

Banneker Elementary School

PTO Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2017 9:30 AM

Attendees: Kelly Nash, Susan Strong, Meredith Gurdak, Brandi Bishop, Sarah Nace, Megan Rafalski, Harry Bigley, Elizabeth Miller

President's Report: Brandi Bishop and Kelly Nash

- Welcome Meredith Gurdak as PTO Treasurer
- Forget It Fundraiser status - \$1305
- Original Artwork sent to vendor on 11/17 and should be delivered before Winter Break
- Spirit Wear arrived on 12/1
 - *Good feedback and excitement from families.*
 - *Re-opened Spirit Wear Store until 12/15.*
 - *Elizabeth will send Susan store details to send to families.*
 - *\$111 profit – PTO approved reusing money to buy shirts for sale at future events.*
 - *Will work with Mrs. Warner to ensure all students have access to purchasing shirts - Mrs. Warner/Meredith/Elizabeth.*
 - *Open Spirit Wear Store in summer before school begins.*
 - *Elizabeth to organize a Spirit Week to show-off new shirts. Will coordinate with Mr. Carter. Each day can be a different theme.*
 - *Have a Spirit Wear sales point at Family Fun Fair.*
 - *K gets shirts for free at the beginning of the year - tabled.*
- Election Day Bake Sale status - \$421.60
 - *Philomont and Banneker for future bake sale locations.*
- Amazon Smile - \$32
 - *Holiday reminder for families to use Amazon Smile - Susan to send.*
 - *Harris Teeter reminder TIE (with code for register registration)*
- Turkey Trot Status
 - *So far \$1758 counted, more in Treasurer Box from pledge sheets that were turned in after Thanksgiving Break.*
 - *Great event. Well organized, fun for volunteers. Highlighted Banneker community strengths.*
 - *Volunteers enjoyed cheering along the track and the station rotations.*
 - *Need to send final pledge reminder to close-out event. Susan will email.*
 - *Mr. Moss liked sign. Felt like a positive community event.*
- LVHS Scholarship – application sent to LVHS on November 17th
- Family Fun Fair (3/16)
 - *In the future, it will be a fall carnival and fundraiser so that the event can take place outside.*
 - *Move Teacher Bingo to winter?*
 - *Popcorn from movie theater easier than fresh popping. Kelly volunteered to be popcorn attendant.*

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- Kohl Cares can provide volunteers for event. Volunteers are vetted with background checked. Would allow parents to enjoy themselves/not volunteer. Parents raised concerns about the breadth of the background check.
- Milk Jugs will be collected starting 12/6. Collection bin in main lobby.
- Planetarium status (Brandi)
 - Select dates - Feb 8/9 or 22/23 - Need Mr. Carter's input.
 - Mr. Carter needs to schedule with Middleburg Charter or Brandi can schedule independently.
- School Board Updates
 - Facilities and Finance Committee working to revise policy on school consolidation/facility retirement. Committee action anticipated on 12/12.
 - Who will attend Facilities and Finance meeting on 12/12? - Harry and Kelly - Need time (Susan)
 - Lincoln and Hamilton are being targeted for consolidation.
 - Small school coalition working to promote the advantages of all small schools. Banneker should work to highlight its own value, history, and culture but also participate in the small schools coalition because there is strength in numbers.
 - Current plan is to keep this in committee F&F and stall it out.
 - Green incentive designation?
 - Historical significance of building established in 2016, plaque received, school board voted continuing the study down.
 - Kevin Pavlok, to do a historical study of area/building (Harry Bigley). Mosby Heritage area - preservation through education. Studies the history of the region (not just Civil War).
 - Develop a program for students in the Mosby Heritage Area to create value and pride. Harry Bigley
 - School Board often pushes small schools to go Charter in order to stay open.
 - Too many charter schools in the area.
 - Differentiating Banneker and why it's special - takes advantage of our rural heritage, community/public outreach.
 - Community of St Louis - Banneker reunion. Elizabeth is interested in pursuing this.
 - JK Moving - looking to reinvest in community/good opportunity to invest.
 - Send notes to local paper to generate buzz around Banneker.
 - Send a schedule of School Board meetings to families. Susan
 - Get Gooditis involved
 - Save culture/community
 - Can we build here and repurpose the existing building?
 - Document the benefits of a small school
 - Discussion tabled - separate meeting to discuss School Board at PTO coffee in January.

