

Banneker Elementary School

PTO Agenda

February 14, 2018 9:30 AM

Attendees: Bryan Cornell, Kelly Nash, Brandi Bishop, Tina Martin, Megan Rafalski, Sue Foote, Robert Carter, Katie Knox, Kathryn Tyrell (Middleburg Community Center), Marti Bigley, and Elizabeth Miller

President's Report: Brandi Bishop and Kelly Nash

- Planetarium status
 - March 6 (Tuesday) Cosmic Adventures 8:00-2:00
 - \$620
 - Each grade gets 45 minutes of time in the dome (guided tour of whole universe)
 - Camp Read-A-Lot 2/15 from 5:00-6:30 PM
 - Grades K-2
 - Guided reading methods for parents
 - Camping theme
 - Tennis Club
 - Racquet drawing - Rick Fisher won racquet
 - Feb 16th - Mar 23 (Fridays - K-5)
 - Spring tennis session starting after spring break on Wednesday and Friday
 - Boosterthon parent feedback
 - Raising money for school is important
 - Parents support professional development for teachers
 - Multiple parents have expressed concerns about the duration and intensity
 - Prizes used to encourage children to raise money are excessive
 - Students should be encouraged to fundraise to benefit the school, not to earn prizes
 - Parents didn't like putting student information and photos/videos on-line. Not sure about the security of the Boosterthon website
 - Parents felt that the character building huddles were better suited for older students
 - Students are receiving prizes before doing the work (the run). It sends the wrong message
 - Students are being rewarded with prizes for their parents giving money, not for doing work
 - Not all families have the means to compete for prizes by giving donations
 - Younger students are crying over not winning "free" prizes
 - Boosterthon misleads young students by telling them that their parents just need to "login and pay \$1" to earn a prize
 - Unlike most other fundraisers, there's no option for families to opt-out of the Boosterthon. Parents cannot simply ignore a flyer and choose not to participate when their children marketed to daily during school
 - Adults are pressuring children daily to ask their parents to donate in order win prizes
 - Social pressure put on students especially younger students
 - Concerned about the message sent to students - students don't know that they are raising money for teacher professional development. They think they are raising money to win prizes
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- Parents would like to give to the school, but knowing that 50% of the money goes to the Boosterthon company prevents them from doing so
 - PTO historically has discontinued other fundraisers (Charleston Wrap) that offered prizes as rewards
 - Banneker is not a wealthy community, giving away half of the donations to the school is wasteful
 - Parents felt like the communications weren't detailed and somewhat misleading. The cut given to the company was not communicated
 - Glow Run will take place at the Middleburg Community Center. School will use small part of its field trip bus budget allotment used for transportation
 - Boosterthon fees pay for human resources and assistance in the school during the event
 - Every student will get a t-shirt on Friday covered by Boosterthon fees
 - Money raised will send teachers to a conference in DC
 - Want to keep Banneker competitive with other schools
 - Banneker decided not to give prizes in public – prizes were given in discreet blue bags at the end of the day
 - Banneker should run a similar event themselves “Bannethon”
 - Famous Olympians / teamwork
 - 5th graders can build a training center for kindergarten
 - Have a training event leading up to a running event – Banneker 5K/Turkey Trot
 - Know about the fundraiser in advance in order to budget for it
 - PTO Coffee - Petit LouLous 2/22 at 9:30AM
 - Suggestion to have next coffee on a Tuesday
 - 5th Grade Bingo cancelled?
 - Have 2 donors for field trip, fundraising not necessary
 - Maybe an April/outdoor event – ideas include pizza in the park/play in the park/kick ball, Bake Sale before talent show, etc
 - 5th grade room parents can determine what is needed
 - Box Tops due 2/23
 - Handball Tournament 3/10 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM at Round Hill Elementary School
 - Shirts are ordered and shirts will arrive on-time
 - Pay Spirit Wear vendor – invoice to be sent to PTO for payment
 - There are additional Spirit Wear orders for teachers that will need to be paid/reimbursed. Elizabeth will work with Meredith on payment
 - Winter Family Fun Night 3/16
 - FFF meeting 2/22 at 9:30AM at Petit LouLous
 - Work on layout to make it easier for custodians
 - Volunteers include Banneker and Girl Scouts
 - Marti Bigley has raised \$575 in cash donations to date
 - \$500 from Kohls? FFF had to reapply due to glitch in system
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- Do we have a contact at Kohls to get the volunteers?
 - Giant \$25, Harris Teeter \$130
 - Need contact at Upper Crust
 - Ask volunteers to make cakes
 - 25 cakes
 - Special Events Permission Form
 - Susan to complete/submit
 - Facilities Use Form needs to be signed (Susan/Mr. Carter)
 - Raffle off prizes for milk jug guesses
- Talent Show 4/13
 - Rehearsal 2/23 to be held in classroom
 - Rehearsal 3/9 to be held in classroom
 - 4/6 and 4/12 are dress rehearsal dates for multipurpose room
 - Sherry Doyle and Keena Wilt to run
- Teacher Appreciation Week 5/7 -5/11
 - Daily themes have been planned
 - Provide details to Mr. Carter after FFF
- Math Software - IXL and Reflex (2017 cost?)
 - IXL is widely used
 - Reflex used for younger students for math fluency
 - Both programs fulfill needs better than free software
 - Is there another option for software? Dreambox is free to schools provided by county – conceptualizing math
 - Other means for funding the software?
- Need LEAP and SEAC representatives
 - Push to 2018-2019 – no parent volunteers for this school year
- Wildlife Ambassadors status
 - April – No date yet.
- Does the PTO want to have smaller “Otium” type of fundraiser in the spring?
 - Spring can be a busy time for families
 - Dirt Farm offered to host Banneker on a Thursday
 - Mrs. Beach may have a contact at Dirt Farm
 - PTO could host a small fundraising activity off-site at this event
- Upcoming School Board meeting dates 2/27 (full board small school closure policy review), 3/13, 4/10

