

October 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Kela Rosario at 6:01 p.m.

In Attendance

Executive Board Members

- Kela Rosario, President
- Robin Sanborn, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Shouse, Secretary

Special Guests

- Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal
- Karen Jones, 6th Grade Teacher

PTO Members

- Blair Lansden

Board

The Board: Kela Rosario, Robin Sanborn, and Elizabeth Shouse were introduced.

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Shouse provided minutes from the last meeting for review. There were no questions. Robin made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen Jones seconded followed by the majority. All present were in favor of approving the minutes.

Guest Speaker – Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal

Ms. Weidner provided a brief general update on current items of interest within the school.

- Report cards will be going home on Friday, teachers have dedicated time for conferences this week and next week.
- Fall sports are winding down, winter sports are starting. Tryouts this week and next week
- Flu shot clinic is rescheduled to October 29, 2018. A new volunteer signup will be sent out after checking with parents who had signed up for the clinic that was canceled.

Guest Speaker – Karen Jones, 6th Grade Teacher

Karen Jones discussed upcoming drives for November / December.

- Thanksgiving baskets will be put together and likely delivered to families of BMS students on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving.
- There will be a Christmas Store drive for food items needed at the store
- There will be a Salvation Army drive. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes has taken over this drive and will keep up with it on morning announcements, etc. Ms. Jones believes they will be requesting hats and gloves.

Budget

Robin Sanborn provided a current report showing the income and expenses items incurred so far this year. Elizabeth Shouse asked if the video studio funds had been spent yet. Kela Rosario advised that the order had been placed and that Dr. Passek has around \$300 remaining that she will have spent soon.

Fundraising Committee

Kristy Hudson is absent from the meeting and Kela Rosario stood in to discuss fundraising activities

- Box tops are closed out. We raised \$224 from box top collection. The check should be in sometime in November or December.

- Next restaurant night is October 23rd at Panda Express. They do require a flyer to be shown.
- The PTO is still selling Belk tickets. They cost \$5 each and all proceeds go to the PTO. The ticket gives a \$5 discount on your order during the sale.
- The PTO is still selling Shelor tickets. They cost \$1 each and all proceeds go to the PTO. The drawing will be on December 9, 2018 at the VT Basketball game. The top 3 potential winners will receive tickets to the game and the winner will be announced during the game.
- The t-shirt sale is closed. We sold approximately 32 shirts, still tallying. There is about a 2-week turnaround on receiving completed shirts according to Ms. Weidner.

2018-2019 Fundraising Focus - Teacher Wish List

The board, Ms. Weidner, and all other persons in attendance discussed the items in this year's main fundraising focus, the Teacher Wish List. Parents may donate to the general Teacher Wish List fund or they can designate their donation to a specific item or department within the request.

Ms. Weidner presented a slideshow detailing items that have been requested by various teachers and departments within the school as follows:

Choir: the choir has a special event in November and has asked for assistance with transportation in the form of a charter bus. A member in attendance asked why they are unable to take a school bus and Ms. Weidner responded that the terrain is such that it would be difficult for a school bus to navigate and the event itself is a big honor that is more typically traveled to using a charter bus.

Band: Mr. Farmer has asked for 30 tuners which cost \$10 each. The tuners can be used by all students. There are 196 students enrolled in band. Mr. Farmer also requested \$1,000 in funding for music. Advanced band students' music can cost around \$90 for each piece and beginner pieces can cost around \$50 for each piece.

English: There are three requests from English teachers as follows:

- Mr. Whitten, a 7th grade English teacher, requests funding to supplement the Project Lit club and to supplement his classroom. Mr. Whitten works with Dr. Passek with the Project Lit club which is meant to promote kids to read books from diverse perspectives and appreciate diversity. The total funding requested is \$480.48.
- Ms. Wilder, a 6th grade English teacher, requests funding for a classroom library. This is Ms. Wilder's second year at BMS and she is building her resources and wishes to create a reading corner. Ms. Wilder has requested funding for a rug, chair, and non-fiction books. Non-fiction books are an area of the SOL tests that kids tend to struggle with. Ms. Wilder also wishes to purchase the series of books called "A Series of Unfortunate Events" that the children have shown interest in reading, and fidget items for read aloud book time which improves focus and comprehension. The total funding requested is \$420.00.
- Ms. Distler, a 6th grade English teacher, requests funding for a list of specific novel units that she has researched and tied to a history unit within her pod. The total funding requested is \$597.00.

