

**Bethany School Parent Teacher Organization**  
**Meeting Meetings September 10th, 2019**  
**7:00pm - 8:30PM**

Christina Griffith called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**The board was introduced:**

Christina Griffith - President

Katie Hickenbottom - Communication Coordinator

Randell Pelak - Webmaster

Anjana Nair - Volunteer Coordinator

Dana Strand - Treasurer

Afsana Hussain - Vice President

Elizabeth Staly - President Elect

Krista Damm - Secretary

The June 2019 minutes were reviewed. Jen Larson asked a clarification question regarding teachers packets.

Christina Griffith called for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion to approve: Kimberly Hawk  
Seconded by: Elizabeth Staly, Minutes approved.

**In Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Christina Griffith, Katie Hickenbottom, Randell Pelak, Anjana Nair, Dana Strand, Afsana Hasan, Elizabeth Staly, Krista Damm

**Parents:** Karen Dow, Randy Hamilton, Angie Hamilton, Jen Larson, Dean Hoshnson, Murilo Belluzzo, Kimberly Hawk, Jen Larson, Erica Amrhein, Dean Johnson, Jen Wemp, Beth Racyk

**Principal/Teachers:** Casey Lange

### Principal's Report:

1. Mr. Lange provided an update on the staffing allocation. Bethany was able to add a K and 1st grade teacher. The ratio of students K - 2 is 22/1 The ratio for Students 3-5 is 30/1. The district is 36/1. There is a low likelihood of any further teachers being added.
2. New teachers are
  - a. **Cindy Bryan:** Will be joining us as our new resource room teacher
  - b. **Lianne Peterson:** Will be joining us in first-grade.
  - c. **Shella Nuno:** She will be taking over for Mrs. Sullivan who has decided to take a year off to stay at home with her newborn son.
  - d. **Jacob Mertz:** Will be joining us as our music two teacher. He is taking over for Justine Sullivan who left mid-year to be closer to family in Colorado.
  - e. **Vanessa Rousseau:** Will be joining us as our .5 Intervention Teacher. She is taking over for Mary Ellen who has moved to kindergarten.
  - f. **Mike Parker:** Will be joining us as our new school counselor.
  - g. **Allison Henning:** Will be joining us because we were allocated an additional .3 Speech and Language Pathologist.
  - h. **Suzy Dean:** Will be taking over as our school Psychologist.
  - i. **Amy Frewing:** Will be taking over the Library Media Assistant position.
3. Bethany was able to maintain 1.5 P.E. and 1.5 Music teacher.
4. Total students enrolled at Bethany this year = 542
5. Teachers were very happy with the increase to \$500 to the PTO. The overall budget for the school was reduced by 20% from \$54,000 to \$46,000 for the building. The PTO partnership is vital and appreciated.

### President's Report: Christina Griffith

1. Proposed an amendment to the BSPTO Bylaws to allow the PTO to have flexibility as to when the date and time of BSPTO board meetings are held.
  - a. Current bylaws states, " General membership meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm during the school year. "
  - b. Amended bylaw recommendation to be voted on in October's PTO meeting, "General membership meetings are to be held once a month during the school year"
2. The proposed change is in response to a couple of factors. Casey is unable to regularly attend evening meetings going forward due to family obligations. The board would also needs to get engagement from new parents as there is there is anticipated need to fill most positions in the next 2-3 years.
3. Open dialog occured around the proposed amendment.
4. A survey will be placed in the Bobcat email to-solicit feedback from parents.

## **Vice President's Report**

1. Dinner Night Out:
  - a. Panda Express is the first Dinner Night Out. People must present flyers. 20% will go to the PTO. 25 people must come in order for the PTO to receive 20%.
  - b. Skipping October Dinner Night Out due to Haunted Hallway and other PTO activities
  - c. November will be Thirsty Lion.
2. Read-a-thon packets to go home September 30th. Karen Dow is co chair and will be chair next year. The fundraising goal is \$20,000. The threshold for prizes was lowered to \$20 so more kids get a book for participation.

## **Treasurer's Report: Dana Strand**

1.
  - a. General Fund: \$36,000
  - b. Operating Fund: \$43,000
  - c. Reserve Restricted Fund: \$11,000
  - d. Capital Improvement Fund: \$29,032.16
  - e. Fundraiser Reserve \$13,000
  - f. Garden Fund: \$1,339.93 - the garden club now has a \$500 line item in the budget.
2. Open to Q &A
3. Annual budget audit will need 8/10 Volunteers - no date is set.

## **Volunteer Coordinator: Anja Nair**

1. Volunteer Orientation to be held September 17th with a morning and evening session.
2. Safety academy for 5th graders needs volunteers 10/14 - 10/18
3. Walk/bike and roll to school day needs more volunteers for October 2nd, 4-8 people
  - a. Elizebeth to count cars the week before and get those numbers to Angie
4. Tae Kwon Do is Wednesdays in October. All proceeds go directly to PTO. It is \$25 and happens right after school. Krista Damm will be the PTO parent checking students in and out.
5. There is still no chair for the Haunted Hallway event.
  - a. There will be a table at back to school night to try and recruit more volunteers.
6. Katie Hickenbottom gave an update on family game night
  - a. We will host ourselves and need board games or card games for the cafeteria
  - b. We will need youth volunteers as well as volunteers to set up and take down

- c. PTO will be food vender. We can sell snacks and purchase smoothies ahead of time and sell them ourselves
- d. The time should be adjusted to 5:30
- e. Randall adjusted time on Calendar

### **Green Team: Angie Hamilton**

1. Milk Carton rinsing needs Volunteers
2. Planning meeting for green team to be held Monday September 16th at Dana's house
3. Halloween Costume swap September 27th. All Costumes leftover will be taken to a title one school.
4. Clothes Closet needs more jeans and jackets
5. Textile recycling bin was removed by district and it is unclear if a new one can be added. There is a box at Barnes and Noble.
6. 300lbs of plastic was collected and recycled for the Trex challenge last year. PGT will decide if they are going to do it again this school year.

### **Open Forum**

1. Geo Quest is now paperless due to the large amount of paper it consumes. There was discussion on alternatives.
2. Garden club is having a training Session for Volunteers April 14th.
3. Green Team is no longer handling silverware for the lunchroom, the district is.
4. Perhaps more training videos can be made to help children not throw them away.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Christina Griffith 8:45

Notes taken and submitted by Krista Damm.