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- Teacher's Lounge Snack Status
 - *The PTO is losing money on running the lounge.*
 - *Kelly will talk to Jennifer about discontinuing stocking the teacher's lounge starting in 2018. PTO will collect money through December.*
- Teacher Treats
 - *5th grade room parents were responsible for November and enjoyed the experience. Feedback was good.*
 - *Resumes in January 2018.*
- Traveling Theater/LVHS/Blue Ridge Drama Clubs (Kelly Nash/Mr. Carter)
 - *Play in February not in conflict with Boosterthon – Kelly will coordinate.*
- Lowes Grant will fund Wildlife Ambassadors
 - *Assembly to coincide with the opening of the Nature Trail. Mr. Carter will plan.*
- 5th Grade Bingo
 - *Uses money to cover/subsidize the cost of spring field trip: Baltimore Aquarium and Science Museum, lunch.*
 - *Mrs. Warner can provide the number of students who might need financial assistance.*
 - *PTO may be able to assist.*
 - *5th Grade Bingo tentative date - 2/23/18 - Need Mr. Carter's input.*
- Talent Show Date/Sherry Doyle
 - *Tentative dates - April 11, 12, and 13th - Need Mr. Carter's input.*
- Pastries for Parents / Breakfast at Banneker
 - *In the past, Mr. Carter has run the event. Does he wish to continue or allow the PTO to run? Need Mr. Carter's input.*
 - *Invite students to share pastry/breakfast with parents.*
 - *Event should be in the morning at/before student drop-off.*
 - *Do we sponsor a combined event instead of individual Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dad? Pastries for Parent/Breakfast at Banneker? Simplify.*
 - *Need a date*
- Tennis Club/after school program for winter - Need Mr. Carter's input.
 - *Cost per student and dates.*
 - *Need 4 kids interested to start it.*
 - *USTA – can be done in Multipurpose Room during winter. Move to black top in spring.*
 - *Coach provides all equipment.*
 - *January/February for 6 weeks after school. \$80.*
 - *One day for K-2 and another for 3-5 age groups.*
 - *Need sign-ups/flyers – Susan/Kelly.*
 - *Mr. Carter needs to help to schedule.*
 - *Kelly – will choose 6 weeks program and communicate.*
 - *USTA to donate goodies to promote Tennis Club.*

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- Banneker Night for Washington Capitals game
 - *Could we get a Charter bus?*
 - *Charter Bus Cost – Mr. Cornell.*
 - *Cost of tickets.*
 - *Ends in March.*
 - *Susan will coordinate with Katie Knox and Mr. Cornell.*
- PTO Coffee 1/17/18 at Mom's Apple Pie at Hill High – at 9:30AM will also cover School Board info.
- Read-a-thon for later winter/spring?

Secretary's Report: Susan Strong

- January PTO meeting - 1/10/18

Treasurer's Report: Meredith Gurdak

- Current Budget
 - *Meredith will email budget.*
- Vote on fund requests:
 - *DARE Shirts – \$208 Mr. Cornell choose cooler shirts- Approved*
 - *Lowe's Grant – Bird Feeding Station 239.80 - Approved by Lowe's Grant Committee.*

Principal's Report: Robert Carter

- Barbara Comstock will be visiting Banneker on 12/11 to kick-off Banneker's 70th anniversary.
 - *5th Grade students are making a video to share with Rep. Comstock.*
 - *Public Information Officer, Superintendent, and Purcellville Gazette will be invited to attend.*
 - *What time will Barbara Comstock be at school. Harry can arrange for the Middleburg Eccentric (Dee Dee Hubbard) to be there. Susan will follow-up with Mr. Carter.*
- Mr. Carter is running a Boosterthon Feb 12th-16th to raise money to send 3 teachers to National Council for Teachers in Mathematics Conference in DC.
 - *Event not run by PTO.*
 - *Parents requested more information on the Boosterthon.*
 - *Does it occur during the day/night? What is it?*
 - *Is it the same as the Fun Run?*
 - *Too many Fun Run activities?*
 - *Parents expressed concerns about the percentage of their donation that would go to support the teachers vs the company running the event. 50% of funds raised goes to fund teacher conference, 50% goes to company running event?*
 - *Small community with limited donors and money does not stay in community.*
 - *Need to take into consideration Banneker's large percentage of economically disadvantaged families.*
 - *Families should be aware of where their money is going/how it's being spent.*
 - *If PTO does not run the event, how will the funds raised be accounted for so that there is visibility/transparency on how the money is spent?*

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- *Will there be a committee formed like the Lowes Grant?*
 - *How does this impact other fundraisers for necessary math software?*
 - *Banneker families have been generous this fall, are we asking for too much from the same donors?*
 - *What is the cost of the conference?*
 - *Does not having parents involved take away for the sense of “community” that is part of Banneker’s unique culture? Having parent volunteers is a more personal experience for students.*
 - *Feedback from other school PTO Boards regarding Boosterthons is not positive.*
 - *PTO will present parent concerns to Mr. Carter so that he can formerly present the activity at the next PTO meeting.*
 - *Would Donors Choose be a good alternative?*
- *PBIS Assembly on 12/15 will show a movie.*
 - *PTO previously voted to discontinue the movie license, so the school will use Safari Montage.*

Teacher Liaison: Brad Moss

- *Field Day 6/7 or 6/8? – Mr. Carter to approve dates*
 - *Field Day Activities in morning*
 - *Need volunteers*
 - *Afternoon movie not great, instead have traditional morning Field Day activities. Afternoon crafts, STEM, or organized sports activity*
- *Handball Team Shirts*
 - *Banneker Handball Team needs new shirts.*
 - *Mr. Moss and Elizabeth Miller will design.*
 - *Cost is approx \$3/shirt.*
 - *The Bigley Family will sponsor shirts.*