

Butler PTA Board Meeting May 5th, 2016

Minutes taken by: Lisa Listerman, Recording Secretary

In attendance: Barbara Bulfoni, Rola Baghdady, Lisa Listerman, Laura vanderHart, Kate Weinstein, Katie Auffinger, Kate Bowen, Kathleen Conneely, Eliza Wu, Sabrina Tan, Michael McAllister, Gitanjali Rege, Britany Caruso, Parul Garg, Molly Arnason

Approval of Minutes - Barbara moved to approve, Rola seconded, all approved. Minutes approved.

Barbara was asked to be on a committee to select new Principal of Butler School. Her son is going to Chenery, so she is unsure if she is the right person. Asked if anyone is interested. Requires: Reading resumes of applicants and attending meetings. Mtgs are after school hours, approx. 5-6 meetings. Process will start ASAP. Trying to get different representatives: teachers, parents, PTA presidents, union reps, etc. Making recommendations for 3/4 finalists. Let Barbara know tonight if you are interested.

Candidates for Officers' positions for SY 2016-2017 - Nominating Committee (Katie Auffinger reported)

The Nominating Committee is tasked with looking for candidates of officers for the next school year.

Some of these have already been filled:

2 people will share duties of recording secretary and they are Parul Garg and Molly Arnason

In school enrichment - Katie Auffinger as new officer, Noriko Tonomura would like to continue.

Treasurer - Gitanjali Rege.

VP position remains open position. This is the only board position that remains open. Katie has reached out to some K parents and there was some interest.

Email will go out with the complete slot of candidates. Will leave open position for VP. Some coordinator positions are still open: art show coordinator, Fall picnic, Moving on Committee, etc. (see attached sheet)

Many, many coordinators are returning!

Question: who does grant writing?

Barbara suggested having grant writing as different position. She thought someone could be identified to help the treasurer.

Matching funds - there are under 10 for Fun Run. Suggests concentrating on 5-6 (bigger amounts) and combine fun run donors with membership.

What about financial secretary?

Spring Picnic 2016 - VP's of Fundraising

Discussion: Is it worth it, to have it by itself, given how busy the Spring is with other activities and sports?

Barbara thinks that if it is picnic alone, there won't be a lot of people. Last year it was combined with International Fair.

Mike - his impression is that Spring picnic originated at a time when there weren't as many events. Now that there are more events, no need for a spring picnic.

Several other people expressed reluctance at adding another event.

Kathleen suggested a dance event or something similar to allow kids to move around, i.e. a Spring Fling (for next school year).

Discussion re: International Night

This is great community building event. This can be added to next year's calendar.

Kate B suggested: Clothing swap event. She proposes coordinating it with town collections day (which are done in Fall and Spring).

Mike thought Spring could also be a good time.

People bring clothing to donate, organized by tables, sizes and gender. People pay per bag or are given tickets. Anything left over is donated to charity.

From the calendar point of view: early November or after April break are good times for such an event.

Kate W. volunteered to coordinate. Thank you, Kate!

Advertise town-wide and at local churches and community centers.

There is an event like this in Watertown that is successful.

Survey Results - Rola and Barbara reported

Budget and Calendar for SY 2016-2017 - Rola and Barbara

Discussed changing name for Membership Drive to PTA Supporter or something similar.

Parents have indicated that the term "membership" makes them think they have to volunteer.

Sabrina suggested using kick-off for that day.

Book Fair and Art Show are 2 additional events where PTA could have a table and people could sign up to become PTA supporters.

We are ending year a bit lower financially than we expected.

Kate recommended making more of an effort to get the word out that Butler PTA sponsors in-school enrichment. We want to raise awareness

Some ideas of ways to improve advertising/ raise awareness:

- Use the following wordage in newsletters: Butler PTA sponsored field trips
- Have PTA acknowledged in permission slip
- Could it be in the name "enrichment" - this is not as clear as the terms "field trip" or "assembly"
- Mike thought it could be on the school to say something like: Enrichment field trip brought to you by PTA

Vote - Mike moved to not have Spring Picnic. Seconded by Laura. All were in favor, no one opposed.

Discussion re: time of PTA meetings: Rola and Kathleen have thought about making some of the PTA meetings in the morning.

Perhaps alternate: General meetings in the morning, board meetings in the evening.

Most families are working parents.

Survey says: parents prefer night

Idea: combine Morning with the Principal with a General Meeting.

Parents really like access to the teachers. The Social-Emotional learning General meeting was very well attended.

Sabrina recommended letting people know the date of Fun Run well ahead of time, so parents can ask for time off from work and/ or plan.

There is an issue with the date. Mr. Trodden thinks it is late (wet leaves, cold, Wednesday flip-flop schedule). He prefers 10/21 as a date, with 10/28 as rain date.

We will add Spring Fling in March and Clothing swap to calendar. People liked the Clothing swap event for November, with a collection on Friday night, open doors on Saturdays. Barbara will send out the calendar after waiting to hear from people. Will approve in June.

Parent Night Out - could be fundraiser
Or Maybe a Paint Night

No more Conley's Night - the last event had only 4 families and Conleys was not able to give any \$.

It is a nice idea to frequent local business (Phenix, Kitchen on Common)

Sabrina volunteered to coordinate this Parents' Night out. Thanks, Sabrina!

Question: Could we pair this with babysitting?

Budget

Will add a few lines for International Fair and Clothing swap

Made some changes - increased income from Fun Run

Changed projected income for Electronic Recycling

Lowered projected income from grants for in-school enrichment.

Discussion re: how can we get more grants? There is 1 Butler parent (Jim Clem) who sits on FBE Grant committee.

Mike suggested that principal better set expectation with teachers that they need to **one field trip** per year. As of now, everyone is expected to do 1 field trip per year. Mike will set that expectation before he leaves and let new principal know.

Noriko: would want teachers to take more ownership and planning with field trips, while PTA provides funds.

Noriko suggested she could write up a PTA role in field trip, clear it with principal, who would then give to teachers. This could clarify expectations of PTA vs. teachers.

June 9th - 2nd grade trolley tour. Docent: Bruce MacDonald

Survey

75% (compared to last year) responded this year.

Question: should we repeat survey every year?

Barbara suggested doing it again next year to identify trends. Kate B. thinks yearly makes sense, given the changing population.

One suggestion was a summary of PTA meetings in newsletter, with bullet points.

Barbara thanked Board members.

Mike thanked and appreciated Barbara and Rola for their term as presidents of PTA.

Barbara acknowledged Laura as former PTA president, who has been very helpful.

Meeting adjourned.

