

Bainbridge Island Blakely Elementary PTO
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2016

GENERAL SESSION

Place: Blakely Library
Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Question: How many votes did the May 2009 School Bond fail by? Answer: 19. Won by Alli Schiff.

ATTENDEES: Erin Cyger, Anna Steen, Lisa Timmins, Tricia Kurtzman, Lara Demos, April Murray, Caroline Reed, Alli Schiif, Lee Muir, Heidi Blair, Elizabeth Walsh, Lori Hungerford, Smiley Grace Kulesza, Lai Niimi, Julie Schick, Kathleen Phillips, Alison Cain, Pip Pipkins, Margaret Powers, Reese Ande

President's Report

- Welcome and Thanks of Appreciation to: Heather Jo and Erin Mead, Lisa Timmins for Artwork, Lee for Volunteer Support, PTO for making the grants happen (from Kindness Club Karen Knight and Kathleen Pool), BIPSS, especially Margaret, Ian and the School Board, to the Auction co-chairs, Allie and Caroline, to Faith for putting in waiver to not make up missed day of school (the one right before Thanksgiving break) at the end of year

Principal's Report

- Positive Paws celebrating Blakely's 3 rs and the Character Trait for month of January is Kindness
- Example of Blakely perseverance and gratitude was a Teacher demonstration where the teachers entered the building grumpy, no eye contact, avoidance. Kindness Club came with Hellos, eye contact and showed students what a greeting can make. Hellos went from 20 to 95%.

Open Questions for the Principal

- Last day of school remains the same.
- Parent Teacher Conferences in 2 weeks will be 3 full days off.
- Open House March 9. Book fair is March 7-10.
- Will a new school affect Blakely's test scores. Answer: Test scores don't measure child's ability. Trying to maximize potential. 50 year old building hinders growth. New building would mean time and energy trying to make an old building work could be used in other area.
- CAST. Collaborative Academic Support Team. Meets 3 times a year and discusses every child.

- Walk to Math puts students with other students of similar abilities. For 1st grade, smaller scale, more of introduction. 4th Grade math data is amazing and data doesn't support Walk to Math for them.
- Survey from parents regarding STEM is positive. Program is very successful. Science still happens in the classrooms, just not as much.
- MLK Assembly on Friday.
- Biggest Challenge at Blakely? Length of school day and the demand of curriculum put on teachers and students.
- Curriculum requirement comes from the State.
- State fully funded Kindergarten next year. Fully funded is not completely accurate. May have to offer some form of half day K. Not sure.
- Half day Kindergarten moved to Ordway because of transportation.
- Will the new Blakely have programs similar to other schools? Wilkes has multiage. Ordway has Spanish Immersion. Answer. Reese has not pursued these avenues. There are still issues that need to be worked out with the other programs at the other schools, i.e. Wilkes Multiage has huge transportation issues.
- A new building will offer more flexibility.

Auction Co-Chairs

- Saturday, January 23rd is the Auction. Need to purchase tickets by Friday. Online Auction January 16 – January 22.
- 4th Grade Aspiration Art online.
- Desserts: still need a few.
- Raffle tickets will be a little different.
- Auctioneer is John Kaminski.

Bainbridge Island Public School Supporters with Margaret Powers

- Steering Committee trying to reach Islanders. Postcards came out. Another to come.
- Website is full of information. BIPSS.org
- Bainbridge Islanders has a lot of information. Some good, some bad.
- FACTS: Wilkes was built for 32 M. Estimate to build Blakely 39M
- Need Likes on FB and share with friends.
- Quality Bainbridge gave their endorsement.
- People know Blakely needs to be rebuilt. The 100 building at the HS is a hard sell. LGI (Large Group Instruction) building is a hard sell. Fact. Difference of a 400 seat and 600 Auditorium is 2M.
- Auditorium – performing arts, band, theater, student body will use it for assemblies.
- Debt load to taxpayers low. State sets limits for Districts and Bainbridge is far below their limit.
- Need 60% plus 1.

Boys and Girls Club with Pip Pipkins

- Now located in Coppertop Buildings.
- Membership is \$50/year. Drop in \$10/day.
- Bus from every school to facility.

- On conference days open from 7:45 to 6:30. \$35 for entire day. Normal hours 2:30ish to 6:30.
- They are an extension of the school day. Augment education. Offer homework help, peer to peer groups.
- K-7th Grade. 120 Child capacity. Average 80-85.
- Can use teen volunteers for programs, leadership clubs.

Other PTO News

- Tricia Kurtzman is leaving the Blakely PTO Board as her son is leaving Blakely. Best of luck Tricia.
- Amendment to Square 1 Art percentage on prior month's minutes. Minutes approved.

General meeting adjourned.