

BRETON PTA MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Sandra Upton called the meeting to order at 9:35.

Superintendent's Report – Wendy VanZegeren for Dr. Shubel

- Breton made nice gains in MEAP scores – results to be made public via newspaper
- Feb. break: District office to provide 2 days of professional training , 1 day of professional development at Breton

President – Sandra Upton

- Phone tree – Sandra made a public apology to those who received calls on the first snow day. There was conflicting information from media regarding a 2 hour delay vs. school closed. Going forward, the phone tree will be used *only* for emergencies and will go out to “Oldest and Only” (thus eliminating multiple calls to one family).
- Cash Handling – guidelines updated and sent to committee chairs. Call Sandra with questions or concerns.
- Social Networking Information Session – District Instruction Office to offer age-appropriate educational opportunity for parents *and* children to help manage/facilitate the numerous networking options available on the internet (everything from Webkinz to FaceBook).
 - Grades K-4: March 18, 6 pm @ Middle School (parents AND kids)
 - Grades 5-12: March 26, 6 pm @ High School media center conference room, parents ONLY
- School Budget Information - Kevin Philipps (Asst. Superintendent of Business) to post overview of School Funding on district website (via business link).
- Kids food Basket – watch the Breton Beat for this school-wide project (chairs – Patty Bolea & Barb Denning). Opportunities for all to get involved with a food collection.
- On behalf of the PTA, Sandra expressed gratitude and appreciation to Wendy during this Principal's Week. We are thankful she is a part of the Breton family.

Vice President – Shelly Boeve

- Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC) update:
 - Feb. in-service days benefit all teachers, save district money having in-house training.
 - New math curriculum is more difficult, but receiving positive feedback. Technical training for on-line component to be provided at in-service.
 - SALT program providing officer presence daily at schools. Well received.
 - If you have issues you want addressed at SAC, contact Shelly.

Treasurer – Cathy Oosse

- Working on next year's budget.
- Original Art Works came out better than expected.

Assistant Treasurer – Michelle Cavera

- Hungry Howie's (Wednesday nights) continues.
- D & W Days – D & W has cut back on percentage and number of days promoted. Requested Breton's school code placed by each register (especially self check-out) for ease of use
- Barnes & Noble – new fundraiser scheduled for March 29-30:
 - B & N donates 10-15% of first \$2000 in sales, % increases from there

- Will have welcome desk at front of store to have “non-Breton” shoppers use our coupons. Need volunteers for this position.
- B & N to have activities (featuring “Fancy Nancy” Tea Party on Sunday) and we will provide featured BDS “readers”.
- Lakeside successfully ran this program and earned \$4900.

Corresponding Secretary – Ronda Gauger. No report.

Recording Secretary - Diane Angell

- Cathy Oosse motioned to approve Nov. 15 and Jan. 11 minutes. Wendy VanZegeren seconded. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports

- Legislative Report – Winnie Brinks
 - Vern Ehlers coffee cancelled due to snow day – watch for new March date via email.
 - School calendar impacted by a law requiring counties to coordinate break dates.
- Junior Great Books – Jennifer Yarger
 - 107 kids participated this year
- Chess Club – to be provided one day/week. Need volunteers to supervise.
- Publishing Center – Kathy MacGregor
 - Children have the option of writing stories at home. *Edited and legible* stories should be given to classroom teacher with instruction to forward to classroom typist. Publishing Center will alert students when stories are ready for illustrations.

Teacher’s Report – Sra. Laarman

- Shared a video outlining EGR Spanish K(1st)-12 program – philosophy, accomplishments, vision. Mrs. Sawade’s class will present May 8 at the PAC as part of a celebration of the Spanish program.
- Upcoming events for each grade level to include Mariachis, Zumba, and many others.

Teacher’s Report – Alison Peot

- 5th grade student representatives presented Mrs. VanZegeren with cards, notes and words of appreciation.
- Student Council update (from Bill Schram):
 - Save plastic grocery bags (in bundles of 10) for the Kent County Recycling program.
 - Pasta for Pennies fundraiser for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society begins after break.
- Jackie Burdick thanks the Publishing Center for honoring kids as Published Authors.
- Lisa Eldersveld thanks the PTA for financial support for those students needing assistance with field trip and supply expenses.
- Alison Peot thanks PTA for 2 grant approvals – electricity unit and Lego project
- 5th grader Mason Schut introduced “GoodSearch” – a search engine similar to Google that earns the school a penny for each search. Looks promising, but not yet “approved” by the school/Technology Dept. Stay tuned.

Teacher’s Report – Cheryl Radecki

- Presented the” Safeties of the Month “and stressed the importance of each safety job.

Principal’s Report – Wendy VanZegeren

- Kindergarten round-up to be held district-wide at the High School. All day, alternate day Kindergarten possible for next year at BDS. Question raised about all day Kindergarten. State cannot mandate this – would have to be passed as a state law. Would put most districts in a physical building and financial crunch (K currently funded same as full day students).
- Wendy recommended 4 sections of 3rd grade for next year at BDS.
- Multicultural class enjoyed by parents and students. Hope to continue next year.
- Matt Keller to train staff on Harcourt math tech support.
- Next year: Wendy's focus will be on building leadership at each level in our school. Peer Mediation program to be implemented. Kate Randall to train 4th grade students and lunchroom supervisors in August, kick-off assembly in fall. Peer Mediation teaches kids how to resolve conflicts, raises up leaders (has been highly successful at Wealthy School, especially on the playground).
- 2nd-5th (and 1st as requested) Stanford testing starts after Feb. break.
- Play practice going well. Optional tea party for all students to kick-off the play.
- Tom Woodruff (illustrator) was a huge hit with the kids. Wendy considering a mural – produced by the kids.
- March is reading month. In conjunction, Jane Hall introduced family activity "Lego Masterpiece" where kids create a character or scene from a book out of Legos. Details to be forthcoming.

Announcements:

- HURRAH – March 8 is EGR Schools Foundation fundraiser (headed up by our own Mrs. Stuursma). The Foundation has supported many BDS grants, let's support our Foundation.
- Next meeting is March 13, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Angell