

**Buckalew Elementary PTO Meeting  
December 1, 2023**

**11:34 Call to Order**

**I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Sarah Bartnick  
Second: Brooke Roberts  
Passed unanimously

**II. Principal's Report – Jill Price**

**Bond:**

- We are the first school to get a gym and it is scheduled to be finished by August 2025. We are also getting a chiller, boiler, air handlers, generators, electrical equipment, freezer, cooler by August 2025 as part of the bond package.
- Teachers may have to pack up classrooms over summer for major renovations.
- Technology piece of bond hasn't been detailed yet – we will not make any major technology changes or purchases until this has been announced.
- New elementary school in feeder zone opening August 2025 – attendance boundary committee to be formed in August 2024.

**Other:**

- Watch Dog program starting in January. Dads/grandparents that might want to be involved kickoff party/informational night is soon.
- Stacey Chase – CISD board member introduction

**III. Officer's Reports – PTO Officers**

**a. Treasurer – Carrie Foster**

- i. Monthly Financial Report
  1. Revenues: 125K
  2. Expenses: low at this time as expected – more will come in the spring
    - a. Directory \$1200
  3. Net income 91K
  4. At 85% of revenue budget as of 12/1/23
- ii. Vote on additional spending

- \*\$3,000 additional school supplies for teachers to pull from when they run low
- \*\$1,100 solar eclipse viewing glasses (April 2024)
- \*\$400 two new microwaves for teacher's lounge
- \*\$8,505 four new water bottle filling stations

Elizabeth Kutka: We have a surplus of revenue from a very successful Boosterthon fundraiser. Based on discussions at the May 2023 PTO Meeting, we wish to purchase additional school supplies for classrooms. In addition, we asked the school what their "wants" are at this time if we are to utilize extra funds. After consultation with a committee Mrs. Price heads that is comprised of multiple representatives from each grade level/area of staff, the remaining 3 items were requested by the school as "wants", with the water bottle filling stations being by far the most requested item from the committee as a whole.

Question/concerns from meeting attendees:

1. Need for Chromebooks over water filling stations.
  - a. Mrs. Price explained we will wait on technology budget from the bond before we spend PTO money on technology. Further concerns voiced regarding recent testing that was postponed the day of after Chromebook issues. Mrs. Price clarified that the reason the testing was postponed was because the Chromebooks we had allotted for the test did not have the correct OS, which we cannot determine until we open the tests. The OS necessary is determined by the state and there is nothing we can control in that regard. Per Mrs. Price we have plenty of working Chromebooks to test an entire grade at one time and going forward we will likely do one grade a day instead of both grades on one day to insure there are enough Chromebooks with the correct OS. In summary, we have enough devices currently. The issue is the OS and without a guarantee on how long this OS will be in use it is the opinion of administration that we do not purchase any new devices without the bond money at this time.
2. Can we vote by line item or as package?
  - a. As a package.
3. Concern about paying for solar eclipse glasses when you can get them for free from grocery stores.
  - a. We can potentially get a community partner to pay for them – PTO board will investigate this. We will also look into Kroger, HEB, etc. We need to make sure the glasses are safe for liability purposes. At this time, we need to vote as if we are going to spend the proposed money on glasses and if we can get them cheaper or free we will do that and update PTO members at that time.

4. Concern about using this money for things that PTO members feel teachers need more than the 4 items listed on the proposal.
  - a. We asked the school committee that includes one person from each grade level and also one person from each subject matter. There are also representatives from other areas outside K-4 teachers. These are the things they state they would like.
5. Concerns voiced about number of signups throughout the year asking for donations for specific classroom needs.
  - a. Idea presented by parent for grade level wide signups rather than each teacher having their own.
6. Concerns voiced about how and whether or not room moms are included in discussions regarding things presented at today's meeting.
  - a. Mrs. Price to address these concerns after the meeting

Summary of vote by Stacey Chase. Same information as stated by Elizabeth Kutka above.

Motion to vote: Catherine Boeger

Second: Tiffanie Lung

Yes: 23

No: 4

**b. VP Fundraising – Catherine Boeger**

- i. Boosterthon update
  1. \$64,610 raised
  2. 89% of students registered (highest in history)
  3. 75% of students raised money
  4. Potentially \$7,000 more coming from corporate matching
- ii. Carnival donations
  1. Non-chocolate candy to donate still being accepted
  2. Kids Raffle – Jessica Smock point person
    - a. Explanation of toys/items needed
    - b. Amazon/Venmo information given

**c. VP Parent Involvement – Sarah Bartnick**

- i. Spirit Nights – Myranda Wright
  1. Marco's raised \$547
    - a. 134 boxes decorated
    - b. 86 people participated
  2. Shop Small Holiday Weekend Dec 8-10

**d. Secretary – Janelle Kemp**

- i. Hospitality Update – Tiffanie Lung

1. One luncheon left for 2023
2. Cookie Wonderland sign up genius sent out
3. Marco's and Kumon have offered to sponsor some future luncheons

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:35**

**Next PTO Meeting: January 5 11:30**

**Connect with Buckalew PTO:**

- Read the Buckalew Buzz via email
- Buckalew Elementary
  - Twitter: @buckalewbears
  - Facebook: Buckalew Elementary, Conroe ISD
- Buckalew PTO
  - Instagram: @Buckalewbearspto
  - Facebook: Buckalew Elementary PTO

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

January 5  
February 2  
March 1  
April 5  
May 3

Attendees:

1. Manisha Wolan
2. Vasiliki Christaki
3. Amanda Lee
4. Katelyn Melton
5. Rachel Simpson
6. Myranda Wright
7. Audrey Innerst
8. Celita Lewis
9. Tiffanie Lung
10. Taylor Erickson
11. Ashley Heinen
12. Rachel Johnson
13. Alex Montalvo
14. Kristen Stocker
15. Kristen Dvorsky
16. Jill Rider
17. Stacey Chase
18. Chelseas Depoy
19. Leah Jones
20. Brooke Roberts
21. Felisha Hennessey
22. Janelle Kemp

23. Elizabeth Kutka
24. Sarah Bartnick
25. Carrie Foster
26. Catherine Boeger
27. Brandi Sherman

28 people in attendance including Mrs. Price