



Team Bates PTO

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something"

Team Bates Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2016 at 7:00pm

Location: Bates Media Center

- **Opening:**
 - Introductions (*5 minutes*)

- **Principal Update – Mr. Bruder (*10 minutes*)**
 - Thank you for this month's staff appreciation; the staff really appreciated it (Twizzlers almost gone!)
 - Super Squads; as part of the ongoing effort to promote conscious discipline, positive behavior and social and emotional support, Super Squads were formed. All of the schools students were broken into multi-age groups, reporting to a staff member. Added benefit is giving students another safe adult in the building, new peers and helps expand the school family. Further info via Beacon. Kids reactions were really positive. Every half day a Super Squad will be held
 - This Wednesday through Friday there will be a coin drive through Buschs grocery store, proceeds go to family in need
 - Ms. Nicholas has done a downtown Dexter art installation at All State. The display is up for the next two weeks. **Promote on Team Bates page**
 - Looking for informal feedback on parent teacher conf. Creation of maybe a small group, that provides constructive feedback. **Coordinate with Natalie**

- **Financial (*15 minutes*)**
 - 2016-2017 Budget update
 - Not many receipts for November,
 - \$364 Buschs perks month of Oct, received \$735 to date, exceeding estimated goal \$500 for year
 - Bates Blast \$100 more came in
 - Zap zone Thursday, January 26 in conjunction with Cornerstone. Not much of a moneymaker but more the idea of community building. Tickets will be available for presell at \$20 for 3 hours. Schools will receive 30% back of tickets sold. Money will be split with Cornerstone based on number of tickets we sell versus Cornerstone. See also Upcoming Events
 - Book Fair – will be documented how much money we get back this time. Money currently goes to media center but there will be a pool for teachers to get level books. **Suggestion: sponsor kids who aren't in a position to purchase books.**
 - 2016-2017 Grant Schedule – review dates
 - Separate meeting to be held to discuss what can be funded through other areas, as well as setting up a meeting to discuss the grant process. Would also like a meeting with the teachers to go through the process and encourage them to submit grants
 - One grant to review - a literacy app for kindergarteners. Approx cost \$275. Submitted by all of the kindergarten teachers. Overwhelmingly approved through anonymous poll taken at meeting. **Further action: Can parents purchase app or download a free version?**
 - 2016-2017 Fundraiser Ideas
 - Natalie to poll families and gather feedback about preferred fundraising method/timing
 - Options: Zap Zone Thursday January 26 with Cornerstone (Ypsi)
 - Book Fair Money
 - Cash drawer; petty cash currently comes from book chair, this is a problem and needs to be solved before the next book fair with a better and more fair system. Can we get petty cash from Team Bates?

- Tracking of money going into cash drawer also needs to be evaluated. Sometimes kids can be short on tax or if they switch book and book fair volunteers will just chip in their money, etc.
- **Upcoming Events:** *(3 minutes each)*
 - Book Fair – week of November 14 (Lindsey Clifford, Jennifer Simpson, Dawn Monroe)
 - Do a book exchange – bring in your older books so that kids who maybe cannot purchase a book can still get one
 - Concern: need a back up for Lindsey who can be here during the day to run it.
 - Next book fairs March (week of March 10) and May 19 (BOGO).
 - Posh Fundraiser evening of Book Fair Family Night
 - Reminder to submit letters of intent by January for spring local vendor fundraiser
 - Large discussion on whether we should or should not have vendors. Some alternative ideas were suggested such as a vendor night, limiting to Bates parents only who want to give back, table fees, rotating vendors in the community who may overlap with other vendors. Further discussion centered around liability releases, family friendly products, how do we select vendors and avoid hurt feelings, do we allow at every event, does this take away from Bates Blast. An anonymous vote was taken at the meeting using a ballot form. Majority vote was no and it was determined we would move forward, but that could be re opened to discussion later
 - Mr. Bruder recommending setting up **community corkboard**, where Bates families who have side businesses or events that would like to donate money back to the school could advertise. Family friendly events/businesses only
 - Movie Night – Sandy Steinbeck – January 19
 - Movie will be Finding Dory in the cafeteria. Popcorn and water will be provided for free. Slice of pizza, bottle of water and cookie for \$2, \$1 for each additional slice
 - Zap Zone – January 26 @ 5:30pm
 - Mr. Bruder will be participating in the lazer tag arena. January 26 is a half-day so great way to get out in the afternoon and makes a great Christmas stocking idea.
 - Math Night – Sarah Jarboe, Ed Starback, Mary Hofer – Wednesday, February 1, 2017
 - Art & Treats – Suzann Flowers
 - Arts & Treats, May 19, 2017. Discussion set for December 2 with Mr. Bruder
- **Chair updates:** *(3-5 minutes each)*
 - Staff Appreciation – Hope Herron, Gemma Randazzo
 - Cookie Exchange – December 19
 - Kalahari – Lindsey Clifford -January 5
 - December 5 last day to book Kalahari
 - Box Tops – Sandy Steinbeck
 - End of October collection - \$364.10 for this calendar year, check coming in December
 - Watch DOGS - Clare Walsh
 - Going well; Mr. Bruder recommended getting feedback from our Watch DOGS on their experience in the form of a follow-up survey
 - Reading Garden - Colette Collins
 - No update
 - Yearbook – Ashley Hopkins
 - For sale <http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1081938/Bates-Elementary-School/>
 - MIRM – Jill Clair and Ericka Bigelow
 - No real update for this month. Mrs. Shields is the chair and the topic will be non-fiction, more info to come
 - Others
 - Ice Cream Social – Lori, Gennifer - Volunteers for 2017! Will shadow Kathie, next year
 - December Mug Chat – December 16 (tentative)
 - Next PTA meeting will be December 20
- **Open Discussion:**

- Reminder not to post on Team Bates general Facebook page pictures of all kids unless you know you have parent approval

Upcoming Meetings:

3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7pm in the media center