

General Membership Meeting - PTO Minutes

November 15th 2011 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

In Attendance: Katherine Merhige, Megan Sullivan, Amy Life, Claiborne Davis, Sally Wallace, Linda King, Nancy Bond, India Haun, Jeanette Abell, Brette Stephenson, Ian Sole, Lori Benedict, Wendy Eckerle, Betsy Aronson, Andrea French and Tami Rimkus.

| <i>TOPIC</i> | <i>DISCUSSION</i> | <i>ACTIONS/FOLLOW-UP</i> | <i>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</i> |
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| I. Call to Order | Approval of October General Membership Meeting Minutes | No further revisions | |
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| II. Reports of Officers | | | |
| A. Principal, India Haun | <p>Welcome from India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 week report cards are out. - The BEE bop was a success! - Mix it up in the cafeteria is underway. The children sit with someone new and have a conversation with different people. - The book fair is underway. - The Country Fair was a success! - Senator Creigh Deeds was visiting Brownsville today. <p>Guest Speaker – Wendy Eckerle (2nd grade teacher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wendy Eckerle came to talk to the PTO about the Innovation Lounge that is new to Brownsville this year. - The Innovation Lounge has been well received by many classrooms. - The 2nd grade team uses smart board. - Different grade levels progress through various activities as their skills change and grow. - They have set up a portaportal for the activities and lessons. - The lounge gives kids time to talk and collaborate. - It is being used daily by all of the grade levels. - The different grades teachers choose the time that they want. - It would be very helpful to have more classroom volunteers to assist the teachers in this area. - It was suggested to have a video or some sort of promotional activity to help get volunteers for this area and to help parents understand more | | |

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| | <p>about what is going on in the Innovation Lounge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We Appreciate support from PTO. <p>PTO member question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What technology is different in the lounge compared to the classroom technology? <p>Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the lab there is a smart table, touch screen TV, and a smart board – to problem solve. This gives the teachers an opportunity to bring in the class to re-teach some concepts. <p>PTO Members Toured the Lounge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was suggested to add a section to the PTO newsletter called - PTO dollars at work! | | |
| B. President, Katherine Merhige | <p>Welcome from Katherine Merhige</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed PTO meetings start at 4:30 in January and Feb <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There was no opposition to the change. – Child care will be provided. - In the spring, we will go back to regular meeting times of 6:30. - Thank you for all you do! | PTO meeting Jan and Feb at 4:30 | |
| C. Volunteer Coordinators, Sally Wallace and Nancy Bond | <p>Update from Sally Wallace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lots of Henley helpers for the fun fair - Note to Room parents – It is ok to send out a note to collect money for teachers if that is what you would like to do. | | |
| D. Treasurers, Amy Life and Josh Gehring | <p>Update from Amy Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Going well! - The budget items are falling into place so far. - The fall has been busy with fund raising activities so that helps with having all of the money available for gifting in the spring. - The Taxes have been filled out and gone to headquarters. | | |
| E. BEE Program, Sally Cushing | <p>Report from Sally Cushing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BEE blast email went out with class openings for the winter. - Would like to wrap all of the BEE classes before winter break. - The honor system worked again for the winter sign up. - We send out reminder emails to Pay or Drop. - Parents have been very responsive so we have never had problems with payments. | | |

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| III. Reports of Standing and Special Committees | | | |
| A. Sally Foster Fundraiser | <p>Written report from Heidi Brown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fund raising has gone well. - So far we have made \$1000.00. - Parents can still order through Dec. 31, 2011. | | |
| B. Community Spirit Day | <p>Brette Stephenson and Emily Crane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Went well even with the bad weather - Spirit day brought in \$300.00 for the PTO - Businesses want to participate in spring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring Community Spirit Day date TBD. | |
| C. Fun Fest/Country Fair | <p>Written by Kelly Gobble</p> <p>Overall, this year’s event was a relative success, especially when the following circumstances are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Change in committee leadership (almost all committee members were new to this event) -Change in season from spring to fall (resulting in an overall compressed planning timetable) -Change in day of the week from Friday to Saturday -Unexpectedly bad weather (snow flurries and cold temperatures) <p>Generally, feedback has been positive, and it seemed that the kids had a great time and the layout and flow worked well. The Pie & Cake Auction, which was a new event, was a big success, and raised nearly \$400.</p> <p>We are still in the process of finalizing our revenues, but expect that this year's Country Fair will net approximately \$3200-3300 for the Brownsville PTO. The Country Fair committee thanks everyone who volunteered and attended this year's event! Special thanks to Rich Boitnott, for building the Red Barn, and to Jim Hanchett, for serving as our MC for the evening.</p> | | |
| D. Square one Art | <p>Update from Lori Benedict and Christina Sandridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The orders and coming in! - The sales are going well! - So far we have sold 212 school tiles. - Last year we sold 255 tiles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PTO makes \$6 for each tile sold. - If a child could not afford the tile and wants to participate, please contact Mrs. Mahanes. | | |
| E. Book Fair | <p>Update From Katherine Merhige</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The book fair is currently underway! - Someone has stepped in to support the book fair next year. - There was general consensus that the space (Theater) utilized for the book fair is better this year. - The money raised by the book fair goes back to support the library. | | |
| F. Staff Appreciation | <p>Written Report from Heather Marcel</p> <p>We are celebrating the cafeteria and janitorial staff this month. We encourage you to send in a little note or something small to show your appreciation for this group of people. We thank everyone who volunteered to bring something in on that morning!</p> | - We are also holding a coffee for all teachers and staff on Monday, Nov. 21st | |
| G. Parent Council Report | <p>Update from Ian Sole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloting a new parent portal to track children's grades attendance etc. in HS and Middle school. - Crozet Elem has dropped in enrollment and could potentially drop with some funding. - Tomorrow night the parent council will start the budget process. - Administration wants to know what parents think and what is important to them- send an email to Ian Sole if you have some thoughts. | | |
| H. Kid Pan Alley | <p>Update from Sally Cushing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another successful session. - The evening concerts had standing room only. - We had plenty of volunteers. We used sign up Genius and loved it! | | |
| IV. Announcements | The next PTO meeting will be held January 10, 2012 at 4:30 | | |

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Claiborne Miller-Davis - PTO Secretary