

Blevins Middle School PTO Minutes
November 9, 2010

- A. Welcome and Introductions: David Linehan, Brad Stone, Laura Ryan, Connii Rogers, Laura Knaff, Stacy Fridal, Donna Smith, Vi Wickam, Jenn Buchanon, Gina Zachman, Heather Vesgaard,
- B. Budget: Mr Linehan reported that the \$8000.00 approved at the last meeting has been spent on the computer lab upgrade project. He is projecting that the total cost of the computer lab upgrade will be close to \$14,000.00. Discussion regarding the PTO's previous idea of raising funds to cover the additional cost was held. Several points and ideas were discussed as summarized below:
- There were some concerns about asking people for money right now given the economic times and all of the different educational expenses that families are incurring right now. The Blevins Administration feels strongly that if efforts are pursued, they need to come from the PTO as opposed to a School request. The group agreed strongly with this point.
 - There was an additional concern that a money raising effort for the computer lab having a negative impact on future magazine sales fundraising as it is advertised as Blevins only fundraiser. The point was made that this is a different type of ask-not a fundraising event but a one time ask for additional monies to meet a specific need.
 - Ideas for additional ways to raise money, both for this and potentially in the future were discussed. Ultimately, it was decided that a motion needed to be made for approval for this specific need and discussion about other fundraising needed to be tabled.
 - Heather made a motion to approve a one-time financial contribution request specifically for computer lab expenses. This request would be sent in letter/e-mail form to the Blevins community. Jenn Buchanon agreed to finalize the letter and share with the entire group for approval with the goal being to get the letter out in mid November. This motion was approved unanimously with no opposition noted.
- C. Mill Bond Success: Mr Linehan reported that the Mill Bond had been approved by voters. The group celebrated this!
- D. Innovation and Efficiencies: Mr Linehan reported that he has been taking several steps in exploring things that pertain to Blevins response to the innovation and efficiencies planning. Staff and parent volunteers visited the 4 feeder elementary PTO meetings last month and shared information about Blevins. A promotional video of sorts has been created and was shared at these PTO meetings and will be shared in future efforts to highlight the positive things that Blevins does for kids. Additionally a parent survey went out via survey monkey seeking feedback on the direction of Blevins as a neighborhood school; and on potential designations or areas to emphasize at Blevins. He reported 149 survey responses so far and stated that so far, CSU partnerships, the STEM program, and further tying in AP and Performing Visual Arts to articulate to the RMHS program are common responses

from the survey. He also reported that overwhelmingly, people like the “Neighborhood School” focus.

E. Upcoming Events-

- a. The PTO Holiday Party will be held Dec 8th, location to be determined.
- b. The 5th grade activities night is one of several efforts to connect with feeder school 5th graders. It will be held November 19th at Blevins and is being advertised in elementary take home folders.
- c. Connii reported that we went through all the prizes at last years community fair. She plans to order \$1500.00 in prizes to replenish the supply and reported that she found a cheaper way to order than has been used in the past.
- d. Volunteers to sit on the Excellence in Education Teacher Selection Committee are needed. Contact Mr. Linehan if interested.

F. What’s Going On- Lots of sports and activities happening at Blevins currently.

G. Other-PTO discussed giving all Blevins staff a holiday gift of some sort from the PTO. The group agreed to address some ideas via e-mail.