



# PTO MEETING NOTES

## Basswood PTO General Meeting #3

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

21 in attendance

### **Treasurer's Report (Michelle Tronerud)**

- Income from Turkey Bingo is \$2,500 over budget
- Fun Run is \$2,100 over budget
- Some of the past few month highlights of money raised includes:
  - Evereve shopping night – over \$1000 raised
  - Fall Box Tops - \$1750 (down a little from last year – 1<sup>st</sup> round only, 2<sup>nd</sup> round coming up soon)
  - Fun Run Company Match – brought in an additional \$1248
  - Regular donors - \$750 in contributions
  - Spirit Wear - \$541
  - Zupas – brought in over \$300 (up \$50 from last year)
- Disbursements
  - Big check to Basswood – including: half ESP salaries, \$10K classroom support, \$3500 media center books, brain pop software
  - Naturalist
  - Dare T-shirts
- Current Bank Balance is at \$20,000

### **State of School (Principal Smith)**

- Superintendent Search:
  - District is looking for feedback as to what the public would like to see in a superintendent
  - Feedback is being obtained though the month of January (including 2 public events)
  - Hopes to have it to the finalist by early April and hired shortly after
  - Survey is out there – feedback welcome
- REMAC Update:
  - Committee doing research to address District Wide capacity issues.
  - Basswood Elementary is currently over building capacity. Study has been in place for several years to consider several options/solutions including: building a new school in the District, changing boundaries, or adding space in existing buildings
  - Goal – to present findings/proposals to the District Board in May
  - REMAC Team will meet at Basswood on January 24<sup>th</sup>
    - See the process of a typical part of the school day
    - They are also meeting at Middle School and High School
    - Continuing to look through options

- Something will need to happen at Basswood (temporarily)
- Boundary changes/new school/etc.... 2-3 years out
- Projections for next year show Basswood to be growing again. Actual numbers will not be available until February.
- 3D printers are now at Basswood
  - Funded by “donors choose” request
  - Just getting them setup
  - Will try to demo at the upcoming Math/Science Night

### **PTO Upcoming Events (Keith Granzin)**

- **Families Helping Families Spaghetti Dinner – Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> (Lezlie Northagen)**
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Year at Basswood
  - Organized by Lezlie Northagen
  - Funding Families in Crisis
    - Death in family, etc....
  - Completely run by staff
  - Olive Garden & Angeno’s donate some of the food
  - Will take place the same night as the Book Fair & Basswood Gives Back (service project night including 4 projects this year)
- **Book Fair – February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**
- **Read-A-Thon Fundraiser, February 1-28 (Angel Becker)**
  - Angel Becker is the new Chair
  - Dr. Seuss Theme – artistic displays have been put up on the walls at school to get students jazzed up about it
  - Folders are ready and labeled – coming home with students on January 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Goals this year – total minutes 550,000 – average of 18 minutes per day per student (Last year we achieved just under half a million minutes)
  - Money Goal = \$25,000
  - Prize structure is different –
    - Everyone will get a Basswood bookmark for turning in the folder (have been ordered and laminated)
    - Separate prizes for top \$\$ brought in as well as top minutes
    - Class with highest minutes/student (average) gets hot chocolate and popcorn
    - Teachers getting involved this year– competition for them to record their personal minutes read– up to 60 minutes/week can be donated to their classroom (looking to encourage life long reading habits)
    - One prize includes: Basswood carnival tickets
  - Volunteers to count money and minutes – announce winners on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dr. Seuss’s Birthday is March 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- If the entire school meets the goals – they will have Thing 1 and Thing 2 (Principals in costume) visiting around the school
  - Idea – Angel to ask the teachers to use the February Read-A-Thon envelopes versus the normal monthly reading sheets
  - Idea – if Patrick wants to send out an email message, that typically goes a long way.
- **Math & Science Night – March 6<sup>th</sup> - 6pm – 8pm (Maria Chapellin)**
    - A lot of the vendors are lined up for the event including:
      - The Works Museum
      - Mad Science
      - Mathnasium
      - Bees
      - Heart (very popular last year, however, parent that manages has a conflict and is out for this year)
    - Spaces that will be used include:
      - Gym & Cafeteria
    - Volunteers Needed
      - Sign Up Genius coming soon
      - MG Crimson Robotics – they are excited and available to help (again!)
    - Idea – showcase the new 3D printers during Math/Science Night
    - Working with Lesli Skarpool on how to setup Basswood Robotics in the Media Center
    - Science Expo – brand new! Displayed at Math/Science Night
      - 30 proposals / experiments have been submitted so far
      - Still open to submit proposals
      - Students will be presenting during Math/Science Night (rotating)
        - 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> graders will give presentation and share what they learned
        - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will show their posters
      - Prizes will be purchased (Buster Bucks funding request will be submitted)
  - **Carnival – April 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm – 8:00pm**
  - **Buster Bucks Requests (Keith/Michelle)**
    - **Circulation Desk - \$4,600 – approved**
      - Re-visiting the request to change out the circulation desk in the Media Center. Not enough funds were present at the time of the request last Fall, but that has now changed. There are additional funds available from Turkey Bingo as well as the Fun Run (company match) donations that recently trickled in.
    - **Author Speaker for Grades 3-4-5 - \$600 – approved (Buster Bucks)**
      - Dr. Schwartz’s request. Dr. Artika Tyner is currently a VP at St. Thomas University – has done a lot of keynotes is an attorney at

