

Birnam Woods Elementary PTO General Meeting
September 12, 2024
BWE Room A3

Present:

Faith Trepl, President
Noor Ferrell, Vice President
Anjanette Paul, Volunteer Coordinator
Cecilia Camacho, Hospitality
Jennifer Mathewson, Fundraising
Jessica McCarty, Parliamentarian
Kristen Michael, Treasurer
Larisa Grensted, Secretary
Lindsey Newsome, Sponsorship
Stephanie Christian, Hospitality

Board member(s) not present:

Jennifer Martindale, Spirit Night Coordinator

Attendees: Molly Shearer, Elsa Krivosik, Ashley Lumpkin, Marilyn Bushay, Lindsay Adrian, Melanie DenOrden, Christine Hernandez, Tracy Byram, Richard Shea, Tristian French, Shana Meyers, Ashli Spellmeyer, Brooke Loafman, Jenny Smith, Brianna Gomez, Dr. Barnes, Hagebush, Janie Rountree, Leslie Pera, Patty Lewis, Ashley Speice, Erika Mendoza

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

II. Fire Marshall

- A. Thomas Varady (sp?), Fire Marhsall and Community Risk Reduction Officer. Has been doing fire inspections for schools for a few years. Inspections are usually done in October, re-inspect in November and sometimes December, which are usually the very busy months for decorations for PTOs.
- B. Allowable limits of paper on walls and doors: 50% coverage of walls. Nothing within 24" of smoke detector. Nothing hanging from tile to tile. Straight down from the ceiling is okay. 4" rule coming out from wall (3D display). Cannot hang over the door or wrap the door. Door decorations are allowed 50% of both sides, or 100% of one side, but still includes the wall area that it is on. If there is a column, it's a break in the wall and considered a new wall.
- C. Festivals: cannot block hallways and exit signs with signs/banners. If you have a game in the halfway, there has to be a clear path on one side, and

the game on the other side of the hallway. Entire wing has to be open if anybody is in even a small portion of that area.

III. **Principal's Update - Dr. Mikia Barnes, Principal**

A. So excited to see you here this morning!

B. CISD Updates

1. District is growing. 9th largest in the state. 60th in the nation. Schools span over 348 sq miles. 74k+ students. Dr. Null shares these updates frequently.
2. Culture drives student performance. Wants to recruit the very best teachers.
3. Safety is top priority. Convenience does not override safety of students and staff. Open line of communication 1888KIDCHAT line. Anonymous tips that go directly to campus administrator. Also will return email and phone calls.
4. 89 officers. CISD PD is 3rd largest enforcement agency in MOCO.
5. State funding. Anticipated cut of \$17MIL in January. Be knowledgeable and be aware and present and cast votes when opportunity arises.
6. New 7/8/9 campus by GOHS will open August 2026.

C. Birnham Woods updates

1. 834 bulldogs. 90 staff. Two vacancies - counselor and Life Skills aide. Currently have a long term sub for counselor in the vacancy.
2. Grandparents lunch - super successful. So many grandparents in the building! Every table (all 20) were filled up. Might need a photographer next year.
 - a) Advice: try to get grandparents the information if they've been pre-registered or not, give child's grade and teacher information. Possibly send feedback from Google form.
 - b) Need two of the same backdrops and "grandparent" on it for next year.
3. Picture day - tomorrow, Sept. 13.
4. Read for a better life next week. Reading team has created simple theme dress up days. Went out in Bulldog Blast.
5. GOHS Homecoming coming up. Will celebrate with GOHS. Will participate in two days only. Monday is blue out across the feeder. Friday will be Grizzly gear across the feeder.
6. Increased student engagement opportunities this year. Several teachers responded to the call to sponsor after school clubs. Three went out in Bulldog blast last week - GLOW Girls, Paw Prints, Spirit Squad.

- a) All club opportunities:
 - (1) Sci-tech (upcoming) - prepare for science event, go to College Park HS expo science fair, robotics, etc.
 - (2) GLOW Girls - selected last year. 3rd and 4th grade girls.
 - (3) Paw Prints - newspaper group idea from Ms. Meador. Will be taking pictures, etc.
 - (4) Girls On the Run - they run inside, outside, then participate with other GOTR clubs in a 5k.
 - (5) Spirit Squad - cheer and dance. Sponsored by Ms. Jess.
 - (6) Kindness club - 3rd and 4th graders.
 - (7) If you have ideas, please share!
- 7. Opportunities for student recognition.
 - a) Student ambassadors. These are Top Dogs, selected every 9 weeks. Leadership opportunity. Students get to choose a job. At the end of the 9 weeks, celebrate with parents, given a little Bulldog, come for breakfast..
 - b) SAEs. Every month, students can earn SAE from any staff member on campus. August and September had 131 SAE recipients.
 - c) Bulldog Best. Every month there is a character recognition from counselors. Each month they teach the students the character trait. Get popcorn donated from Regal and a cup from PTO, and extra recess outside.
 - d) Bulldog Store. Students are able to earn coins from any staff member on campus for a myriad of things. They hold onto these and then shop at the Bulldog store once a month.
 - e) Student panels. New this year - kind of like previous year's parent panels. Start with older grades and will work to incorporate the younger grades.
- 8. Staff
 - a) Sunshine club (brings sunshine to the campus staff), cultural awareness club (Dr. San Pedro - lead, from the Philippines), foundations committee (creates campus-wide expectations related to students).
- 9. Parent engagement
 - a) Heard about desires to volunteer within the classroom. Trying to create opportunities for this.

b) Bringing back Watch Dogs. Sponsor is Mrs. Baines. Goal this year is to build and create the program to best serve the needs of our campus specifically. Gives dads specific volunteer opportunities to be a father-figure presence on campus. Want a WatchDog Champion (spearhead that's been in the program). Contingent on how many volunteers we receive. Father Fridays - dads come on campus (at least one per grade level). Kick off in October with kids and pizza to hear about program overview. Begin having dads work second week in October. Grandpas or any father figures are able to do this, as long as they are cleared by CISD.

