

Blue Ridge MS PTO Meeting

October 19, 2022

In attendance: Caroline Milnel (Dean), Kelly Schober (President), Christy Smith (2nd VP), Erin Rath (Treasurer), Lori Davis (Volunteer Coordinator) Judy Bannerton, Rebecca Edward, Jenna Alexander

Online: none

Quorum was met

I. Call to Order: 7:00pm

II. Principal's Report – Mr. Brion Bell

- 6th grade social
- Chorus singing National Anthem at Valley Homecoming
- Clubs starting 11/9. Students find out 10/20-21
- Kindness event- linked in paper chain
- 6th grade ice pop social
- Safe School ambassador training- only school with Peer, SOS Ambassadors, 3 student equity ambassadors
- Backpack Buddies of Loudoun- Rebecca Edwards
- Awarded grant of \$5200
- PEP - Parents of Educational Partners
- Mr. Sassak runner up of Thomas Jefferson award and most distinguished under 40 Shepard Univ. Award
- Mobile Hope possible Partnerships

III. Officer Reports

A. President – Kelly Schober

i. Approval of Minutes: September 2022

__Judy Bannerton__ motioned to approve. Seconded by __Christy Smith___. Open to questions. Passed unanimously.

ii. After-school activities:

1. Tennis Club - Two sessions , one more week
2. Running Club -
3. Theater- one more week
4. Winter Boot Camp run by Jeff Strayhan

ii. Vacant positions:

1. 2nd theater coordinator after-school
2. Activities
3. MASSAC.

iii. MTI Approval- waiting on MTI to approve changes to move forward with Spring Show

iv. 7th grade social-

- waiting for Ida Lee contract
- Feb 4, 2022 confirmed

B. Treasurer – Erin Rath

i. Financial Report - outstanding checks will be reconciled this month. Please see the attached report.

1. Bank account balance \$57,630
2. Expenses to date - \$12,500
3. Bucks for Bulldogs low
4. Amazon Smile is set up - receiving about \$600 end of November
5. Work on getting monthly audits squared up
6. Grant Requests total- \$1860
 - a. House C - Rocket Club

ii. Grant Request - Total \$1860

1. House C - Rocket Club \$125 -Special Grants
2. House C -Grow Cabinets \$360 -House Grants
3. Cross Stitching Club \$140
4. Coloring Club \$60 (House B Grant)
5. Health & PE - Nominate Good sportsmanship, give Tropical Smoothie gift cards \$325 Classroom grants
6. Art Department- Art Awards, Good News Post Cards, Storage Containers- \$590 (Classroom grant)
7. T-shirts for Professional Development BRPLC days (teachers) \$260

Motions:

___7 grants totaling \$1860_ requested ___Judy Bannerton___ motioned to approve ___All_ of them___. Second by ___Christy Smith_____. Opened to questions. Passed , Passed unanimously at 8:00 pm

Raise staff appreciation to \$3600- one time to cover BRPLC T-shirts

Motions:

To increase Staff Apprciation_ to \$3600. Judy Bannerton motioned to approve and Second by ___Christy Smith_____. Opened to questions. Passed unanimously at 8:05 pm

Add Clubs to "Speicals Grants" - bump to \$1000

Motions:

To add Clubs to "Speicals" and bump to \$1000. Judy Bannerton motioned to approve and Second by ___Christy Smith_____. Opened to questions.

Passed unanimously at 8:05pm

C. 1st VP (Events, Fundraising) – Jen Tribino

i. Spirit nights

- November 16th - Velocity Wings
- Dec. - Market Burger

D. 2nd VP (Activities, Theatre) – Christy Smith

i. Spring Performance - Reviewed Theater Dates

Christy will send to Mr. Bell and Ms. Milne.

E. Hospitality Coordinator – Judy Bannerton

- Principle Month - Gifts for Mr. Bell
- November Coffee Cart Date not set yet

F. 2nd Theatre Coordinator –Vacant . Spring Show penciled in for 3/24-26th

G. Volunteer Coordinator – Lori Davis

6th Grade Social Update:

The 6th grade social went very well.

- 150 students attend the event
- well staffed with plenty of volunteers
- kids had a lot of fun.

Lessons Learned:

- Ida Lee is late getting us tables, causing chaos at the start. Possible solutions:
 - Advertise an 8:30pm check-in start time to minimize large numbers of early drop offs.
 - Keep doors closed until ready to start check-in.
 - Have check-in team equipped and ready without tables.
 - Have early arrivals in hallway, not snack area.
- Check out needs to be quick and easy - just get a thumbs up from the parent or pick up person.
- Need to emphasize the swimming aspect of the social. Parent reminders should include swim related items - bathing suit, goggles, and towel.
- Students who cannot swim - other activities, parent pool volunteers, other
- Snack distribution is an issue with some students grabbing armfuls leaving others without any. Possible solutions:
 - Create "goody bags" distributed at end of event

- Have snacks behind table, volunteers hand out individually throughout event
- Water available to grab
- Let parents know snacks are available so students don't feel the need to buy from vending machines (which don't seem to work anyway)
- Had lots of water leftover, snacks lasted until all kids were gone.
- Detailing all notes for future events

Events and Volunteers:

- Creating full list of PTO events, interest in posting anywhere?
- Next event and volunteer opp

7th grade social prep:

- Reusing 6th grade social info, incorporating lessons learned. Thinking valentines themed tablecloths and snacks.

Volunteer Form:

- Created Google Form to help sign up volunteers online - building database of potential volunteers, this is not event sign up.
- Is it ok to put out in Facebook Group, PTO Website, Bulldog Bytes, etc?
- Is there anything else I can put in the form to help other groups?

App subscriptions:

As a 501(c)3 we can get free or discounted software and apps.

- Tech Soup - register for free
- Canva Pro - free

H. Bulldog Gives Back: Kathi Reich

i. Tree of Life - next opportunity to serve for Tree of Life will be in December.

Ii. Feed Our First Responders - We have an opportunity to show our

appreciation to our local first responders. We will serve them a pasta meal Nov. 1. Just drop off ready to serve food at Purcellville Fire and Rescue at 5pm. No need to stay and serve. SignUp Genius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45adaf29a5f58-feed>

Iii. I am looking forward to partnering with Rebecca Edwards this year to serve our Blue Ridge community.

Please feel free to reach out with any other serving opportunities or suggestions.

I. MASSAC: Welcome Jessica Rivas

VI. Old Business -

i. It was proposed by Kimberly Marrin that BRMS Welcome all incoming

6th grade students with a Bull Dog Spirit wear T-shirt. It's estimated that we will need 260 shirts next year. PTO will get quotes for shirts but estimate that we will need \$3200 (\$12 x 260). Working on sourcing Corporate sponsors.

Ii. 8th Grade Pool Party - possible extra social event for the 8th graders on Sat. May 8th. Need more discussion and input to determine if this is an annual event PTO wants to add and fund in addition to IDA LEE Park Day at end of the year.

Iii. Lori Davis suggested buying pre-popped Popcorn for Field Day. Fresher and Better tasting. Will get quotes.

Iv. Christy Smith wants to coordinate with LVHS groups like Yearbook, Dance Team, Color Guard and Band for more After School Activities. More information to come.

VII. New Business

Meeting Adjourn: 8:15pm

Next meeting Nov 16, 2022 at 7pm