practice – a very inspiring person. He heard her last year at a speaking event. The book she wrote shared stories of her sitting on Grandmas lap as a child and remembering the stories about people that were inspiring to her Grandma that later inspired her. The book includes more people that just what is learned about during Black History Month at the school. Speaking date is March 19<sup>th</sup> – she will present to each class separately (1 grade at a time). Title of the book is ‘Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom’.

- **Author Speaker Grades 1-2 - \$350 – approved (Buster Bucks)**
  - Lesli Skarpool’s request– award winning children’s author, Miranda Paul. Choice of presentation for her to focus on what a writer does or share the different between fiction and non-fiction books.
  - 2 sessions (1 hour each)
- **Match/Science Night – create a brand new budget line item – approved**
  - Request to have its own “line item” in the budget as an identified Program versus utilizing funds from the “Basswood Innovation Grant” Project
  - Future – add a new line item for the Science Expo – OR - allow the group to request funds from Buster Bucks or Basswood Innovation Grants
  - Basswood Innovation Grants line item changes to be \$1,005 (For this year only – add more \$ to do next year)
  - Math/Science Night will have \$2,500 for the budget going forward
- **Boosterthon / Fun Run (Gretchen Hanley)**
  - Last PTO Meeting Matt from Boosterthon presented
  - The Exectutive PTO Board met a week after the presentation and sorted through the pros and cons - and came to a decision after a long discussion.
    - Pro – they staff it all (including the volunteers which are sometimes tricky to recruit) – also a con (not Basswood Family volunteers)
    - An unknown question - will donors be okay with giving money to another company versus Basswood only?
  - Decision was made to go with Boosterthon
    - Try it for this year – not tried into a contract
    - Different levels – we will be starting with the highest level of support/involvement from Boosterthon. We can see how its done, learn from it, and then we will have the knowledge/experience to manage again on our own if we choose to.
    - Date is set for Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – little later

- Idea – meet with a school that has used them before and see if there was any feedback on what could be improved.
- Teacher involvement for promoting this Fun Run event as well as others: Videos available for teachers to share (at a convenient time) – it’s easy – they don’t have to pretend to be the experts on the specific event. Kids can watch a fun video and the teachers can highlight/share the main points afterwards.

### Other

- Principal Smith noted “**Dream Big**” projects will be discussed at the next team leader meeting to start looking at ideas if extra funds become available. While raising money – let’s share what some of our goals/wishes are.
  - One idea – staff training
    - Responsive Classroom (expensive, but good)
- **Mexico School Drive** (Principal Smith)
  - Over \$5,000 raised – phenomenal – out of 6 schools participating, Basswood was at the top. Way to go families.
  - Inspiring video was shared last year via DVD to Principal Smith. Would be great to see if that could be linked/shared with families.
- **Box Tops – app on the phone**
  - Track personal contributions as well as seeing where Basswood Elementary is at as a whole
  - As of today, the school is currently at \$1,870.90 on the app
  - Lezlie can share this tid bit in the next communication regarding Box Tops