

**Buckalew Elementary PTO Meeting
January 5, 2024**

Call to order: 11:32

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes – Elizabeth Kutka

Motion: Catherine Boeger

Second: Taylor Erickson

Pass unanimously

II. Principal's Report – Jill Price

*Last day to provide feedback for next school year's calendar – biggest difference is one option has a week off in October and the other option has multiple long weekends

*Safety upgrade perimeter fence being installed to meet state requirements for safety

*Still looking at placement for gym. Is in talks with the district to settle on placement and timeline. Supposed to be open August 2025

*Security film being installed on every exterior window. Impact Resistant film so it cannot shatter.

*Technology bond package update – we are expecting approximately 400 iPads and 100 Chromebooks from the most recent CISD bond. Based on this information, Mrs. Price is proposing we purchase 38 more Chromebooks. This will give us as much flexibility with testing as needed. We do want to be mindful not to purchase too much technology as a campus all at one time, as we do not want all of our technology (bond + campus purchased) to age out at the same time.

*Stacey Chase: Feel free to bring comments about calendar proposal to me. Calendar with fall break is being positioned as what elementary parents would prefer. If you have strong feelings, please respond to survey or let me know.

*Mrs. Depoy – third grade teacher. Pointed out that a large break in October can disrupt the flow of learning for elementary school students.

III. Officer's Reports – PTO Officers

a. Treasurer – Carrie Foster

i. Monthly Financial Report

*Checks have been coming in with a few outstanding not included in budget report

*YTD 87% overall goal for revenue – driven by Boosterthon. Ahead of where we normally are at this point.

*Recent Expenses: decorations in the front, bill to Boosterthon, hospitality events for teachers, requests from school have been coming in (4th grade field trips, books for scholastic materials to cover missing funds)

*Expenses are at 50% of what is planned for the year

*Moving forward with spending the voted-on money in December meeting. Solar eclipse glasses are approximately half the cost of original proposal.

*3/4 water bottle fillers have been installed

Question: When do we vote on next year’s budget – can we give our input?

Answer:

Elizabeth –

-“Funds to Buckalew” – typically no significant changes from year to year – these numbers come from the school

-look at fundraising needs

-we budget conservatively

-we reach out to committee chairs, school, executive board, budget

-parent input is always welcome

-a lot of input for extra spending has been from PTO parents not just all from the school

Mrs. Price – We don’t normally over fundraise this much so we are in a unique position this year. We look at previous year and where we had deficits to ask PTO to adjust budget for the next year. PTO pays for some recurring academic expenses like Dreambox.

Question: Dreambox level not correct for the child. Question whether there is another program that might be better.

Answer:

Mrs. Depoy addressed concerns and states she will take this to her math team.

Mrs. Price stated that Dreambox is virtually the only math option that aligns with the Texas curriculum that we can use smoothly with our lessons.

Question: Is there a reserve that we hold over to the next year? Concern about what we would do if, for example, there’s a “bad carnival” and an emergency in the same year.

Elizabeth: We always have a base in the bank account in case of emergency. We do try to generally zero out the budget as there is an expectation from the district that the majority of funds raised are to be used in the same school year or a reasonable time period – not to be stockpiled.

Carrie: Add to March/April meeting agenda – open platform for PTO meeting attendees to give ideas on next year’s budget

- ii. Vote on additional spending - Buckalew has asked the PTO to purchase an additional 38 Chromebooks for the school, at a total cost of \$12,832.22.

*Boosterthon raised \$26K extra from what we had planned. \$13K approved for spending last meeting. New proposal is to use majority of remaining excess revenue on Chromebooks necessary after knowledge of bond package technology package.

Motion to approve: Catherine Boeger

Second: Jill Rider

Passed unanimously

b. VP Fundraising – Catherine Boeger

- i. Carnival – Kid’s Raffle

*We have received \$165 for kid raffle since last meeting

*Requests for money and/or toys for kids raffle

Meeting Adjourned: 12:15

Next PTO Meeting: February 2

Connect with Buckalew PTO:

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 2

March 1

April 5

May 3

- Facebook: Buckalew Elementary PTO

Attendees:

Jainelle Kemp
Brooke Roberts
Elizabeth Kutka
Carrie Foster
Catherine Boeger
Jill Price
Chelsea Depoy
Manisha Wolon
Vasiliki Christaki
Taylor Erickson
Rachel Simpson
Bridgette Blevins
Stacy Butterfield
Jill Rider
Amanda Lee
Ashley Heinen
Alicia Yarrish
Breanne Ward
Audrey Innerst
Stacey Chase
Amanda Lee