



**Booth Hill School PTO General Meeting
February 6, 2019 – 7 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes – Sara Wilbur
 - a. Call to order made by Sara Wilbur at 7:05 p.m.
2. Superintendent - Dr. Clouet
 - a. Dr. Clouet informed us that he works with all the principals to come up with the annual budget. They talk about the needs the school may have for the following year, for example anything from paper, library books, and/or additional staff for special education needs, etc.
 - b. The overall district increases each year about 7%, which comes out to about 4 million dollars. They have reduced the increase to 2.99%, which is cutting staff and an administrator. At the same time the mayor has come out and stated he will not pay any increase.
 - c. The Shelton Herald has released a story stating that the school district does not know how to handle money. Dr. Clouet stated this is not true and they are audited every year. However, this year the auditor is now accusing the BOE for mis-using special ed funding, which has caused the city to go into a deficit. He explained that this is not possible. Dr. Clouet went to the auditor's presentation. The auditor misused the word ECS and Excess Cost.
 - i. ECS is acronym for Education Cost Sharing, which helps with some level of equity between school districts. We received 6 million dollars from the state for ECS dollars, money goes to the municipal level who than distributes to the BOE.
 - ii. Excess Cost is exclusive just for special education funds and the BOE puts in a projection of cost for this fund. Sometimes kids come in town during the year and their projection can be off and because of this the town applies for it twice a year, once in December and once in March if they need more Excess Cost funding.
 - d. The auditor stated our town spent all our reserves and the town is now blaming the BOE for over spending the Excess Cost, but the BOE does not have control over this money and it does not even equal the reserve amount.
 - e. The Board of Alderman will be speaking about the litigation February 7th, the BOE proposes the budget to the Board of Alderman and the Board of Alderman puts the budget through.
 - f. Dr. Clouet stated that the redistricting company has been hired only to redistrict grades Kindergarten through Fourth grade. They look at the zones of the town every 5 to 6 years. There will be a few public meetings regarding the redistricting and the schools that will be mostly affected will be Elizabeth Shelton and Long Hill which will be moved to Mohegan and Booth Hill School.
 - g. The Bus Company is under contract for only one year. The mayor is going to propose to run the buses for the following year, the BOE is waiting for the mayor's proposal.



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- h. Dr. Clouet discussed having a larger meeting to inform the town of the budget and it was received very well by the parents that attended this PTO meeting.
- 3. President's Report – Sara Wilbur
 - a. Sara went to the PTO Alliance meeting, and heard Dr. Clouet speak. Sara spoke with other school PTO members and brainstormed ideas together. Next meeting will be held on February 25th.
 - b. Sara thanked Lynn Hicks and Sandra Peck for the Sweetheart Dance, it was a great success.
- 4. Vice-President's Report – Lisa Twarog
 - a. Breakfast Club will start next month at Focaccia's and will be held on the Friday after each PTO meeting.
- 5. Treasurer's Report – Gina Colgan
 - a. Gina presented that the PTO currently has \$23,545.78. Since the last meeting, the Apparel Sale made \$18. Box Tops brought in \$555.50, the trophy cost \$23.24, bringing the total to \$632.26. We received \$40 of Buddy Grams, \$55.00 donation and Restaurant Night brought in \$150. Gina is still working the numbers from the Sweetheart Dance. The expenses this past month came from a paper order and a few bounced checks.
- 6. Library – Mrs. Clark
 - a. Mrs. Clark gave a presentation on how to access the library resources the students can access at home through the new library website. You can access the website by going to the BHS page and clicking on the Library Media website. Children can click on their grade level and use their google account. Their google account name is their first letter of their first name, their entire last name and the first two digits of the Students' ID @students.sheltonpublicschools.org. Besides Kindergarten each student should know their google account name. They are unable to receive or send email, this is solely used to access websites.
 - b. Mrs. Clark did a presentation on the needs for the Library. Currently the library has a book collection of over 10,000 books, which is an average of 27 per student. 54% of the collection is nonfiction and 46% is fiction. Each year on average, the library receives 260 new books but is deleting 875 from the collection. This year alone, Mrs. Clark has purchased 371 new titles, 127 from the book drive, 184 from BHS, 20 from Scholastic and 40 from personal purchase. Only 5,680 is circulating amongst the students, the average age of the books in the library are 20 years old. 60% of the collection of the library are significantly old, 6% books are 2014 and newer, therefore only half the books are circulating. Teachers and students come into the library looking for books, but unfortunately, we do not carry them.
 - i. She proposed to replace paperbacks and popular titles (\$3,000 to \$4,000), add 2019 Award Winner books (Donor \$144 and ALA \$325), purchase a Book Repair



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Equipment (Tape Applicator \$95 and Thermal Binder \$320), iPad Security Stand (\$180) and Ozobots Class Set (\$1200), for a grand total of around \$5,000 to \$6,000.

- ii. A census was taken with the present PTO members at the meeting and it was decided to use the current PTO funds and donate toward the Library request. Mrs. Clark is going to send a proposal to the Executive Board to present to the BOE.
7. Teacher Representatives – Mrs. Grabarz and Ms. Gaynor
 - a. Mrs. Atkinson thanked the PTO for the iPads and they are learning SeeSaw and hoping to start for March.
 - b. Mrs. Grabarz and Ms. Gaynor stated the Sweetheart Dance was the big talk with the kids and thanked the PTO.
 8. Principal's Report – Dr. Zavodjancik
 - a. Dr. Z. presented the Mid-Year scores of the students. The data reflected how the students have progressed from the beginning of the year. He went through each grade and showed how each grade has developed and is moving forward to hit the year end target. Due to a parent complaint to the district, the results cannot be sent home to each student. If a parent would like to receive their child's scores they can reach out to their teacher and receive them. They will also be shown during conferences.
 - b. A question was raised regarding the amount of homework that is given to each student. Dr. Z. stated that if a parent has a concern over the amount of homework, it should be addressed to their teacher. Homework should not stress a family out and it is meant for review.
 9. After School Programs – Megan Sanches
 - a. After Schools Program will start on February 25th.
 10. BJ's Wholesale Membership Fundraiser – Debra Badas
 - a. The BJ's fundraiser is due by February 18th.
 11. Community Outreach – Dana Wirth and Lynn Hicks
 - a. Valentines will be sent to Lord Chamberlain.
 12. Cultural Assemblies – Jennifer Recker and Andrea Onofrio
 - a. The next cultural event will take place on February 22nd.
 13. JA in a Day – Jennifer Recker
 - a. JA in Day is March 28th and deadline to sign up is March 1st.
 14. Special Lady and Son Event – Magda Thompson
 - a. The event will be a Spartan Race/Obstacle Course, this is currently scheduled for April 27th from 11am to 1pm. There will be music and food trucks.
 15. Additional Committee Chair Updates
 - a. Nothing to report



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16. New Business
 - a. Nothing to report.
17. General comments, questions or concerns.
 - a. Nothing to report
18. Adjournment – Motion to Adjourn made by Sara Wilbur at 9:03 p.m.