Secretary’s Report: Susan Strong

- Susan will send a reminder of events to Banneker families

Treasurer’s Report: Meredith Gurdak

- Current Budget
 - Vote on fund requests:
 - Approved \$ 337.50 for Family Fun Fair games
 - Approved \$18.88 for DARE shirt shipping fees
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- Approved \$30 for Mrs. Lynch to purchase headphones for the classroom
- Received donation for purchase of Handball shirts

Principal's Report: Robert Carter

- Banneker is a Title I eligible school. Potentially eligible for federal grants. Reduced price assemblies?
- Boosterthon presentation
 - Maria and Ellie - Students seem excited about the program and have enjoyed working with the Banneker students and staff.
 - Feedback/rewards extrinsic and not altruistic and intrinsic
- Middleburg Community Center presentation
 - Not for profit unlike other Community Centers
 - Banneker invited to use center.
 - Bingo - 2/17 6:30 - 9:30 includes dinner (chili)
 - 4/5 Mommy and me yoga on Thursdays
 - Summer camps - YMCA will be offering camps in July Sports, cooking, etc.
 - Katie asked about the background checks for camp counselors
 - Would like to offer preschool again
 - Could be a good location for Fall Festival?? Not for profit rental rates
 - 260 ppl
 - Tables and chairs are provided for indoors only
 - No tents, linens
- Parent Surveys sent out in February - please submit by 2/17.
 - Susan will post reminder on Facebook
- Article in Middleburg Life - Robert Carter
 - Susan will post on Facebook
- Hiring for Banneker for 2018-2019
- Jenny Conrad - hired as full-time cafeteria monitor. Beth Miller is volunteer back-up.
- Banneker is being recognized for MTSS (Multi Tiered System of Support) early intervention.
- Leadership Notebooks (donations paid for them)
 - Kids are enjoying the notebooks and are using as tools for learning.
- Goal to get supervisors to visit school - Director of Math visiting Banneker.
 - Math Learning Walk

Teacher Liaison - Bryan Cornell

New Business

- Fix front step/sidewalk entrance to from Snake Hill Road
 - Flooded and ice covered. Improper drainage
 - Safe Route to School to review
 - Log complaints with VDOT for improvement
 - Susan will send information to log requests for repairs
 - Gift basket by classrooms
 - Room parents organize themed gifts baskets to be auctioned
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