10. Site-based decision making committee. This is a team of stakeholders (parents, staff, campus admin, community business partner and community member). Budget/financing, staff development. Info went out in Bulldog Blast. Tomorrow is the last day to submit interest to be a part of this committee. Meetings are once per quarter. Public record will be made available.

11. Office administration.. Ms. Tanna Lawson is receptionist at front (returning). New nurse (Casandra Hernandez), new clinic aide (Rochelle Stuart), new PEIMS clerk (Jordiana Fruge). Two new secretaries (Lisa Hagebusch, Janie Rountree).

IV. Secretary Updates - Larisa Grensted

A. Approval of meeting minutes

1. *Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 9, 2024 by Kristen Michael. Seconded by Cecy Camacho. Motion carried.*

B. Bulldog Store

1. Easy to work! Sit on stage and make sure proper amount of tokens are turned in for prizes. First Bulldog Store is next week, Sept. 18-19.

V. President Updates - Faith Trepl

A. Spirit Wear

1. Last order just went in. Pre-orders should be in hopefully in a week.

B. Feeder Zone Shirts

1. Will be delivered to the school and sent home in backpacks. Don't know the timeline; maybe mid-October, but don't know the date as it is a GOHS PTO order.

VI. Vice President Updates - Noor Ferrell

A. Calendar

1. Have a calendar up through December. On Facebook, website, Bulldog Blast.

- B. Trunk or Treat - Oct. 25th
 - 1. Candy collection
 - a) Monster boxes per grade level. Start bringing in candy on Sept. 30.
 - 2. Trunks
 - a) Sign-up Genius coming out soon to do a trunk.

VII. Treasurer Updates - Kristen Michael

- A. Cash Report/Budget Report
 - 1. Beginning balance August: \$65,937.13
 - 2. Income: \$2,934.34
 - 3. Expenses: \$8,692.34
 - 4. Ending balance: \$60,179.13
 - 5. *Motion to approve August cash report by Stephanie Christian. Seconded by Jessica McCarty. Motion carried.*

VIII. Spirit Nights Coordinator Updates - Jennifer Martindale (Noor in lieu of)

- A. Spring Creek BBQ - Sept. 18. Teachers will be there to pass out rolls. Will hopefully post teacher schedule soon.

IX. Sponsorship Updates - Lindsey Newsome

- A. Sponsors - can choose what you want to sponsor. Different levels, or whatever you can give! Will promote your business at the events.
- B. Website - bwepto.org
 - 1. Calendar of events, documents, Bulldog Blast, spirit wear, sponsorships, etc. If it's related to PTO, look on the website.

X. Parliamentary Updates - Jessica McCarty

- A. Birthday Grams. New this year, hopefully coming out soon. Can do half birthday if student's birthday has passed already or is in the summer. Will be a \$5 trinket and will be given to teacher at the beginning of the week, and teacher will give it to the student on their birthday.

XI. Fundraising Updates - Jennifer Mathewson

- A. Boosterthon - Castle Quest theme. Kickoff is Tuesday Oct. 8. Focus this year is technology. It is a big need to get 1:1 test ready tech. Boosterthon paired with Dude Perfect again.
 - 1. Decorations
 - a) After this PTO meeting, having a decorating meeting. Putting these up Friday, October 4 and Monday, October 7.
 - 2. Volunteers
 - a) Opportunities for pep squad.
 - b) Will need day-of volunteers.
 - c) Room parents will help on day-of as well.
 - 3. Fun Run

- a) Friday October 18.
- b) Will share day-of schedule soon.

B. Decorations

- 1. Lots throughout the year. Will reach out for grade level programs, holiday, end of year, etc.

XII. Hospitality Updates - Cecy Camacho and Stephanie Christian

A. Stock The Lounge

- 1. Big ask from the staff; they love it! Will empty the fridges in their lounge and will stock with drinks, fruit, etc. on Sept. 24.

B. Fall Family Event - Community Fieldhouse, Sept. 28

- 1. Huge area that is turfed, golf simulator, batting cages, basketball court, bringing in life size games like Guess Who and Jenga, etc.
- 2. Tickets are \$10 a person. Children 4 and under are free.

XIII. Volunteer Coordinator Updates - Anjanette Paul

A. Room Parent Meeting

- 1. Tomorrow at The Falls Lake Club.

B. Volunteer Opportunities - we love that you're here! We cannot do all the things with just the board, so thank you for being here! So many ways to volunteer.

1. CISD Background Check

- a) Must have this completed to volunteer on campus. Has to be completed every year.

2. Volunteer Interest Form

- a) Go to bwepeto.org and there is a tab to volunteer and fill out a form of what your interest is.

XIV. Upcoming Events

- A. Picture Day - Sept. 13
- B. Read for a better life – September 16 - 20
- C. Spring Creek BBQ Spirit Night – September 18
- D. Boosterthon Kickoff for students – October 8
- E. October PTO meeting – October 10
- F. No School - Oct 11-14
- G. Boosterthon Fun Run – October 18
- H. Red Ribbon Week – October 23 - October 31
- I. Trunk or Treat – October 25
- J. Chick-fil-A Spirit Night – October 29

XV. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Action items:

N/A

Votes recap:

VI.A.1. *Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 9, 2024 by Kristen Michael.*

Seconded by Cecy Camacho. Motion carried.

VII.A.5. *Motion to approve August cash report by Stephanie Christian. Seconded by Jessica McCarty. Motion carried*