutes. Students will be marked as high, medium or low need. Every child identified with strength and need. Take copious notes, writing strengths and needs. Create hot list of kids that must be helped sooner. Will identify a reading, math, writing, counseling, adult assistance need for each child. Will work with Lee Muir to attach a parent volunteer resource for each child. Lee is already working on this, has database of parents with strengths. CAST meetings will occur in Nov, Feb and May. May possibly have grade level teams meet as well. The May meeting is for placement, building classes. Process will help the SST (student study team) to come up with ideas or identify concerns for each child, document interventions tried, progress made or not made, etc. So when teacher comes to the meeting, we have identified what we've tried and the history of it.

Q: Vicky Marsing– this is exactly what BSF wants to fund. Are other schools doing this? Julie Goldsmith: not all, Sakai is starting today. Administration began to get training this summer on what are the different models of RTI (response to intervention). Looking at K-12, all administrators.

Q: Should PTO be fundraising for this? Or is it separate? Reese Ande: Potentially, not sure at this time.

Liz Walters: Former Blakely parents could be a resource to add to the pool of volunteers to help work one on one with kids. Lee Muir: Please send names to her if you know someone that would be a great fit for this. Julie Goldsmith: Great idea - Ordway has lunch buddies program, matching kids to adult that has their attention – stay with them for several years. Makes a huge difference to those students – checking in, having lunch once a week.

III. Approval of minutes – approved.

IV. Julie Goldsmith, guest speakers. Bill Mosiman sends his regrets.

ISS is Instructional Support Services. Includes Special Ed, Title 1, counseling and preschool program, all the way through to Adult Living Program. Special ed kids have services until they are 21. Bill Mossiman is director of that program. Last year identified need for program review – happens time to time, currently doing science review. Look at area to see if we're doing the best we can in that area. Last year looked at gifted education. Last year began process of reviewing ISS program. Hired Puget Sound ESD organization that is a conglomerate of east side schools. Asked for outside evaluation of program. Full report on website with recommendations. Need to look at concept of RTI. Need to look at something consistent from kinder through 12th – program that continues through each school. Want Special Ed program recommendations re curriculum. This year, two year review, created sub committees. RTI, K-6, 7-12. Expanded who is on the committee – more parents, more teachers, more administrators. Also have preschool through adult special living committee for special ed. Have hired a consultant to come in and help with this process throughout the year to identify best practice and response to intervention. Formal report to board in the spring, will provide recommendations. Will have plan to roll out over next 3 years. Want a transparent process- minutes and handouts on website. On district website, under District->Instruction->Programs and Services->Instructional Support Services Program Review. Will have all minutes and notes from all the work they've been doing. Will have same thing for RTI and special ed.

Q: What's process for getting info from one school to the next?
Julie: Working on this. Have tool called Data Dashboard – has all data in it electronically so don't have to rely on papers anymore. Assessments, MSP, math, etc. Want to add types of interventions that have been tried, historical piece. Working on these pieces. Through BSF, we have an "achieve" class – 7,8,9th grades at Eagle Harbor and BHS. For students that are struggling a little bit – don't need special services but need a boost. BSF provided these students with a chrome book to help organize their calendar, tasks, tool for homework.

Program identifies students who need this program, and having good communication between schools. Reese: also counselors meet with Sakai to identify kids that have concerns and need additional support. Julie: These changes make sure that all of the kids are being looked at, not just high and low kids – ALL kids.

Q: Why Puget Sounds ESD? Julie: They have a good sense of what other similar districts are doing, all districts that we are compared to. Also it is the ESD we belong to – Educational Support District – not the Olympic ESD. Includes Mercer, Bellevue, Issaquah. ESD came to all the schools, multiple interviews – teachers, administrators, in depth interviews. Will have a series of parent meetings to have parent voice as a component of this. Also regular updates to the board – in December will have progress report on how each of three committees are doing. Asking parents to email, ask questions, reach out even if they couldn't make it to meetings. Reese: Room was packed with HC meeting, and empty today. Need to work as a community to get people involved, to have that level of interest for all students, need to raise awareness. Julie: "Review" does not mean there is a problem – just looking to improve.

Comment: New PTA program – why aren't they here to learn about this if their focus is special ed support.

Comment: Julie: Thank you to BSF for funding Warren Reed and Jennifer Ledbetter. Having instructional coaches is a huge benefit to preparing teachers. Helping teachers get ready for common core and new smarter balance assessments. Jennifer is helping with my math program, aligned to common core. Have identified people to help at BHS and Commodore. Thank you to PTO for identifying volunteers to help with these new programs.

V. Vicky Marsing, BSF Director.

Thank you to Blakely PTO for donation to BSF. Currently doing Click-A-Thon. Last year raised 1.1 million. We do better than Mercer, Issaquah, Bellevue in dollar per family donated, but we have less families donating. Only 27% of school age families donate. 48% of donors have no children in district. Goal is to get more families involved, and donating – regardless of amount.

Have been at ~1 million for around 3 years. What could they do with 3 million? Look at every child, every school, every day. Giving every child what they need every day, that's what they want to fund. Creating platform to work with schools, board, unions, PTOs – to see what it would look like, how we'd get to that next level. Grant awards given out next week!

Q: How has 27% of families evolved? Vicky: Decreased over time, used to be around 30-35%. But in past was more guesswork, now have system to accurately track. Previously, when we were saving teachers, people gave more. Not happening any more – last year saw decrease in donations by 100k. So looking to inspire people to give, help them understand that these programs affect every child in every school, that the need hasn't gone away. Spread the word! Three fundraisers: Click-A-Thon in Fall, Feb 7th gala auction, Seed our Schools in the Spring. EScrip, Amazon Smile are ways to donate.

Q: How getting those 48% that don't have kids? Vicky: Have database, can't blanket to island because they're involved with One Call For All. So if you're in the database, you get this info. Lots of grandparents. Not a lot of donations from businesses on the island – trying to improve that through sponsorships at auction, etc. Top donor doesn't have kids in district, yet gives 60K, loves supporting teachers.

Q: Amazon Smile: Send out a blurb!

VI: Auction Update – Anna Steen. Lisa is working on kinder art project.

Art: Doing one art project per grade, plus reproducible art project. So everyone can walk away with something their child has been involved with. Procurement: Forms delivered to all previous donors. 30% turned back in already. Invitations will go out Nov. 15th. Won't RSVP via paper, will have to go online to RSVP and purchase. Can enter CC and will be on file for auction and eBidding. Jan 24th at Islandwood. Working on getting childcare at IslandWood – they provide this option. Note: Bainbridge Island and Blakely in particular are the highest eScrip donors in entire state! Need to verify and add to blurb about Amazon Smile.

VII: Emergency Kits update – Lee Muir.

Lee: Still need underwear! Can ask for mid size cotton underwear and see what we get, then fill in the gap with pull ups. Supposed to be prepared for 72 hours of care. Will have some kids that need 100 pull ups. Michelle: Still working on snack bars, finding the right one, working with T&C. Concerns about allergen cross-contamination.