Special Education: There are two requests from the Special Education department as follows:

- A Functional Word Reader Kit. This kit is a very useful tool for the lowest readers in the school. The kit can be used for more than one student and can be used over and over. This particular kit is found to be very effective.
- Additional reading materials for a Fusion Reading / reading intervention course. Requested 12 copies of 7 different books at a total cost of \$168.00.

Social Studies: The Social Studies department has requested funding for 9 chrome book chargers. These chargers would be provided to each teacher in the department and used for children who forget their chargers at home, so they can still use their chrome books in class. The total funding requested is \$468.00.

Science: There are two requests from the Science Department as follows:

- Pet care supplies to supplement the 7th grade life science curriculum. There is significant cost to maintain the animals. Between teachers there is a Bearded Dragon, an African Side Neck Turtle, Goldfish, 2 Anoles, Hermit Crabs, and other freshwater fish. Rose Norris has spent \$1,700 of her own out-of-pocket money on supplies for these animals in the past year. Having in classroom encourages students to make good scientific observations. The animals are used for multiple labs also. Children are given the opportunity to look at lizard skin under microscope. Indirectly, the animals help teach students certain skills like responsibility, kindness, compassion. This is an ongoing funding request.
- Breakout Boxes are requested as an interactive collaborative type of learning that encourages kids to work together to solve puzzles. The department has 2 boxes in use, but it is difficult to spread that out among the entire department. The already-made kit can be purchased at breakoutedu.com for \$275. Erin Bond determined she can buy supplies on Amazon and make 4 breakout boxes for \$250.00. Total funding requested is \$250.00.

6th Grade Teachers: Request for 4 armchairs to create a collaborative learning area in the atrium area at the end of the 6th grade hallway. The chairs requested are from IKEA. Having these chairs provide an additional, more interesting learning space. Total funding requested is \$325.00.

Board Discussion and Approval of Wish List Fundraising Items

The PTO had a \$3,000 carry over from the 17-18 school year that was saved and intended to begin funding items on the Teacher Wish List. According to Robin Sanborn, we have \$3,500 to spend immediately on Wish List items. The board along with all other members and guests in attendance, voted and agreed to spend the funds as follows:

- \$1,100 to the Choir to fully fund the request for a charter bus
- \$500 to the Band Department to partially fund the request, allocable as desired.
- \$250 to each of the three English Teachers to partially fund their requests
- \$210 to Special Education to fully fund the Functional Word Reader Kit
- \$168 to Special Education to fully fund the Fusion Reading materials
- \$250 to the Social Studies Department for partial chrome book charger funding
- \$250 to the Science Department towards ongoing pet supplies
- \$250 to the Science Department to fully fund breakout boxes

It was decided that the PTO would not fund the 6th Grade request for arm chairs at this time and would revisit the item at a later date. The board will put together a document itemizing each of the requests and the document will be placed in the report cards going home later in the week. It was agreed that should a donation be received that would fully or partially fund an item that the board has already voted to fund, those monies would be put into the general fund and likely used at a later date to fund additional Wish List requests.

Activities Committee

Kela Rosario discussed the upcoming activities

- The rescheduled coffee cart date is not yet determined. Kela suggested November 2, 2018 as the new date. Karen Jones pointed out that the week ending on November 2nd is a long week and coffee that week will be appreciated.
- The Fall Luncheon is scheduled for October 31st.

Q&A

All questions from today's meeting have been outlined in the above minutes.

Next Meeting

Kela Rosario announced the next meeting date will be November 19, 2018.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 p.m.