

Bainbridge Island Blakely Elementary PTO  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2015

**GENERAL SESSION**

Place: Blakely Elementary Library  
Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Erin Cyger, Anna Steen, Lara Demos, Dani Stoehr, Tricia Kurtzman, Heidi Blair, Lee Muir, Lisa Timmins, April Murray, Smiley Kulesza, Alli Schilf, Bonnie Thatcher, Lisa Kueny, Suzanne Davis, Sarah Jones, Tara Wikstrom, Lori Hungerford, Erin Croman, Heather Jo Kochevar, Karen Hall, Jules Watnem, Rachael Gray, Kim Podesla, Elizabeth Walsh, Caroline Reed, Jennifer Pancholi, Karen Burke, Jim Edwards, Melinda Barnes, Christoph Kern, Lai Niimi, Julie Schick, Kori Abbott

Welcome and Introduction of PTO Board

Principal's Report

- I. Reese Ande welcomed the parents and had thank yous to share. Thank you to Erin Cyger and Anna Steen for being Co-Presidents and all their hard work. Thank you to Tricia Kurtzman for her Enrichment efforts and bringing Tap Roots to Blakely. Thank you to Lee Muir for everything she does. Thank you to all the parents for coming to the 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting and lastly, thank you to the two dads who showed up.
- II. Specialist Schedule
  - a. We have gone from a 6 day rotation into a 5 day rotation.
  - b. Once every three weeks, the kids will have an extra P.E.
  - c. Once every three weeks, the kids will have two specialists on the same day.
  - d. Lisa Timmins made an easy to read Specialist Schedule that was passed out.
- III. Thank you to Karin Knight for helping to create Positive Paws at Blakely and showing "The Science of Character" a Cloud Film about What is Character? What Builds Character? And I Want to Be.....
  - a. Character Video (8 minutes long) shown at meeting but was also shown to the Blakely Staff to reinforce, remind and teach the children good character traits and to grow from their own characters traits to become a better person and make a better world.
  - b. Still deciding if staff is going to show video to students.
  - c. Powerful video and more information found on [letitriple.org](http://letitriple.org)

Librarian's Report

- I. Kathleen Pool thanked the PTO for helping make the library what it is today.
- II. Changing Blakely Library to Blakely Media Center because the library is so much more than books.

- III. Discussed connection to teachers in classrooms so she can prepare and present material to the students that is directly correlated to what they are learning in the classroom.
- IV. Students check out books once a week and all books, for everyone, are due Monday.
- V. What's new:
  - a. Flexible, Predictable, Improved Access, Collaborative project based learning, Read, Research and Evaluate
  - b. Read alouds to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders
  - c. Material that fits with Common Core standards
  - d. Filling in the gaps where classroom subjects might be lacking such as more history.

#### STEM Specialist's Report

- I. Daine Bedell is back at Blakely teaching Science. STEM was a pilot in 2014-2015 funded by Bainbridge Schools Foundation and it is being implemented in all the elementary schools 2015-2016.
- II. Science curriculum will focus on Life Science, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and Engineering Design.
- III. Elementary Engineering by Grade:
  - a. First – Science Inspired by Nature
  - b. Second – Designing Walls
  - c. Third - Earthquake Resistant Buildings
  - d. Fourth - Rockets and Rovers
- IV. Focuses of Science at Blakely by Grade:
  - a. Kindergarten – Exploring Design, Pushes and Pulls, will work with Makedo & Rolobox.
  - b. First – Light and Sound, will work with Squishy Dough to create sculptures with circuits.
  - c. Second – Changing Earth, will work with Maker Studio using gears, propellers and winches.
  - d. Third – Forces and Interactions, will work with Bristle Bots, toothbrush heads and motors.
  - e. Fourth – Energy Conversion, will work with Little Bits and Makey Makeys. Showed a short video of Makey Makeys.
- V. Presented the idea of having a Maker Fair instead of a Science Fair at Blakely.
- VI. Volunteer Opportunities
  - a. On call
  - b. With your child's class
  - c. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
- VII. Lab Collections
  - a. Mechanical toys
  - b. Cardboard boxes
  - c. Container lids
  - d. Wire, chenille sticks
- VIII. Helpful Resources links on her District Website Page

#### Upcoming PTO Events

- I. Family Picnic Friday 9/11/2015 5:30-7:30
- II. Square One Art: Classroom artwork starts 9/14/15. Deadline in November to receive artwork by Christmas Break. All orders online.
- III. Health Screenings October 7-8, 2015 Volunteers needed
- IV. Blakely PTO Facebook – like it

#### Auction Chairs' Report

- I. Auction on January 23, 2016 at IslandWood
- II. Volunteer and Donate
- III. September 24, 2015. Kick-off party at Caroline Reed's house at 7:30pm.

#### New Business

- I. 62 New families at Blakely. Welcome.
- II. Robotics Class starts Thursday 9/24/2015 taught by Tricia Kurtzman and Lisa McCassey. Class is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Desired attendance 50% boys and 50% girls.
- III. Bainbridge Island Metro Parks and Recreation Department offering Bricks 4 Kidz, We-Do Robotics

General meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Attachments: Agenda, Blakely Elementary Specialist Schedule 2015-2016