

Bainbridge Island Blakely Elementary PTO
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2016

GENERAL SESSION

Place: Blakely Library

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Question: How many superintendent candidates did the search firm identify before the school board whittled it down to the top four? Answer: 24. Lori Hungerford won!

ATTENDEES: Erin Cyger, Anna Steen, Lisa Timmins, Lara Demos, Dani Stoehr, April Murray, Lee Muir, Heidi Blair, Caroline Reed, Lori Hungerford, Elizabeth Walsh, Joel Walsh, Kathy McGowan, Lai Niimi, Lauren Terp, Jason Terp, Rebecca Miller, Karin Knight, Reese Ande

President's Report

- Welcome and Thanks of Appreciation, especially to Lai Niimi for stepping up and taking over Robotics and Thanks to BSF and everything they do to support the schools.

Principal's Report

- Check out our new climbing wall.
- Science Fair is coming up
- School Bond has made its recommendation for Mithun Architects. Innovative firm. They use goggles to allow you to step into your projected space. They built Islandwood. Very diverse portfolio. Instant connection between staff and firm.
 - Building process will begin
 - Tamala VanWinkle is meeting with them today. Will meet with staff, work on timeline and get feedback
 - Blakely build will start first before High School gets started.
- Superintendent search – 24 down to 4. Two intense days of interviewing for those 4 candidates. Decision by next week, as early as Monday.
- Wednesday, there was a 911 call to the High School that there was a weapon. Within minutes, school was on lockdown. Turned out to be a false alarm, still under investigation. Safety and lockdown were handled extremely well.

Counselor's Report

- Karin Knight works M-Th. (.8). Thanks Karin for coming in on your day off.
- Karin talked about her history. Grew up on Bainbridge, went to Wilkes. Has 2 children, one is Junior in college and one is Junior in HS.
- Role of the counselor is up for review by the District. When prior counselor retired, the job went down in days/hours.
- What she does: Guidance Lessons, Administrator for SBA testing, Facilitator for Students, 504 coordinator, but the BEST....being there for a child

- Curriculum: Kelso's choice. Problem solving, communicating, difference between big and small problems. Emphathy, self-talk, talk about Bullies, communicate with others, focus on language, Unity Day, One on one with kids and parents, has open door policy. Currently not a lot of group time. Usually a teacher will recommend a child to her.
- Helps Reese with Class Placement. Blakely is an intentional place. Considerations are gender, behavior, special education, highly capable, past relationships, teacher requests, teacher temperament, child temperament, parent input, best child success. Process begins in 3rd week of May for next school year. Sakai sits down with teachers and gets input of 4th graders and uses parent input for student placement.
- Flexible Boundaries: when kids shift. Families don't get divided. Chances are if you are moved once, you won't be moved again.
- Does not do Highly Capable, does not do behavior issues. Karin may see a child once but 2nd time, they see Reese.

Bike to School

- Bike to School Day on May 4th. Kristine Cramer works with Squeaky Wheels will have 3 options for Blakely. 1. Bike from and to Lynnwood Center. 2. Bike from and to Islandwood. 3. Hike from Blakely Cemetery through Islandwood to Blakely School.

Bainbridge Schools Foundation

- Mairead Shutt: Thank you Blakely for your donation. Spring Campaign has started with Round of Applause for teachers. Hard work now begins. Money helps with professional development and grants. More robust mentorship program.
- May 11, State of Education on Bainbridge Island with guests Senator Rolfes, Tom Ahearn.

Upcoming PTO Events

- 4/21/16 Science Fair
- Teacher Appreciation Week at Blakely
- Community: State of Education 5/11, BeSmart Gun Safety Presentation May 4th, Screening of Screenagers on May 10th

Other Business

- Open Board Positions for 2016-2017: Holiday Shop Coordinator, Staff Luncheons Coordinator, Staff Appreciation Week Coordinator, Fitness Challenge Coordinator

March Meeting Minutes Approved.

General meeting adjourned.