



Blakely PTO General Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020, 5:00 PM, Zoom

Attendees: Whitney Skarbeck, Elise Dunn, Lindsay Fiorito, Chris McCann, Lara Deits, Amy Shock, Jessica Henshaw, Krista Tracy, Stina Tillotson, Satyarth Negi, Amy Covey, Annie Hodges, Tara Phillipovic, Macarena Lynch-Kattman, Jenna Strully, Meaghan Liddell, Michelle Hobbs, Joseph Marchess, Jon Mooallem, Brittany Kirk, Debra Rogers, Jennifer Pancholi, Bryan Rogowski, Ida Cornelia, Chris Lum, Alison Lum, Carl Erich-Kruse, Annie Hodges, Heidi Huber, Jackie Clark, Rochele Tanabe, Kate Cressall, Siri Miller, Shannon Kent, Thyra McKelvie, Andrew Garbutt, Kelly M., Ulla, Beck, Clara, Annie, Family iPad Pro, 12133648123

Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM with a welcome and introduction from PTO President, Elise Dunn.

PTO Business:

- School board member, Christina Hulet, will be speaking at the next PTO meeting on 10/14 at 5 PM.
- New families and kindergarten families Zoom happy hours scheduled for 5 PM on 9/22 and 9/24, respectively. Look for an email with a link coming soon.
- The Spiritwear website will be up soon. Look for an email.
- There will be no printed directory because of district policy. Any family that has opted in can be found through Family Access.

Meeting format: Town Hall Q & A with Whitney Skarbeck (questions will be facilitated through Zoom chat by Elise)

Q: Will students have to wait the whole 9 weeks for hybrid?

A: The district is working closely with the Health Department, so please hold for more info on that.

Q: What is the expected turn around for tech support?

A: The district tech department is slammed right now, so communicate any issues with the classroom teacher while you wait to hear from the tech team.

Q: Will homework be assigned during distance learning?

A: Will research this and get back.

Q: What should parents and caregivers do to help support their kids?

A: Helping with the mute button, find links, and practice getting to assignments, etc.

Q: Are there any suggestions for helping a first grader stay focused and pay attention?

A: Remove distractions and when it is break time, have them really move their bodies. Try standing at a desk while they're in class. Encouraging these behaviors will help them build stamina.

Q: Will there be "buddies" to work with on independent work?

A: This is on my radar and something I've been thinking about creating to help build school community. Stay tuned.

Q: How much should parents be correcting work?

A: It depends. For example with math, if a mistake is seen then help them check their work. Spelling is trickier. It is important that the teacher knows where the student is at without parent intervention.

Q: What will Parent Night look like this year?

A: The format is still being worked on. Specifics of how the year will go will be given by the classroom teachers.

Q: In your opinion, how is the start of school going so far?

A: The teachers and staff are working so hard. As a parent, my kindergartener is very engaged.

Q: Does the teacher monitor breakout groups?

A: Yes

Q: In regards to deciding on purchasing device insurance, what are families responsibility to pay in case of damage?

A: Details will be on the insurance form in Skyward.

Q: Will there be a material pick-up every friday?

A: For now, yes.

Q: Were school devices programmed with parental controls?

A: Kids can't download apps but will need to do more research into this.

(Lindsay) There are no parental controls if off wifi.

Q: How do we manage Zoom fatigue?

A: During the next few weeks, administrators will be assessing and readjusting as needed. For now, we're listening and processing feedback but sticking to the format layed out.

Q: If/when hybrid students go back to in-person learning, will there be Zoom meetings during at home hours?

A: It will be mostly asynchronous work because teachers will be in class with the other group.

Q: Will the specialist schedule change when hybrid students go back to in-person learning?

A: Yes, there is a potential for change in order to keep learning equitable.

Q: Can you tell if a hybrid student is in the AM or PM group in skyward?

A: Yes, there is a way to obtain that information but contact Kyanne to help navigate that.

Q: Will there be a parent or student survey sent out?

A: Yes, there will be, at the least, a social/ emotional survey sent out.

Q: Are teachers still assessing if students need special services?

A: 100% yes.

Q: When students are back in person with the hybrid model, how will parents be notified of a covid-positive case? What details will be shared?

A: There is a whole protocol from the district that would be best explained by Erin Murphy, Jim Corsetti, and Tamela Van Winkle.

Q: Will 3rd graders be automatically tested for the highly capable program this year?

A: Reach out to Diane Bedell for information regarding HC.

Q: After the 9 weeks of continuous distance learning, what will the process be to start sending students back?

A: There is a decision tree and protocol that the district will use to assess the situation.

Q: Will sending students back to school be rolled out by grade level?

A: I don't have that information at this time.

Q: Will there be minutes from this meeting?

A: Yes, the minutes will be posted on the PTO website soon.

Coming up:

- New Families Happy Hour - 9/22
- Kindergarten Families Happy Hour - 9/24
- Next PTO Meeting - 10/14

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM

