

Birnham Woods Elementary PTO Meeting
February 9, 2023
Room A3

Present:

Tammie Allison, President
Stephanie Christian, Vice President
Cecy Camacho, VP of Hospitality
Christie McQueen, Spirit Night Coordinator
Jennifer Mathewson, Volunteer Coordinator
Jessica McCarty, VP of Fundraising
Krissi Famolaro, Parliamentarian
Kristen Michael, Treasurer
Larisa Grensted, Secretary/Communications
Shanna Myers, VP of Sponsorship
Stacy VanDuivendyk, Hospitality Co-Chair
Tristian French, Fundraising Co-Chair

Participants: Dr. Mikia Barnes, Jennifer Martindale, Faith Trepl, Ashley Speice, Christine Barnett, Anjanette Paul, Christine Hernandez, Jaimie Stitzel

I. Meeting called to order at 9:31 a.m. by BWE PTO President Tammie Allison.

II. Principal's Report - Dr. Barnes, BWE Principal

- a. Enrollment is at 1,001 students. We are now fully staffed. Latest hire is Ms. Smith (Pre-K).
- b. Thank you to PTO for the t-shirts. Staff was excited, but the students were extremely excited. Also thank you for the front office makeover! Received great feedback for how nice it looks.
- c. STEAM fair (district), 30 students participated.
- d. Spring book fair is coming in March. Ms. Dunn will start at the end of week and run through the following week. Will be identifying on site shopping days during lunch for two days soon.
- e. Random Acts of Kindness week. Counselors spearhead this.
 - i. Home to school connection. Each child gets a kindness bingo card with acts they can show kindness for, and a guardian/parent signs off. Students get a heart for kindness tree when they get 5 in a row.
 - ii. School-wide, daily kindness lesson on morning announcements, with kindness challenge. If they're "caught" being kind, they get a

“link” to attach to classroom door. Counselors will recognize the class with the most links.

- f. Counselor appreciation week. Show a little love and hugs to our counselors for all they do each day!
- g. Third nine weeks parent panel. Round table discussion in conference room. Four sessions set up (one per quarter). Questions are created by things Dr. Barnes hears from emails, PTO, staff, etc. Can be things we hate or love. Please share with Dr. Barnes because she has heard nothing for this quarter.
- h. Hines Elementary opening in August. Meeting tonight 3:45-4:15 at GOHS; creating a time capsule to put in the walls of the school.
- i. Bond planning committee has started. Met twice (2/2 and 2/8). Study facility and capital needs of the district and make recommendations for future bonds. 160 stakeholders at first meeting. Seven additional meetings are planned. Cost has tripled to build schools in comparison to a few years ago.
- j. Upcoming dates:
 - i. Feb 14. Valentine’s Day exchange in classrooms
 - ii. Feb. 17 and 20 student holidays - no school!
 - iii. Feb. 24 Spring Picture Day and Go Texan Day
 - iv. Feb. 25 CISD YOUniversity, sponsored by counseling department. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Walter P. Jett Teacher Training Center.
 - v. Mar. 1-10 Spring book fair
- k. Field trips.
 - i. 4th grade has submitted date. 3rd grade hasn’t decided. 2nd grade has landed on date and location. All are teacher-led decisions. Due to increased pricing and booking, next year will be booked in August for the spring.

III. Treasurer’s Report - Kristen Michael, Treasurer

- a. Cash Report.
 - i. Beginning Cash Balance: \$73,691.16
 - ii. Income: \$7,709.43
 - iii. Expenses: \$4,740.54
 - iv. Ending Cash Balance: \$76,660.05
 - v. *Krissi Famolaro motioned to approve cash report. Seconded by Trisitian French. Cash report approved.*

IV. General Updates - Tammie Allison, President

- a. Campus improvement being funded by PTO.

