Blue Sage Elementary PTO Meeting

April 3, 2023

Agenda

* Call to open by Bonnie G. and Lindsey Bray.
* Introductions
  + PTO Board Members
  + Ashton Zombrowski, Dr. Bary Habrock and 2nd Grade Teachers, Natalie Shirley (special education), Mark Wartman and Nancy (school board)
    - (Nielsen, Lortz, Foiles, Taylor)
* Dr. Bary Habrock- Elkhorn Public School’s Superintendent Report: last here March 2018 for bond issue. Partnership between parents and teachers is so important! Here to give a strategic plan update- goals- planning for growth, high levels of learning for all, skills for a global workplace, school security.
  + Planning for growth: 11,000 students in Elkhorn! Planning for growth: 36 straight years of enrollment growth. 5-10% growth over the past 10 years. Last year we grew just under 3%. We project to be 18-20,000 students when we’re fully grown. Woodbrook- northern school, newest school, north of Maple, south of Ida. Fastest growing area in the history of our district, got a portable at end of year 2, moving 6 portables there at the end of the summer. Elkhorn Valley View- at 628 students, max is 720 so we’re preparing for more room. ENHS is at 947 and will be at capacity at 2026-27. Blue Sage- currently at 484 students, predicted to exceed by 2024-25. We do not want to overbuild the district so we always think about growth. We are going to need a bond issue next fall or next spring. We will need Elkhorn families help to get this passed! It will take a bond issue to have a completion date for the schools.
  + High Levels of Learning for all:
    - Assessment- often hears too much testing for kids. If we give students a test and do nothing with it, that’s wasted. But if we take the results of a test and try to make education better, it’s useful! We want principals and teachers working together to set goals and increase student learning!
    - School Improvement- continuous, data-driven, collaborative.
    - Curriculum Renewal- We use a 7-year curriculum cycle. This is driven by teachers- making these choices during in-service times. Goal is to give students in all schools the same opportunity.
    - Elkhorn is far above proficient over all other metro schools in reading and math! Elkhorn is far above NE averages!
  + Skills for a Global Workplace: Career Awareness programs- teacher cadet, eat with an expert, career exploration. Curriculum offerings- added welding, engineering, computer science. Math requirement- we require 3 years to graduate, most students take 4. Advanced Placement courses- trying to get all students who are planning to go to college to take a college type class before graduating!
  + School Security-
    - Monitoring- Securly (finds key words if you’re on a network and sends an email to central office, they notify principal and police), Safe2Help (See something, say something), cameras, Douglas County Threat Assessment Team. Very thankful for OPD!
    - Prevention- SRO’s, Directory of School Safety was newly hired is going to make sure our schools are safe, protocols are following, processes are done well and in a way that will save lives- Brian Kemp is the new hire! Building Security Features- propped door notifications, 3M film- purpose is to slow entry, holds glass in place
    - Response- Standard Response Protocol (SRP), Trauma kits, radio communications, law enforcement walkthroughs.
  + Questions: Boundary changes? Haven’t had any thoughts of changing Blue Sage but it is always a possibility. We have to manage our growth though! Why doesn’t Elkhorn staff full time nurses in schools? Elkhorn has looked at hiring their own but it is more expensive than the budget allows. In the bond, could there be more money given to teachers? Legislature has school spending locked down but is driven by state law. Changes have to be brought up to them. Elkhorn is at the legal limit.
* Secretary Minutes: Approve from March by Rachel H. and Sarah V.
* Treasurer Report: As of 4/3, we have $82,700 in the bank. $9k left in budgeted items for the year. About $74k left for reserves- that is to fund next years budgeted items.
* Principal’s Report- Thank you for organizing the Husker event- so fun! Kindergarten roundup next Friday. Currently 82 signed up. Kids heart challenge- about $7k. Battle of the books for 4/5- 4 teams came from our school, one team placed 3rd! 60 kids signed up this year. K/1 music program next Thursday. NCSAS window opened! No school this Friday! Thanks to PTO for a wonderful year and events!
* Visiting 2nd Grade Teachers Report- Field trip is May 5 to Morrill Hall. This will be the last year. With new science curriculum, looking at new places to visit!
* Natalie Shirley- proposal- equipment called a steam roller for kids that need deep sensory input that can help them focus more and bring them out of a moment of frustration. It can also work for core strength too! It’s about $700 and we would like PTO to purchase for the building. PTO will vote on this next month to pass or not pass!
* Old Business
  + Thank you: Amanda Corrigan (Yearbook), Brian Kays and Mandy Eckmann (Family Dinner Night), Cam Vacek (Top Golf)
  + Report on Top Golf- Sold out quickly! We made about $1,000!
  + Report on Husker Assembly- Such a fun assembly and we hope to do this again in the future! We gave them a donation of $500! Bonnie Gengler voiced her frustration how the board did not let everyone know ahead of time that this assembly was happening. The board will try to make sure everyone knows everything in the future from now on. The board will also make sure to let everyone know any approved expense (under $500).
  + Family Dinner Night: Report on Pickleman’s (March)
* New Business
  + April Newsletter
    - Family Dinner Night: Pepperjax- April 18
  + Save the Dates
    - Kindergarten Roundup: April 14 (no school for current kindergartners)
    - Staff Appreciation Week: April 10-14
    - Blue Sage Carnival: May 12
  + New PTO Bylaws VOTE- voted on paper and turned in to Ashton for counting= 16 yes, 7 no so 2/3 vote yes! Bylaws will change for next year! \*You can view changes to bylaws in March 7 minutes on website.
  + PTO Executive Board VOTE= Board will stay the same next year but Kristie Karas will be the new Treasurer!
    - Jennifer Giorgis-17
    - Shannon Hofer-18
    - Ashley Ladd- 20
    - Kristie Karas- 18
  + Carnival- NEEDS Volunteers! Friday, May 12 from 5:30-8. Please sign up and tell friends! Watch for sign up!
* REMINDERS
  + Submit receipts on PTO website: BlueSagePTO.com
* Open Items: questions and comments
* Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9th, 6:30 p.m.
* Meeting called to close by Sarah V. and Kaelin Z.
* Thank you for your support!