Blue Sage Elementary PTO Meeting

November 7, 2023

**PTO Board:**

**Principal: Amy Christ**

**President: Jennifer Giorgis**

**Vice President: Shannon Hofer**

**Secretary: Ashley Ladd**

**Treasurer: Kristi Karas**

**Mission Statement:**

**We are parents and teachers working together to supplement and enrich the educational experience for our students.**

Agenda

* Call to open by Shannon and Kaelin.
* Introductions- Dr. Bary Habrock and 3 school board members, 2nd grade teachers as well from BSE are here as well.
* Secretary Minutes: Approve from October by Jordan and Sarah.
* Dr. Bary Habrock (EPS Superintendent)- Bond Issue- Here is discuss the needs of the school district. More information found on the district website.
  + New facilities: Elementary 13 (Woodbrook area) and Elementary 14 (Blue Sage area).
  + Existing facilities:
    - Valley View Middle School- adding space for 200 students, construction begins in March 2024, completion by August 2025. ($13,500,000)
    - Elkhorn North HS Addition- adding space for 500-600 students, construction to begin March 2025, completed August 2026. ($22,000,000)
    - Young Adult Classroom Expansion- construction to begin May 2024, completion December 2024 ($3,000,000- will also include District Warehouse Addition)
    - Secured Front Entrance at Elkhorn Ridge MS- construction to begin March 2024, completion August 2024 ($2,000,000)
    - Elkhorn HS Auditorium Upgrade- completion August 2024, (2,500,000)
    - Turf Infields- all EPS High school softball, baseball, and auxiliary fields (9 fields total) ($6,800,000)
    - HVAC Projects
    - Roofing Projects
    - EHS Parking Lot
    - ESHS Parking Lot
    - Fiber/Technology Network Updates- Elkhorn has their own!
    - Lighting, Flooring, and Furniture Projects
    - School Safety- Construction of classroom doors for all elementary classrooms ($2,000,000)- Director of School Safety found that when students and staff have time to be locked behind a door in an emergency or threat, there were no fatalities and thus created our want for secured doors, not secured pods.
  + District Enrolment- we continue to grow year over year and have so for 37 straight years. We are currently growing at 3% per year. Birth rate in Douglas County is slowing and the district is seeing this.
  + Areas of Attention- hot spots- north of Dodge, between Blondo and Ida, and south.
    - Woodbrook- currently at 592, capacity 540, portable 120, projected 8/25 745
    - Blue Sage- currently 528, capacity 540, portable 80, projected 672
    - Elkhorn Valley View Middle School- 627, capacity 700, projected 757
    - Elkhorn North High School
  + Property Tax Impact- NO tax rate increase will result from the proposed bond issue. Last Bond was March 2018. Commercial growth is increasing more than ever before. This helps pay for school services without bringing students. This is one way we can have a bond and not raise taxes.
  + Tax Levy Decreasing- The General Fund Levy, Building Fund Levy, and Bond Fund Levy decreased a combined $0.173365 for 2023-24. The board saw the opportunity to lower taxes, and they did so! We try to be conservative and as accurate as we can.
  + Graduate ACT scores- Elkhorn High Schools were the top 3 best scores in the state of Nebraska. This is because of the Elkhorn curriculum.
  + Learning Community Comparisons- Elkhorn students consistently show higher overall proficiency in comparison to both learning community districts and state averages on state assessments. To continue this achievement, we need to have more space for students.
  + Additional details- mail-in ballot mailed October 23, 2023. Ballots are due November 14, 2023 and can be dropped off at Bess Johnson Library, Spring Ridge Shopping Center and Election Commission Office.
  + Questions: Future boundary lines- boundary lines will have to be redrawn. Elkhorn has spent 0 time looking at boundary lines until we see if the bond passes or not. Those would be shared about 9 months before the new school opens. If you’re a 5th grader, 8th grader, or senior, you typically do not have to change schools. What’s the term on the bond- 25 years but hopefully we get opportunities to refinance- we are working on creative ways to reduce this. The actual Ballot it says bond and tax, what is this?- Board sets the general fund levy, building levy and bond levy. The board sets the levy at no more than to pay principal and interest. We hope the levy is flat or slightly declines but in theory, the board has the authority to set the levy. There is no incentive to increase the levy. What is the timeline?- our history shows we always complete projects on time so the hope is what is outlined above, will be accurate. We can’t afford to build ahead of growth- we come to people when it’s necessary and needed with a bond. What if elementary schools hit capacity before the new buildings are done?- We could add another portable (not desirable or cost effective) but we will pay attention.
  + Thank you for attending- you matter! This vote is very important and I’m grateful for the support of our school district!
  + Meegen Vellek and Jeremy Volk- campaign committee- If the bond doesn’t pass, what happens?- boundary changes yearly
* Principal’s Report- Student council is doing a coat drive and collecting coats by grade level with a prize. Thanks to trunk or treat, parties, Health Screening. K-5 Fun day is Thursday, May 16. Parents who use the teacher parking lot, please be careful. Teachers prioritize kids who are not in a car yet to get in their car, especially when it’s cold. Our goal is safety!
* Visiting Teacher’s Report- Foiles, Taylor, Novak, Nielsen, Lortz: field trip last month to Arbor Day Farms and kids had a great time! Thank you to everyone who helped with the parties and trunk or treat!
* Treasurer’s Report- We are coming in on track with 30k of expenses left in the year and should come in just under 90k. If there are any other needs or ideas to use the funds, please submit them. See me for checks!
* Old Business
  + Thank you: Trunk or Treat Committee- (Kaelin Zawilinski and Jordan Kinderknect for co-chairing)- thanks for coming with it so cold- we had 450 people! Next year, we’d like to make it an hour, and will discontinue Halloweenie meals, the whole school got popsicles for blowing away the candy donations, Ms. Miller (1) won the most candy donated! Thanks to everyone who decorated a trunk, and all who volunteered for the fall parties!
  + Report on Family Dinner Night at Godfather’s Pizza- $357.05
* New Business
  + November Newsletter
    - Family Dinner Night: Chipotle- 11/7
  + Current Events
    - Social Gathering at Main Street Cellars- 11/8, 6pm- All Welcome!
    - Celebration of Giving- watch for SignUp Genius 11/13 and you can choose what you want to buy for an Elkhorn family in need, wrap it, put the tag on it and gifts due 12/6.
    - Holiday Treat Exchange for Blue Sage Staff- December
  + Yearbooks are now on sale: $29- YearbookForever.com to purchase
  + Blankets should be delivered the week of November 27th. Email PTO if you are planning to give your blankets as a gift and we can arrange pick-ups!
  + Save the Dates
    - 10th- Veteran’s Day Program at 2pm
    - 21st- Mid-quarter report sent home
    - 22-24th- Thanksgiving Break!
    - February 24th- Lancer’s Hockey Night, game time 6:05pm
* REMINDERS
  + Submit receipts on PTO website: BlueSagePTO.com
  + Send pictures to yearbook at [BlueSageBearsYearbook1@gmail.com](mailto:BlueSageBearsYearbook1@gmail.com) or upload directory to YearbookForever.com
* Open Items: questions and comments
* Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5th, 6:30 p.m.
* Meeting called to close by Shannon S. and Sarah C.
* Thank you for your support!