

Blevins PTO Meeting Minutes - November 8th 2011

- A. Welcome: attendees included David Linehan, Rick Overton, Brad Stone, Heather Vesgaard, Ranelle Nortey, Laura Knaff, Debbie Mayer, Cindy Odenwald
- B. DAB Update: David introduced Ranelle Nortey as the Blevins DAB (District Advisory Board) representative and she shared the following updates from the recent DAB meeting.
 - a. Randy Stall was announced as the new Chair Elect for the DAB and Tricia Kobb as the Membership Chair.
 - b. There are 3 task forces with different focuses. They are as follows:
 - i. Task Force 1- Focus on individual schools via SIT (Site Improvement Teams) and SAC (School Accountability Committees). This task force is also looking at the disconnect between the initiatives affecting schools and the personnel responsible for carrying them out at each individual school.
 - ii. Task Force 2- Focus on Transition to new standards over a timeline of 2012-2014. The Timeline consists of 3 remaining phases; transition, implementation (and assessment), and transformation.
 - iii. Task Force 3- Focus on Assessment and Monitoring at a District Level. Software review aimed at tying Standards and Assessment to Grade Book is a priority, as is the district monitoring report.
 - c. Danielle Clark, the new Communications Director, shared with the DAB her 5 priorities in District Outreach and Awareness. These areas are: Mission/Vision, Marketing all Schools, Major Programs and Initiatives, a Customer Centric Website, and Mill Levy Accountability.
 - d. DAC is finalizing the District Unified Plan
 - e. Plans for next month include a Legislative Forum
 - f. Ranelle reminds the group that the DAB meetings are open to the public but for observation only.
- C. Minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were not available at this meeting but will be sent to the PTO for review along with November meeting minutes.
- D. Budget:
 - a. Treasurer Report was given: Magazine Sales significantly increased this past month. Some folks have reported that the booklets that students sent to potential buyers were received later than anticipated and that therefore, sales could continue to increase. We currently show a net profit of \$11,668.39 on this fundraiser. According to the revenue/expense report, the PTO account has a balance of \$8,467.81.
 - b. Commitments:
 - i. Several ideas were discussed at previous PTO meetings this fall in regards to what efforts PTO could financially support this year. The group agreed that the overall sentiment was that members want to support efforts that are on track with goals and objectives that Blevins Administration has identified in the schools innovation and efficiency plan. It was also expressed that the group would like to support efforts that benefit as many students as possible.

- ii. To the best of the groups recollection, previously discussed ideas were: Professional Development for staff in supporting students facing adversity, STEM curriculum, and AVID training.
 - iii. David shared that Heather had passed a training option on to him as a potential professional development for staff in the area of working with kids who have experienced trauma. This training would be at no cost to the school as it is offered by PSD personnel, and David plans to pursue it. Heather shared that there is also a poverty specific training available and that she will get info to the administration regarding that. He also shared that a couple Blevins staff members will be attending an AVID training next month but that no decision about AVID training and implementation has been made at this point. Finally, he stated that there is a video conferencing system that the school will be purchasing to enhance student learning. This system will support STEM curriculum as well as many other programs and will benefit all students. The cost of this conferencing system is approximately \$13,000 dollars-7,000 of which is still needed. The members present at this PTO meeting unanimously agreed to pay the remaining \$7,000 toward the video conferencing system and to discuss any other financial commitments as they are presented over the course of the year.
- E. Science Fair: The Science Fair –scheduled for Dec 1 and 2- is anticipated to be large with more kids participating than in past years. Folks are encouraged to check it out.
- F. 5th Grade Events: There are several events November through January targeted at incoming 5th graders to help orient them and their families to the Blevins Community.
- G. What is going on at Blevins: A Fall 2011 Blevins Update was handed out to the group. This one pager listed the various efforts and happenings at Blevins over the last year. It is a long list and the group appreciated it!
- H. Teacher of the Year: Nominations are being accepted for Teacher of the Year. Laura Knaff agreed to sit on the selection committee and also to take the lead on creating scrapbook for the winners.
- I. Holiday PTO Meeting: It was agreed that PTO will have a brief meeting, beginning at 6:00 pm at Blevins on December 13th. The meeting will be followed by some holiday festivity at a local neighborhood restaurant, likely Vincents.
- J. Community Fair-Laura received all the planning materials for the Community Fair from Connii.
 - a. The following decisions/assignments were made: Popcorn, Facepainting, Drunk Goggles, and Live Music were all “voted” in as things to bring back. David will contact Mr. Bretting and or Mr. Waido to arrange the music. Mr. Stone committed to finding a kiddie pool that does not leak. Aside from these things, Laura will send an email to the PTO identifying areas where volunteer leads (kitchen, cakewalk, etc.) are needed, as well as additional items that are needed. The smaller volunteer opportunities can be filled in from there, after the leads have been filled. David confirmed that High School volunteers can be utilized. The December PTO meeting will be largely focused on the Community Fair.