

BEYE PTO MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2010

Susan Cruttendon Gibson Commons

Free childcare was provided in the Art Room and refreshments were served.

I. Introductions

Maggie Testore called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Several new Kindergarten and 1st Grade parents were in attendance for the second meeting of the year.

II. Old Business

September Meeting Minutes approval: **Michelle Brandt** moved to approve the minutes as submitted. **Jenna Russell** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Adult Social Trivia Night Held November 12 was a big success. Some parents expressed the desire to make it an annual event. Special thanks to the event chairs: **Brooke Eggert, Sarah Goy and Kandy Shapiro.**

Special Projects Funding: As discussed at the **September General Meeting:**

"... there was a \$22,488.65 balance in the PTO account as of June 30, 2010 carried forward from last year. The PTO tries to maintain a \$10,000 minimum balance. In the past, it has been customary (most recently 2005), to consider proposals from the Beye School community as to how to best use the surplus funds..."

"Laura Derks moved to establish the committee and request proposals. Maggie Testore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

It was resolved that all available avenues will be used to solicit proposals to ensure an open process over the next three weeks."

At the **October Executive Meeting**, in reference to the **playground:**

"... Mr. Ellwanger noted that there has been a cluster of injuries this past month, mostly broken bones caused by contact with the ground, on the playground..."

"He recommended that PTO wait to allocate (surplus) funds to any playground expenditures until after District 97 School Board's October 26 referendum meeting.

Kate Ulrich motioned to postpone any decision about the Special Projects Committee until more details are known about the district's plans. Andy Kaczowski seconded and the motion passed unanimously."

Maggie expressed the Board's desire to move forward on whether the **Special Projects Committee** should be formed and request proposals for spending the surplus funds. There was an open discussion weighing the pros and cons of moving forward against waiting to see if the referendum passes. Some highlights:

- **Maggie** noted that the **D97 Referendum** that will be put to a vote in the spring **would** include funding for playground repair and replacement.
- **Kate Ulrich** asked if there would be attention to the playground regardless of passage of the Referendum. **Mr. Ellwanger** responded that immediate needs and repairs have been met and will continue to be met going forward for the safety of the students. Example: mulch has been added to cushion falls off the equipment.
- It was noted that there do not seem to be any pressing requests or needs at the school for funding. Especially since the **130th Anniversary Committee** raised funds for **Smart Boards** last school year. It was also noted that **PTOs** are prohibited from funding salaries for in-school activities or major capital purchases.

Maggie put to a vote whether the surplus funds should be saved until after the final vote for the **D97 Referendum**. This would allow for a larger cushion for any unexpected needs. The majority affirmed the decision and the surplus funds would be saved.

III. School Report Card: Mr. Ellwanger

The **Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT)** results, details and analysis are available on the **D97 web site:**

<http://www.op97.org/administration/reportcards.html>

The Numbers:

Types of Scores:

- **Categories:**
 - **School:** Beye School as a whole in **Math and Reading**
 - **Grade:** Each grade as a whole at **Beye School** in **Math and Reading**
 - **Subgroup:** Divided into a number of different sections based on race, income level, etc. Not Subgroup any is singular. Some students may be counted more than once across all Subgroups. Example: **"White"** student receiving **"Free and Reduced Price Lunch"** is counted in each Subgroup. To this end, this is the first year at **Beye** that **Free and Reduced Lunch** Subgroup has enough students to qualify as a Subgroup (more than 45).
 - **Individual Student**
- **Performance**
- **Extended response**
- **Scale Scores:** Tracks progress over time.
- **National Rank**
- **Lexile:** Reading level scores for use in selecting material in class and at libraries.

Average Yearly Progress (AYP) requirement for 2009-2010 testing was 77.5%. 2010-2011 will be 85%.

District97 2009-2010 ISAT Results for Grades 3-5:

Reading:

- All: 83%
- White: 95%
- Black: 75%
- Students with disabilities: 64%

Math:

- All: 92%
- White: 97%
- Black: 80%

- Students with disabilities: 72%

Beye School 2009-2010 ISAT Results for Grades 3-5:

Reading:

- All: 85.6%
- White: 92.6%
- Black: 70%
- Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 68.9%

Analysis:

This was a "hold year". The Achievement Gap closed because White results were down more (-2.1%) than Black (-0.2%). Of the 28 Beye students below grade level, 12 were in 5th grade and have now moved on to **Percy Julian Middle School**. Seventeen (61%) were in an **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** where a challenge has already been identified and steps are being taken to meet the student's educational needs. Example: more time to complete the ISATs.

