

The officers for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows: Co-Presidents – Tiffany Brandt-Thomas & Erin Hiles, Co Vice Presidents- Shannon Kreider & Tara McCorkle , Secretary – Eileen Wood, Co-Treasurers – Melissa Reiman & Sue Smith

Meeting Minutes for the September 2, 2011 meeting

I. Attendance: Dr. Annette Spagnolo, Jason Kingsborough, Tiffany Brandt-Thomas, Erin Hiles, Shannon Kreider, Tara McCorkle , Eileen Wood, Melissa Reiman, Sue Smith, Kristin DeStefano, Kelli Snader, Dan Schaffer, Krista Beach, Liesa Perry, Nicole Snyder, Lisa Shank, Grace Wells. Natalie Dixon, Melissa Miller, Tara Oltmans, Alphonse Miller, Kathy Vogelsong, Corrie Kruft, Jody Reed, April Hollinger, Elizabeth Voras, Evelyn Mautner, Amy McEvoy, Barb Geiner, Erica Kreiser, Kelly Laird, Kelly Wieand, Beth Milloy, Marianne Martin.

II. Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents: Tiffany Brandt-Thomas welcomed everyone to the first Bear Creek PTO meeting. Our PTO is to be receptive to ideas from all of the elementary schools so that we can facilitate our teachers to have a sensational school year. We are looking to receive comments, ideas and suggestions from anyone.

The bylaws for Bear Creek PTO have been compiled using parts from all of the primary elementary school bylaws. They are still to be considered as a draft until they are voted upon at the October PTO meeting.

The teachers are being consulted to see if they would like to use a Team Parent or Room Parent program. We are looking to form committees and will need to recruit committee members and chairpersons. The PTO will send out a PTO packet on September 26, 2011.

Anyone who is looking for information concerning PTO activities, meetings and committees can access the School website and select the PTO option. Another tool that can be used is PTO Manager. Erin Hiles provided information about this software that the PTO will use to receive reports that show a listing of teachers, committees and their members and contact people and a calendar of events. Co Vice-Presidents Shannon Kreider and Tara McCorkle will be responsible for updating PTO Manager.

Co-Vice Presidents: No report.

Treasurers: Co Treasurers Melissa Reiman & Sue Smith presented a preliminary budget for review. They have set up a banking account at Susquehanna Bank. The bank will charge the PTO \$.40/check for every check that the PTO deposits in excess of 200 checks in a given month. We are open to names of other financial institutions that do not have this kind of policy, Suggestions were made to check with PA Central and some Credit Unions.

The PTO currently has received \$24,905.00 to date from the primary elementary schools. We have received \$3,200.00 from Fairview, \$11,000.00 from East High and \$10,000.00 from Mill Road. We are still awaiting donations from the Bainbridge & Rheems PTOs.

To date the only expense paid out was \$299.00 to pay for a year's usage of PTO Manager.

Secretary: No report.

III. Principal's Comments: Bear Creek Principal Dr. Spagnolo welcomed everyone to Bear Creek. Over 720 students attended a summer orientation session.

She provided the following dates of interest:

Back to School Nights 6:30 student video; 6:45 – Presentation begins followed by the classroom visits.

Monday, September 26th 4th Grade

Tuesday, September 27th 5th Grade

Wednesday, September 28th 6th Grade

Instrumental Night Monday, September 19th

Ribbon Cutting/Open House Sunday, October 30th 2:00-3:30 PM

Vice Principal Jason Kingsborough stated that our two Open Houses were well attended. If anyone has concerns about the school, please feel free to contact the school so that matters can be addressed. He also stated that students, teachers and administrators are excited to start the school year.

Several PTO members had questions about walker/car rider/bussing procedures. Dr. Spagnolo said that car riders will be dismissed and board their cars at the curb out front. Mini busses will be loaded and then the regular busses will be loaded. There are a total of 22 busses. Students, who go home in a manner different than their normal manner (i.e. a bus rider who is picked up by parent for one day), need to bring in a note from their parent or guardian and present it to their homeroom teacher in the morning. This procedure may be revised if necessary.

Dr. Spagnolo addressed a parent's question concerning the District Volunteer Policy. Anyone who volunteers to help with a class (instruction, party) needs to have a TB test. Anyone who is volunteering to go on a field trip will need criminal history and child abuse clearances. If you have had a TB test in the past and have volunteered at least once each year since the test was done, you will not need a new test. If you are eating lunch with your child, you are considered a visitor and a TB test is not required for Visitors. Please refer to the districts web site: <http://www.etownschools.org/domain/73> for further information.

IV. Teacher's Comments: Mrs. Melissa Miller introduced herself as the music teacher and that all Bear Creek students will have for music. Mrs. Phyllis Emery and Mrs. Jill Placeway will teach instrumental music. She invited parents to Instrumental Night on September 19th. This is an opportunity for parents with students interested in taking music lessons to come and receive information about instrument rentals. She stated that there will not be a 5th Choral concert this year but that it will be open to any interested 5th or 6th grader. Students can join Band, Orchestra and Chorus. 4th graders will have band and orchestra during Bear Period. 5th & 6th graders would have their practice during their Bear Period at the end of the day.

Bear Period was explained as a time of the day when students can either participate in band, orchestra, chorus, receive remediation or seek academic enrichment. Team group activities can also be held during Bear Period.

Mrs. Ruth Havercamp introduced herself as the art teacher. She thanked all parents for their help and the activities provided.

Mrs. Julie Ditzler, librarian is looking for some volunteers to help her in the library. She is looking for volunteers to help from 12:00-1:00 to help students check out books. If time would allow they can also help file books. From 1:00-3:00 she is looking for volunteers who would help to re-bar code the many books that need to be placed on the shelves.

V. Committee Reports

Tiffany Brandt-Thomas presented the following committees as possible committees for the 2011-2012 school year:

Fundraising (includes Spirit Wear sales, BoxTops for Education, Giant A-Plus, and Restaurant Nights)

A parent presented information concerning a restaurant night at Little Italy in Bainbridge. The PTO will receive 20% of all regularly priced food items. Service will be for pickup & drive through ONLY. They have offered to run the event on a Monday night, which is the day the business is usually closed. There was some discussion about when to have this fundraiser. We will look to have it sometime after the Back to School Nights.

Assemblies (work with teachers and administrators to generate assembly ideas)

Family Activities (i.e. movie nights, game nights and other activities)

Book Fair: The Fall Book Fair will be held from October 3rd-October 7th. There will be additional information concerning this activity. The Spring Book Fair will be a Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair.

School Store: It is not determined yet if this will be “funny money” or a real store.

Teacher Appreciation

Team/Room Parent

Year Book

Hospitality

Tiffany opened the discussion for feedback on other possible committees. These committees were mentioned:

Community Service (holiday gift baskets for needy families, clothing donations, etc...)

PIE: Volunteers who do clerical jobs such as photocopying, laminating, cutting images for the faculty.

VI. Continuing Business:

PTO packet will go out September 26th.

There was a discussion concerning the tentative Spirit Wear fundraiser. Concerns were expressed that there should be “Bear Creek” and “E-town” options available. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to run the fundraiser with both options available. The fundraiser will run from September 12th through September 30th.

VII. New Business:

Next PTO Meeting is October 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bear Creek School Information Media Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen D. Wood, Bear Creek PTO Secretary