

# **Auburn Elementary PTO Minutes**

## **Monday, May 7, 2018**

### **Attendance:**

Stephen Sevenser (principal), Ashley Nowak and Amanda VanTol (PTO Co- Coordinators), Elizabeth Garchow (PTO Co-Coordinator and Secretary), Nicole Kingsbury (PTO Treasurer), Diana Samborn, Julee Dillon (Teachers), three parents and one guest speaker.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Meeting minutes from March, 2018, were reviewed and approved. A motion was made to approve the report by J. Dillon and was seconded by D. Samborn.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Financial changes over the previous two months were covered, along with all accounts being brought back to their established starting balances for the 2018-19 school year. More detailed transaction information was covered in the Coordinator's report. A motion to approve the report was made by R. Buffman and was seconded by M. Shaver.

### **Principal's Report:**

- This is Teacher Appreciation week. Our teachers work very hard to help our students be successful and we appreciate everything they do to provide a quality learning environment every day.
- The school web calendar is being updated daily. It can be found on the school website at [www.bcpsauburn.com](http://www.bcpsauburn.com) and should be checked frequently for additions and changes throughout the summer months.
- The BAISD application to the Michigan Department of Education to begin the school year before Labor Day was approved. No formal decisions have been made yet about the calendar. Holiday's which are determined by the ISD can be found on the school web calendar.
- MSTEP is almost finished for the year. The state of Michigan is looking to discontinue the MSTEP for 2018-19, using the NWEA instead, which we already administer three times a year. This would eliminate the need for a second assessment being given in the Spring and is a test that provides staff with data they can use directly vs. MSTEP which does not provide staff with any usable data.
- 5th grade will all be gone on their annual trip to Camp Timbers this week, from Wednesday, 5/9-Friday 5/11.
- The annual 5th grade track and field day has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 7th.
- The 5th grade celebration is June 11th at 9:15a in the gym. Students will walk to Nori's for lunch afterward sponsored by PTO.
- The Kindergarten celebration is June 11th at 2:15p in the gym.

- The 1st grade Patriotic Program is June 12th at 2:15p in the gym.
- June 14th is our last day of school. It is a half day, with student dismissal at 12:24. The 5th grade and retiree clap out will begin at 12:15p.
- Our annual SI parent survey was reviewed. We had a lot of positive feedback, with a few concerns.
  - One of the main concerns is the parking lot. This is a concern every year and, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to change it. We have exhausted all options, aside from purchasing additional property, which is not currently an option. Parents following the established rules for pickup and dropoff remains the best option for reducing the chaos in the parking lot.
  - Another concern was school safety. The timing of the survey with recent national and local issues have heightened parent concerns. As we discussed at a previous PTO meeting, we do have a school safety plan in place. This plan is reviewed and practiced regularly; observed by local law enforcement. Intricate details of this plan cannot be made public without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the plan. However, please know that there are several steps in place to respond to a safety threat.
- Voting on the sinking fund takes place tomorrow, Tuesday, May 8th. This proposal is for 1 million/year for seven years. It does not increase taxes. The first item on our list if this is approved, is a school generator given the recent power loss during our school day.

### **Coordinators' Report:**

- Our March Money Madness Penny Wars were a huge success. The kids all had a ton of fun and we raised a total of \$919, with \$460 of that being donated to the Bay Area Women's Shelter. Our winning grades were 1st and 4th grades. Watch for this competition again next year!
- The Cosen's Life Skill Academy program offered in March was also successful. This class raised \$975 for the school. We are looking into another session, or two, next year, depending on continued interest in the program.
- Fun Fair was record-breaking this year. We had great help and the entire event ran very smoothly. Thank you all who helped.
- Color run was definitely one we'll remember this year! A tri-school event, for the first time, as well as having to be postponed due to weather for the first time! Regardless of the added hurdles, the race went off without a hitch when it finally happened. The option of continuing our collaboration again next year has been discussed, as well as opening up to additional schools. This is all something to be decided later on, with pros and cons being weighed heavily. Another option on the table to is branch out on our own to do the race, rather than going through the company we have used each year. This gives us more freedom in the way we organize it and run it, as well as adding additional hurdles and possible headaches. This is an option being reviewed very closely.
  - One issue we had during the run was a conflict between a veteran and someone at the race. The veteran is concerned that the memorial was not being respected the way it should be by participants in the race. We are

aware of, and are already addressing, these concerns. Some ideas include roping off the area and possibly moving the DJ station to avoid large crowds in the area. The VFW has also offered to have some veterans present next year to help guard the memorial as well.

- The annual Teacher Appreciation luncheon is tomorrow. We have many parents who have volunteered to provide everything needed. Thank you all.
  - Additional teacher surprise to come next week.
- Field day is June 8th.
  - This has been a K-4 event for many years. 5th Grade has their Track and Field event on Thursday, June 7th. They have also, in the past, scheduled end of year events at SVSU and MCC. This year, the Track and Field event was rescheduled, so a request was made by 5th grade teachers to join the K-4 Field Day was discussed.
    - Discussions included:
      - An additional 120 students on the playground and associated 5th grade behaviors in view of lower elementary students.
      - The need to add 4 more stations.
      - Lessens the time at each station or many stations will not be visited due to time constraints.
      - It's not fair to keep 5th grade in and not playing while the rest of the school is outdoors. "Fair does not mean equal." 5th grade has participated in K-4 Field Day for 5 years. They have experienced all that Field Day has to offer. A Track and Field event at BCW fulfills their Field Day experience.
      - Additional option; walk to the park instead?
      - Overwhelming parent input and support was to not have 5th grade at (K-4) Field Day and to encourage them to, where Track and Field does not fall on the same day as K-4 Field Day to explore other options.
  - Signup genius will be coming shortly for volunteer sign-ups when stations have been finalized.
  - There will be several stations involving water again this year. Please send extra clothes/shoes.

### **Old Business-**

- The outdoor classroom planning is well on its way. One of our school families has been approached with our ideas. We are waiting for a quote, and design input from them, before moving forward.
  - The proposed idea right now is for an octagon-shaped teaching area, with a pergola style roof, and benches around the outer edge facing the teaching area in the center.
  - Artisan's Landscaping will provide a quote for a hedge like shield between the outdoor classroom and the building to help mask student movement to the playground.

### **New Business-**

- We recently became aware of a program where you can apply for different grants for the school every 6 months. We just received a \$100 gift card from Aldi.
- We had a guest presenter from *Savory Sweets Fundraising* come to speak tonight. This is a Michigan-based company out of Grand Rapids. They sell ready-to-bake cookie dough, gourmet caramel corn and various chocolates, all made with natural ingredients with no preservatives. This is a fundraiser we will be considering for next year, possibly in November.
- Ashley and Amanda are stepping down as Coordinators at the conclusion of this school year. Liz will be staying on, with Laura Hill and Misty Shaver agreeing to come on to help. Thank you for everything you have done Ashley and Amanda, and welcome Laura and Misty! We always need more help though, so please let us know if you are able and willing to be more involved in your school's PTO!
  - Anyone wishing to become more involved in the PTO, please email [auburnpto@bcschools.net](mailto:auburnpto@bcschools.net)

Our first PTO meeting of the 2018/19 school year will be **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:30p.m. in the Media Center**. Child care will be provided by the Bay Arenac ISD Early Learning Development class.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.