Math:

- All: 88%
- White: 95.4%
- Black: 70.6%
- Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 76.1%

Analysis:

The Achievement Gap widened, 2009-2010 24.8% vs. 2008-2009 20.7%. Of the 21 Beye students below grade level, 10 were in 5th grade and have now moved on to **Percy Julian Middle School**. Nine (43%) were in an **IEP**.

Ensuring That Everyone Excels:

Teachers serve as a student's "Case Manager" and are instrumental in deciding how to best deliver services.

Response to Intervention (RTI) Team uses data collected throughout the school year to determine progress.

- **Behavioral Systems**
 - **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS):** Tracks behavior incidents both at the student and school level. Discussions hopefully brief ones, are held at every staff meeting where **Mrs. Foleno** can collect information and identify trends.
- **Academic Systems:** Some support is optional by invitation. Example: **BOOST** is serving 25 "at risk" students, who are achieving at or just below grade level after school. Support during the school day is not optional and administered by....
 - **MAP (Measures of Academic Progress):** A **D97** program that administers **math and reading tests** each trimester to students in grades 2-8. The entire test is broken down into multiple categories to better guide instruction, support and track specific progress over time. This has been critical in helping teachers discover real time challenges and opportunities for students in the strength/weakness areas. A list of resources has been compiled to support areas of need. To learn more about **MAP** testing, please consult **Mr. Ellwanger** or go here: <http://www.nwea.org/products-services/computer-based-adaptive-assessments/map>
 - **DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills):** Similar to **MAPS**, but focuses on reading for students in grades K-2.
 - **CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test):** Tests given in the fall to students in grades 2 and 4 that identify students for **Gifted and Talented (GTD)** services.
 - **LEXIA:** District-wide reading intervention for all Beye students.
 - **SPIRE** Skill-building in reading.

Other programs currently in place include **Homework Club**, **BOOST**, **BeyePass**, **Family Learning Nights and Workshops**, and **Study Island**. There is also much earlier intervention for young students because of All Day Kindergarten and **Early Childhood Collaboration** with Pre-Kindergarten children. In summary, there has been good progress, but there is a lot of hard work ahead. Achieving AYP the next few years will be very challenging if it is not amended at the federal level because progress in the "social determinant" area will be critical and incredibly hard.

IV. New Business

Committee Reports:

Communication: Jenna Russell

The committee is evaluating the entire system of communicating with parents. As a start, **BeyeBytes** will now be distributed on Mondays. At one parent's suggestion, a comprehensive calendar will be assembled to better identify all activities going on throughout the school. A survey will be conducted at midyear to monitor progress.

Wellness: Ellen Pimentel

Green Team: **Beye School** has seen a 53% reduction in lunchroom waste. The committee is exploring fundraising opportunities for a \$20,000 industrial composter. One opportunity is a grant by **Pepsi**. Five other schools have toured Beye's facilities for tips and advice. Paper shredding, leaves and wood chips are needed for the composters. Please drop bags by the garden on the south side of the playground.

Maggie noted that a community survey is currently underway by **Seven Generations Ahead** called "**Plaint Green**" for Oak Aprk and River Forest sustainability issues. It can take as little as five minutes. Please participate on behalf of **Beye** here:

<http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org/index.php/programs/planitgreen/survey/>

Health Expo is coming soon. Please contact **Ellen** if you would like to help.

Treasurer's Report: Kate Ulrich

All Fundraising has exceeded budget, but Membership Contributions are down. There has been \$325 raised out of \$2500 budgeted so far.

Book Fair was a success, raising \$1500 in cash and \$790 in **Scholastic Dollars**. An allocation of \$40 will be given to each Beye teacher. An additional \$200 will be allocated to **Mr. Withers** in the Library.

District97 Referendum Update: Mr. Ellwanger

The community **D97 Referendum Survey** deadline has been extended to Friday, December 3. **Mr. Ellwanger** just attended the **District** meeting and there was lengthy discussion about the survey results, so please go here to participate:

<http://www.op97.org/referendum/survey.html>

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Next Beye PTO Meeting is January 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Parenting Workshop will be featured.