- i. Front office needed a refresh. PTO provided new furniture for front office and foyer furniture coming tentatively Monday.
 - ii. Backpack hooks. CISD will install permanent wooden racks with hooks (paid for by PTO). Our solution we put in over the summer has not held up, unfortunately.
 - iii. Chromebooks. Ordered 2 carts (60 Chromebooks). Plan to do this every year to get to 1:1 ratio student:Chromebook. Cost is \$351 per Chromebook, or \$11,288.90 per cart, which has 30 Chromebooks and portable charging cart. We allocate \$7,500 for technology budget line for the principal, and Dr. Barnes approved for us to use this, as well as using Penny Wars to cover as well. Chromebooks **must** come from CISD, so unfortunately locked in to their pricing and cannot accept cheaper options from parents.
 - iv. Playground. Need to repair a chain.
- b. Open PTO positions.
 - i. Board consists of 12 Executive Board Members.
 - 1. Four still have a second year of their term.
 - 2. Eight positions are opening up, due to terms being up.
 - 3. Tammie and Stacy “aging out” with youngest child as 4th graders. Remaining six members plan to re-apply. Not a mass exodus.
 - ii. President, Vice President, Parliamentarian, Secretary/Communications, Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Co-Hospitality, Co-Fundraising are all open for application.
 - iii. Nomination committee. Per our bylaws, it will consist of Tammie and Stacy (because they’re leaving), some parents and some teachers. They will go through the applications to see who will fit where. Will be narrowed down to a maximum of three people per position for the ballot.
- c. Alumni Scholarship. Given to two students each year, \$1,000 each.
 - i. Board Secretary will black out all names and any other identifiers on the applications, then send to remaining board members. Board will vote blindly for top two applicants. Certain criteria must be met to be awarded scholarship.

V. Yearbook Updates - Cecy Camacho, VP of Hospitality

- a. Price for yearbooks is \$30 until March 10th, and \$35 after that.
- b. School portraits are coming in.
- c. Deadline is April 6th for **everything** (ordering, custom pages, dedications).

- d. Custom pages do not have to upload pictures publicly. You can pull from computer drive and upload straight to your page. Go to “tips” on TreeRing. Customization has more editing options on the computer versus phone.
- e. Dedications, (previously known as “ad spaces”) are open for purchase. \$15 for 1/8th page and everybody will see these in their yearbooks.
- f. Please upload pictures you have of events/kids to treering.com!

VI. Class Shirts Updates - Jennifer Mathewson, Volunteer Coordinator

- a. Kids are loving the shirts. Teachers are designating “spirit days” on different days of their choosing.
- b. Parents will be able to buy the gray shirt for \$10 (nothing on the back). They are great for field trips and volunteer opportunities.

VII. Fundraising Updates - Jessica McCarty, VP of Fundraising

- a. Library updates. Two 54” Roku TVs delivered today. Will be on carts.
- b. Shipment from Demco of library furniture seems to be “lost.” Working on getting this in.
- c. Penny Wars. Huge success. Had to buy tubs up front this year, but next year it won’t cost a thing.
 - i. Note: How to win - wait until the last day so nobody sabotages you!
- d. Family STEAM night, March 4th, 3-6 p.m. Flier going out today. Teachers and local businesses will put on booths. Free to everyone! Hands on or visual type learning things. This is in lieu of carnival, and indoors! Premier Martial Arts is the sponsor.
- e. Silent Auction. Used to be in carnival, but it’s gotten really big, so we are separating it now. Second biggest fundraiser. Will run April 21-27. Will be more experiences versus baskets (won’t be asking for donations). Planning a social (parents only) get together for this.

VIII. Spirit Night Updates - Christie McQueen, Spirit Night Coordinator

- a. Upcoming Dates
 - i. Feb. 10 Chick Fil A nugget tray pick up (sale will be beforehand)
 - ii. Feb. 21 New Caney Gringo’s (waiting for approval)
 - iii. Mar. 9 Crust Pizza
 - iv. Mar. 28 Spring Creek BBQ
 - v. Apr. 11 Chick Fil A
 - vi. Apr. 25 Chipotle/Handel’s
 - vii. May 9 Jax Burgers
 - viii. May 12 Mother’s Day cake sale pick up, HEB (decorate your own)
 - ix. May 25 - Great American Cookie/Marble Slab and Main Event

- b. January Spirit Nights brought in \$443.67.
- c. February has already brought in \$720.68 and still have one more. WCC brought in \$455. 91 registered. \$265.68 back from Chick-Fil-A nugget trays.
- d. Gringo's in New Caney is on Feb. 21st. Tell them it's for the spirit night!

IX. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.