

Blake PTO Board Meeting Minutes
12/11/2018

Meeting called to order at 7pm. Keven Gallagher welcomed everyone.

Attendees – Keven Gallagher, Nat Vaughn, Meaghan Glenn, Natalie Madej, Jennette Hasapidis and Elizabeth LaRowe

Board– Co-President – Keven Gallagher
Co-President – Jeannette Hasapidis
Vice President – Meghan Glenn
Treasurer – Erika Clarke
Secretary – Natalie Madej

Presidents Report - Keven Gallagher

- Welcomed Meghan Glenn to her appointment to the School Board. Moving forward as the VP of the Blake PTO she will recuse herself from any grant votes.
- At the suggestion of the school committee, K-8 PTO President, Claudia Rosen has asked that each school's PTO attend a school committee meeting. Due to Dr. Marsden attending the 1/17 meeting, Keven will not be attending the 1/7 meeting.
- Dr. Marsden is planning on attending the Blake PTO meeting on January 17th to present the budget for next year.

Principal's Report - Nat Vaughn

- Thanked the PTO for the luncheon, was very well received by staff. The staff training day was spent going over safety drills with staff reporting they were feeling more at ease with the drills.
- 7th Grade will be going to the Christmas Carol and 8th Grade will be heading to Christmas in the City.
- District Wide Challenge Success Update - HS students will share their experience in assemblies and several issues have been put on the table that have implications like HS later starting times, extending the day for HS and MS and Student Study Halls. All are being discussed as all have difficult implications on budget and efficiency.
- Dr. Marsden will be reviewing the Budget. Blake's specific needs include math intervention specialist to support the needs of students and structural needs as a new roof and updated fire alarm.

Vice Presidents Report - Meghan Glenn

- Michelle Barrett reported that the Teachers Luncheon went well with just a few learning curves ie. sign up genius and budget for luncheon big items. The teachers report it as a success and well received. Thank you Michelle!
- Next to come up is Career Day, all set for volunteers and will be run by Natalie Madej

Treasurer's Report - Erika Clarke (sent via email - absent)

- Current bank balance as of 12/2/2018 is \$44,998.96 adjusted to \$42,217.86 to reflect open payables of \$2422 plus \$359.10 for Thank You Fund commitments
- Current year Town wide Dues resulted in a payment of \$7,780 versus the budget of \$9,000. After collection, we received additional payment of \$100 that were deposited to the Blake account.
- There is no outstanding funding requests at this time.

Secretary's Report - Natalie Madej

- Last meetings minutes for September have been approved and posted on all websites.

MCPE Report - Elizabeth LaRowe

- Fall Ball was a success and raised \$53,000. This money will go toward the 'Fund a Grant' program for a traveling science program that worked with each level to identify specific needs. Blakes grants for 6h Grade as Animal Adaptations with the New England Aquarium, 7th Grade Engineering and Erosion program and 8th grade Motions and Energy both are with the Science Museum.
- Grant was given to provide 5 3D printers for classrooms for the EDU breakout (access for digital kits - creating problem solving to recycle scraps from a 3D printer to provide extra material for makers space. and last round of grants were microphones to allow for podcasting, Heim - public speaking class and poetry poles through exploration class to promote creativity in making a real object that will be put up in the courtyard.
- Trivia is targeted for February 8th and trying to settle on a new location.

New Business - Keven Gallagher

- Need to start looking for new board for next year as many are rolling off. We discussed targeting incoming 5th grade parents at the February PIN and Meghan to post after the Christmas break

Funding Requests - Keven Gallagher

3 New Grants to vote on tonight

- 6th Grade World Language musical performance by Josee Vachon in March, 2019 (date TBD) requested by Marua Batts. \$600. This will be for all 6th graders for a one hour performance in French and Spanish. Approved.
- Blake World Language Shelves to purchase world language books for Blake Library Media Center to be used by the French, Spanish and Mandarin teachers. \$1000. - Approved.
- Newberry Award author, Matt De La Pena Author to present to all 5 schools in Medieild. Cost is being split for Blake portion with the HS Library. Kerry Cowell is asking Blake PTO portion for \$1500. Grant approved.

Next meeting is January 17th, Dr. Marsden will be attending. We will also discuss Blake Appeal to go out in February. Ideally to have the board in place by April.

Next Town Wide is January 29th with final Town wide May 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm