

Bluffsview PTA Minutes

March 17, 2015

Donna Kelley Memorial Library

Persons in attendance: Angie O'Brien, Kelly Needleman, Cindy Fox, Stacy Fields, Suzann VanNasdale, Michele Gilley, Mary Jane Jimenez, Molly Yeager, Jennifer Oswald, Michelle Popelmayer, Pamela Snow, Trent Bowers, Sarah Ruck, Kathya Mahadevan, Amy Tolbert, Natalie VanWinkle, Amy Krohn, Jeremy Anderson, Amy Beckstedt, Beth Frech, Liz Shafran, Shilpa Marano, Julie Henderson

Co-President Yeager called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Special Guest: Trent Bowers – Introduction and Background. As of July 1, 2015, he will be the new Superintendent for Worthington City Schools. Offered School district information, break down of options at both a middle school and high school level available to families in need of a less traditional school structure. Explanation of current testing conditions and how we can have a larger voice by reaching out to our congressmen to make changes. Introduced The Worthington Academy as an optional curriculum that will be available in '15-'16 school year, which gives a modification of the school day in order to address the needs of students, and will be housed in the Phoenix Middle School building. Enrollment process has begun and he does not foresee turning away any students who are interested.

Officers' Reports

1st Vice President, Kelly Needleman – Thanks to everyone for their help on a successful “Dads and Donuts” held on Friday, March 13th. Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 234 for picking up and delivering all 900+ donuts to the school in the morning.

2nd Vice President, Cindy Fox : Testing updates and thanks again for extra chromebooks and laptop carts that allowed for testing to run seamlessly especially w/ the 15 loaner devices given by the district. Kindergarten enrollment is underway for the '15-'16 school year. There will be 2 full day and 1 half day Kindergarten classes available. May 15th is scheduled for orientation and thanks to Suzann VanNasdale for working on the new parent information packet. Lastly, Bluffsview Archery team placed 2nd in the state championship. Three new Bluffsview BABIES were born to staff members of the school: Addison June (3/10), Teddi Minister (3/10) and Owen Comer (3/11)! Congrats to all of the families.

Treasurer, Mary Jane Jimenez: Income Report update given for Jan 21-March 17th.. Honorable mention to the Box Top Fundraiser that brought in \$941.70

Secretary, Angie O'Brien: Minutes from January request for approval. Motion made by Kelly Needleman, 2nd by Mary Jane Jimenez, Passed by entire PTA

Teacher representative: Michele Gilley - Thank you to the PTA for their help with Dads n Donuts. The plan is to make the day more of an “event” for future. With such a high attendance rate, we want to offer the men more of an experience. Invitation to all volunteers from the staff to attend their “Volunteer luncheon” on April 17th at 1130A in the library. Moms and Muffins to be held on May 1st, 2015.

Worthington Board of Education Rep, Robin Emami: No Report.

Core Curriculum Committee Rep, Marla Williams:

Parents need to know that the new assessments are a state initiative? That this is coming from the state; we didn't choose this; parents need to hear we are concerned about their kids' stress and anxiety. Parents think assessments and the common core are the same; message needs to come out clearly that these are two very separate things. It is very important not to confuse the two. These assessments are designed to ensure that students are on the pathway to be college and career ready. Previous assessments were designed to only show us that students had the minimum competency needed to graduate from high school.

Worthington PTA Council Rep, Jennifer Economus: No Report.

Old Business

- **Staff Raffle (Mrs. Fox)** – Another HUGE success raising \$1817 in funds
- **Directory** – All should have received electronically from Mrs. Fox; Please let us know if you did not.
- **Family Fun Night at Skate Zone 71:February 17** – Raised \$900 over both nights. Looking to hold more of these events in the new school year.
- **New Treasurer** – Announcement of Mary Dawson as the new Treasurer for 2015-2016
- **New Vice President** – Announcement of Suzann VanNasdale for the 2015-2016 school year
- **Traffic Issue/Update (Julie Lovegrove)** – First in person meeting to take place the week of 3/24. Committee members have been contributing thoughts and identifying problems via email. Meeting will focus on the “to do” tasks both short and long term.

New Business

- **MomsRising (Amy Krohn)** - Introduction of this non-profit, grass roots foundation. This organization of DC is working to be an advocate at a federal level to help moms with numerous issues including affordable child care, flexibility for working moms and issues effecting families nutritional standards. Specifically she discussed the need for healthy choices both in the lunch room and available for snacking in classrooms.
- **Positions needed: Curriculum Council Liaison** – Accepted by Kathya Mahadevan;
Room Representative Coordinator – In Need a Shadow for next year
Staff Appreciation Coordinator – In Need of Shadow for next year
- **Spring Carnival and Raffle : March 21 12-3PM** – Still accepting donations
- **Boxtops:** Monroe class won the Pizza Party; Merrill class won the popsicle party
- **Spring Pictures** – Will make an effort to change date of Spring Pictures so they do not fall during the same week as testing.
- **Science Fair 2016** – With such a huge interest in the community science fair this year, Bluffsview will host their own Science Fair run by Lucia Gertsmann and a committee of teachers.

- **Spring Cleaning** – Cub Scouts 234 will once again lead the Spring Clean up in front of the school as it pertains to their main goal of service in the community. This will be done on April 18th.
- **Supply Sale (Shilpa Marano; Julie Henderson)** –Explanation of the Schoolkidz program offered by Staples for the supply sale for 2015-2016. In lieu of requesting volunteers and buying supplies from the school the day of pictures, we will use the schoolkidz program available. Pricing is comparable and the convenience of pick up and ordering will be a much better use of volunteer time. Members in attendance approved the change. It will be a supply kit sale—parents will preorder their child’s kit, which will be picked up when coming for pictures and class lists. There will be planbooks available on that day as well. Parents need to understand there will be NO supply sale this year—the kits are the only opportunity for buying supplies at Bluffsview, otherwise, parents will have to buy supplies at area stores.
- **April is Autism Awareness Month (Mrs. Fox)** – Bluffsview will support the cause on April 14th with our “Light it up Blue” day, where all students are offered a sticker to wear for the day. With 3 Special Education units at Bluffsview and our continuum program for k-6 as a huge part of our school, the hope is to encourage students to discuss the continued importance of being kind, patient and respectful.

Meeting was adjourned at 835pm. Motion: O’Brien 2nd: Jimenez

Next Meeting (and Final): Tuesday, May 19, 2015 7:00pm

Discussions of next year and how to be a better PTA