BPTO MEETING

01-10-2019

9:00AM

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 148

Present:

BPTO Officers: Katie Morris, Danae Ledbetter, Mandi Byrd, Amanda Morrow, Sheri Martin

Elementary Officers: Amanda Morrow (CPE), Stephanie Jambresic (CGE), Taylor Honeywell (ETE), Crystal Haider (CES), Laura Dietrich (SCE), Bethanee Coerber (AGE), Julie Grau (TJE), Marci Pickett (WBE), Danae Ledbetter (REBES)

Middle Schools: Kathy Matherly (Barker), Krista Davis (AAMS), Tumeka Williams (CSMS),

Junior Highs:

High Schools: Alana Baranyk (BHS), Sheri Martin (BWHS), Angel Willis (BWHS), Wanda Meinhardt (BHS)

BPS Administration: Tanya Sharp (Executive Director of Student Services)

BPS School Board: Eric White (President)

Conference Call: Kristen Caldwell (OHMS), Sarah Castro (OCE)

Other Guests: Alice Haney (BHS), Rebecca Camarigg (BWHS)

BPTO MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome/Meeting called to order by Katie Morris at 9:02am. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and on conference call.
2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes - no suggestions/changes made. Motion to approve Creekside Middle, Bentonville High made the second. All approved. No discussion. Approved by majority. No objections. Motion carried.
3. Approval of November and December Treasurer’s Report – Mandi review of Reports. Motion to approve made by TJES, Creekside Middle made the second. All approved. No discussion. Approved by majority. No objections. Motion carried.
4. Old Business
5. Mid-Year Financial Review Reminder – Mandi has copies of checklists for review, also online on BPTO website. Liaisons should be reaching out and getting them done. Just a review to make sure things are going okay, questions, any mistakes get caught now and not at end of year audit. Balance to date, treasurers report and reconciliation report every month. Should have a non-signer checking this reconciliation report if treasurer is signing checks and doing the reconciliation.
6. Bylaw Update Committee – Sheri Martin is starting on it this month with putting together a committee. Looking for 2-3 people to review bylaws to make sure we are up to date and consistent with progressing times. It should take a couple of hours of your time. By laws are on website. Taylor Honeywell, Elm Tree Elementary will help. Krista Davis, Ardis Ann Middle will help. Look for things in bylaws you haven’t found, or if you have reached out and asked questions. Bylaws are governing rules that are over the organization.

Question - bouncy house rule in bylaws? – we can look at that, but might need to go into a policy and procedure manual

Katie would like to put together a policy and procedure manual – stuff that needs to guidance but not be in the bylaws

Question – Do DJs have to be preapproved? – no, but make sure they know what audience they are playing for

1. New Business
2. Evening Star Elementary PTO – BPTO is responsible for setting up the new PTO until there is a membership. Katie’s recommendation is to start now getting names and vote them in by March. Have been in touch with new principal about timeline. Nomination committee – Sheri Martin, VP, in charge – a couple people to help. Amanda has started gathering names that are moving to the new school that are interested in helping
3. Other New Business – when deciding on scholarships – membership needs to agree on criteria for winners; create rubric; find objective ways to pick winners.
4. Scholarships – letter that views steps and on back timeline; packet – shows all the schools criteria; do not all have to have same criteria; emailed out presidents and vice presidents to get contact info for committee; look at timeline -criteria needs to be turned in by end of month; all online – students can look thru everything and have 1 month to apply; consider having a rubric for scoring applicants; disbursement process is up to school

Question – If this is your first year giving a scholarship is there a template? – counselors will email out a criteria form – it is up to school to determine that criteria – fill out form and send back

Question – Do we have opportunity to change criteria? – yes – before January 30th

Bentonville West comment – had kids do a 2 minutes post instead of essay because a lot of these kids have to write a ton of essays that people don’t always read; lots of kids have moved from around a ton of schools

Question - Can you have alternate winners? - yes

Make sure kids are following directions; make directions simple and easy; make sure you use the criteria to pick winner that you have the applicants perform

Question – Can money be used for other things than 4 year college? – yes; make specific – open, 4 yr, 2 yr, technical

Question – Standard for PTO members? – Do you have to pay to be a PTO member? – Katie recommends not having a minimum payment to join (be able to join for free), but up to each school

Question – Can the counselors pick winner of scholarship? – yes, the high schools have a committee that does pick some scholarship winners, but prefer to have the schools set criteria and choose the winner

If you do not have a current rubric but would like an example email Katie to get one, or please share your current rubric with Katie if you would like

$17,000 from school PTO scholarships last year awarded

1. District Update – Eric White – what the school board is focused on update - officer elections were in November – workshop on January 22nd – renewing fiscal and building plans/10 year plan – plans going forward dependent on growth rates – state reassessed the formulas that provide money to areas to help do new construction – is going to go from 30% to 5% in our area- has to go thru legislation – board is involved with legislation to help keep this at 30%. – new elementary school is on track

Question – When do you find out about the percentage change? – subcommittee has been formed and the change was recommended by them – will go before the legislation maybe at the end of the month

Question – Is there something that community can do? – contact your local legislator to voice your concern

Question - Did we still receive the 30% funding from the state for the new elementary – yes?

Question -Are other school districts in same position we are to lose funds? – locally, Rogers will be the only other district affected – no other school districts affected because they don’t have the growth that this area has and different percentages that they receive

Question- Why are not building bigger buildings vs. more buildings? – efficiency rates for number of kids/ growth rate might stop or slow down/ land/infrastructure/ money

Question – What is yearly growth rate currently? – 550 students new students this year so far– 3 and a half was growth percentage for 10 year plan – haven’t been at that for the last 2 years, but still growing – Bentonville hasn’t been a steady growth rate – update plan every year – big factor – cost of construction has gone up –

Question - Districts boundaries? – November had tweaks – updated boundaries on the website – put in 2019-2020 – if you have questions where you are attending next year call student services

Question – When is the new junior high set to open? – still opening August 2020 –

Question - Do you have plan if losing money from the percentage the state gives – rezone/ push schools out – plan will still be in place and new schools will get built just might take longer

Question - regarding recess time – Arkansas is trying to pass a bill that you can apply for additional recess time – conceptionally good idea – operational challenges – teachers and staff are regulated on activity time/facilities/curriculum/ staffing – would be something you need to take back to your admin at your school to discuss

Question- What’s the chances of rezoning with more schools? – should hopefully be not be as much, that is the goal/ but there will always have to changes and depends on where you live

Tanya Sharp– new school on track to open - Ashley Williams new principal – students will get profile sheets sent home – make changes if appropriate – system roll up after all data inputted and will show what building your child will be in – hopefully district will send something out letting parents know what school your child should be attending

school will start August 13th – come back one day after Memorial day to finish as long as no snow days

high schools starting to talk about incoming 8th graders – starting tours, meetings about what kids can do – notification went out to parents

1. Next Meeting – March 14th – Nominations Committee (VPs from each school should attend) – committee for scholarships – try to get non-board members to be on this committee; Eric White bragging on Tanya and student services – people think she only deals with rezoning – our district had highest number of foster kids in the state, all of our special circumstances, we don’t hear how good Tanya and the district do to help those that need it; lets try to make sure we have good interaction and tell positive stories also instead of focusing on the negative
2. Meeting adjourned at 10:30am