

Bainbridge Island Blakely Elementary PTO  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2016

GENERAL SESSION

Place: STEM lab  
Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM

Question: Passed in December 2015, what federal legislation that relates to assessments replaced No Child Left Behind? Nobody answered it.

ATTENDEES: Erin Cyger, Anna Steen, Miranda Berger, Kathleen Phillips, Jennifer Solseng, Lisa Timmins, Dani Stoehr, Lara Demos, Lori Hungerford, Alli Schilf, Lai Niimi, Lee Muir, Heidi Blair, Melinda Barnes, Laura O'Connell, Margaret Powers, Reese Ande, Margaret Powers, Jeff McCormick

Smarter Balanced Assessment with Jeff McCormick, BISD director of assessments

- Last year was the first year BISD students took the SBA tests. They were expected to pass it at a low rate in the 30-40%. Instead the students did great: passing in the 70-80+%. 94% of sophomores passed the 11<sup>th</sup> grade ELA test.
- BISD uses the SBA to check and see if their curriculum is lacking in any areas
- BISD didn't receive any school achievement awards this year because BISD was not eligible due to the district's not meeting the 95% student participation level (mostly it was juniors who refused to take the test last year).
- At Blakely the students are told that the SBA is a celebration of all the hard work and learning that they have been doing all year. Mr. Ande tells the kids during their pre-test pep talks that all he cares about is that they do their best, and that the only one who knows that is the person taking the test. He tells the kids they can give him a thumbs up in the hall if they've done their best, and he gets a lot of thumbs up.
- SBA is not timed. Kids can stop at any point, and restart in the same spot the next day.
- SBA is required to be given in the last 12 weeks of the school year.
- Total test time for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders is 6 hours.
  
- In WA, SBA results are not tied to teacher or principal evaluations.

Thanks and Appreciations

- Thank you to Alli Schilf for all of her hard work on the Auction. Also, thanks to Caroline

Principal's Report

- Thank you to the PTO for an incredible auction and the community for passing the bond. There is a lot of great energy in the building right now because of the bond and auction.

#### Update on Auction Results

- Gross \$92,600 with a few matching grants still to come in. Anticipated net of \$73,000. Alli thinks the auction was so successful because the PTO did a good job getting the message out about what the PTO funds are used for.

#### Sakai Volunteer Opportunities

- Jenn Solseng returned to Blakely to make an appeal for parent volunteers at Sakai. Next year there will be 3 returning board members. They have about 10 positions to fill. Jenn is the only Blakely parent on the board right now.
- Myth: volunteers are not needed at Sakai. Reality: there are lots of volunteer needs; math groups, coding groups, game room help, library, Sakai Reads.
- Sakai could use money and community. They are holding their first community building event on May 21<sup>st</sup>: appetizers and drinks at Wing Point for parents and teachers to socialize. The emphasis is on building community, but there will be a simple paddle call. They are hoping incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents will attend.

#### Bond Update

- BIPSS is grateful and relieved.
- What happens next? BISD will interview architects to pick one. Then about a year of designing, planning, and getting building permits, followed by about a year of building. Hopeful opening in September or December 2018.
- New Blakely will be built on the playground, and students will attend old Blakely until new is completed.
- PTO is hoping to have Tamela VanWinkle attend a PTO meeting soon to talk about the process.

#### Upcoming PTO Events

- Family Bingo Night – Feb. 26 at 5:30 PM
- Book Fair – March 7-10
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Readathon – February 29-March 4

#### Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15.