

PTO General Meeting

Date: February 27, 2019

Location: BMES Conference Room

15 in attendance (Listed at bottom)

6:06 pm: Meeting Called to Order by Jessica Spencer-

- a. Brief introductions of everyone in attendance

6:08 pm: Principals Report -- Matt Owsley

- a. District Strategic Plan:
 - i. CCUSD is working on the next version of the strategic plan. They are looking for input on what makes a great school, then they will compile all the feedback to help steer the plan.
 - ii. If you'd like to give your feedback on the following questions, contact Matt Owsley:
 - i. How will our learning environment be structured to meet the needs of our students?
 - ii. What does the perfect school look like?
 - iii. How will we prepare our graduates to be ready for college and 21st Century careers?
 - iv. What do you feel are non-negotiables for student learning and success?
- b. A+ Certification:
 - i. BMES completed the application process for certification and have made it through the first round of review. We are going to be hosting representatives Tuesday (3/5/19) and Wednesday (3/6/19). These tours will include:
 - i. Classroom observations (majority of the tour time)
 - ii. Will also interview staff, volunteers, parents, and student groups
 - iii. Will then meet with Matt Owsley to go over findings
 - iv. We should hear in 1.5-2 months if we have been approved
 - ii. What *is* A+ Certification? Visit <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/a-school-of-excellence-program/> for more information on the program, the process, and what it means to our school!
- c. Do you know someone thinking about enrolling at BMES? Encourage them to do it soon and not wait until just before school starts. This will help with numbers earlier and potentially open up additional classes/more quality teachers (more overall students = more classes with better teacher/student ratios)
- d. AZ Merit Testing:
 - i. 3rd Grade and Up; starts in April
 - ii. Unlike the old standardized testing, AZ Merit is NOT an end-of-the-year assessment; students may encounter questions that they have not yet covered in class; this creates a bell-curve scoring
 - iii. This test is not meant to be "aced", so don't expect that = Parents, don't stress out too much about it.
 - iv. Tests are taken exclusively on computer, which makes it easier, staffing-wise; kids seem MORE engaged with the screen than paper and pencil tests.
 - v. AZMerit is free; there are currently no plans to change to something "better" because other tests cost money that is not in the budget
 - vi. Scores should be back to the school by May 23rd; the school will not be allowed to share the results until later in the summer.

6:46 pm: Treasurers Report -- Maren Youngberg

- a. Current Programs:
 - i. Box Tops are being tallied. Watch for information on how many we collected and which class won for the most Box Tops.
 - ii. The big Gala is coming up. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, don't miss out!
 - iii. Recent Purchases: We now have brand new recycling bins for classrooms. We also were able to add a Gaga Ball court to the grounds, and the kids are loving it.
 - iv. If you have any questions or concerns regarding budget and spending, contact Maren at BMESPTO@ccusd93.org The PTO Budget is public information for anyone who wants to see it.
- b. Reminders:
 1. Drama and dance programs and teachers are fully funded by the PTO, not the district. Their combined salaries are \$100,000.
 2. We have largely 1:1 technology/student ratio because of PTO fundraising efforts.

6:55 pm: Old Business -- Jessica Spencer

- a. Family Art Night: attendance was not to the level we'd like to see yet, so we're looking for feedback and ideas to make it a bigger event. Some feedback given at the meeting:
 - a. Get a bigger investment from students like with Science Night (class presentations?)
 - b. Find a way to have a lower admission cost but include additional fundraising activities as part of the event.
- b. Family Dance: "So fun!" was the general consensus. Kudos to Trish and Elise for putting together a fun night. Trish thanks all those who helped to make the night a success!

7:01 pm- New Business -- Jessica Spencer

- a. PTO Website: Keep up to date on all the latest PTO news and events by visiting our website at <https://www.bmespto.org/upcoming-events.html>
- b. Whooo's Reading: This fun fundraiser kicks off Friday March 1st
 - a. This is a simple fundraiser for the school and for parents
 - b. Gets kids excited about reading
 - c. We keep 80% (low overhead)
 - d. We set our own incentive programs
 - e. \$10,000 is our initial goal (though we heard another school in the district hit \$20,000 = Challenge Accepted!)
- c. Evening for the Arts – Gala:
 - a. Venue – The Boulders Resort
 - b. Casino Royale Theme
 - c. Silent and live auctions (scaling back number of items; looking for more local donations/events/trips)
 - d. Adaptive Force sponsoring the Dessert Table! PostNet is our printing sponsor. And we have a free sponsored Cocktail Hour. Still looking for additional table sponsors. We are looking for local businesses to help sponsor the event. If you know anyone, please contact BMESPTO@ccusd93.org
 - e. The website is now up and ready for the event: <https://www.bmespto.org/gala.html>
 - f. ECS Night Owls will be available for child care that evening.
 - g. Doing baskets this year. Sign up to donate items for your child's class (or for any class you may be able to help with):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4dabaf28a5fb6-evening2>

- d. Spirit Nights (visit the Events page for a copy of the flyers if you need them):
 - a. Barro's Pizza (Cave Creek Road/Desert Willow Pkwy) – Thursday March 14th
10:30am-10:00pm
 - b. Rubio's (32415 N Scottsdale Rd) – April 3rd 12:00pm-8:00pm
 - c. City Creamery – May 1st (watch the website for more information)
- e. Hospitality Committee:
 - a. Watch for the March Sign-up coming soon! (This is for Teacher Appreciation, help us feed our teachers and show our appreciation!)
- f. Spirit Store:
 - a. Lots of Science Night swag still available (straws, water bottles, lunch kits, shopping bags).
 - b. New baseball tees available.
 - c. Swing by the Store and get some great BMES gear!
- g. Calendar Suggestions/Input:
 - a. Looking for ideas for events for the coming year. Contact us at BMESPTO@ccusd93.org and share your ideas!
 - b. Board/Directorship Opportunities:
 - i. Have any questions about PTO roles or time commitments? Feel free to ask
 - ii. Positions are opening up, election coming up in May. Help make a difference at BMES. Because, **together, we can do more!**

7:27 pm Meeting Adjourned by Jessica Spencer

Meeting Attendees:

Elise Snyder	Matt Owsley	Kristen Jens
Jessica Spencer	Carla Leneis	Antonella Nechtman
Maren Youngberg	Vince Carlson	Lauren Scherling
Michael Marcinko	Mandi Holland	Nicole Canteline
Alissa Letendre	Patricia Ponterio	Lindsay Beeker