



Berlin/Boylston Public Schools
Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** October 23, 2013, 8:36pm
- Meeting Place:** Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Multi-Purpose Room
- In attendance:** Angela Allred, Laura Swackhammer, Rochelle Peret, Karen Groccia, Karen Molnar, Christina Stille, Lori Michalak, Jean Fedlkamp
- Membership Report:** 85 members, 56 Yahoo! Group members. The two new Y!Group members have not submitted paper applications and are not added to the master list.
- Financial:** Current balance is \$2,418. There is an additional \$1405 from pie sales to be deposited.
Web expenses for the year: Network Solutions expires Feb 2014. Renewal costs are \$37.99/1 year, \$113.97/3 years, \$184.99/5 years
iPage expires July 2014. Renewal cost is \$178.20/3 years
Total is \$292.17 for 3 years of domain ownership and hosting. No decision needs to be made this month. Christi wants to wait until the pie profit figures before making a decision.
The Transition 101 Presentation money has already been earmarked.
Suggestion that Lori prepare a budget including upcoming expenses.
- Communications:** Christi received a new member form from Karla Correia.
Received a thank you from Lynn Gostyla for Excellent Educator Awards acknowledgement.
Received an email from Christian Hansen at Presence Learning, an Online Occupational Therapy service, requesting to "connect and meet."
- PR Report:** All PR related to the *Transitions 101* Presentation was sent out to the Banner, and the Tahanto morning Announcements.
Ken Cleveland wrote an article for the Banner, published Sept. 27, 2013 regarding SEPAC activities and the search for the Berlin Co-President.

New Testing:
Karen Molnar

Karen discussed the new testing practices at the schools, AimsWEB for grades K-3 and MAPS for grades 4-12. Current protocol is to not allow most accommodations in order to get an independent level of where the student is at. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis, such as accommodations for vision-impaired students who would be unable to see the computer-only test. The first round of testing has been done and very few students needed accommodation.

Lyman Pie Fundraiser:
Lori Michalak

Ligia has totals, will call in the order of 154 pies. We have no profit figures yet. Delivery date is set for 11/4/13. Lori will send out a reminder email to pick up the pies. Lyman only delivers to one location – BES, and then we need to divide up the pies that are going to BES vs. BMS. Karen G. brought up the possibility of accepting credit cards in the future – passed on a flyer regarding details to Lori. Also for consideration is the possibility of online pie sales.

NISW

Angela A. is heading the National Inclusive Schools Week (NISW) Committee. She will talk with John Campbell, Principal of BMS, on 10/24. BES' theme is "Giving Gifts", which is the writing project ongoing separate from NISW.

Lori M. will set up meeting with Diane Tucceri, Principal of Tahanto, with outreach. In the past the students have come up with their own activities; they like it to be student-lead.

If the "Giving Gifts" theme is school-driven (as opposed to SEPAC-driven); do we bother sending out flyers for the program? Last year Paul Goodhind, BES Principal did well pushing the program, so probably won't send out info.

Considered not presenting certificates to those who participate in NISW due to the expense and time expenditure; however, Karen M. suggests it's a really good thing to get the recognition. If the work is divided up it shouldn't be too bad.

Website Update:

Rochelle is going to make the new site live, mistakes and all, to get it online, and then she and Karen G. will work out the kinks. We will be sure to have the new front page with the info@ email link but all other content will be fed as we go along.

In the Y!Group mailing list there are several "bouncers" – whose email bounces back when sent. Karen G. used to have this problem, she fixed it for herself. Rochelle will look into with the other members.

Karen G. added all of the SEPAC meeting dates to the Y!Group calendar, including the reminder emails.

New Business:

Do we have anyone lined up to be a speaker at the Preschool orientation? Karen will send Christi the dates for that.

Look into the Autism Resource Center to see whether they may reimburse for the ADD Insights Presentation in March. Let Christi know if there are other grants of interest.

Would the Cultural Council grants would apply? They have to be for a public event that will cover a large percentage of the town's population. WBAC grants tend to be arts-based grants, but would be good for a broad-based program.

Committee Calendar – Karen asked for and received volunteers to head each of the unfilled positions. Karen will email this list out to the board. Carol Costello, curriculum coordinator, wants to touch base for the November general meeting on the new report card change to the “Standard based report cards”.

Currently nobody has stepped forward to be the Berlin Co-President. Carla Mason has been inquiring with parents.

School Meeting Reports:

Union 60 School Committee:

Regional School Committee:

Berlin Memorial School Committee:

Boylston Elementary School Committee:

Tahanto PTO:

Berlin LINK:

BUSS (Berlin United to Support our Students):

Boylston PTA:

Boylston School Council: Karen G. met with Paul Goodhind and looked over the Douglas schools' Improvement Plan. Discussed info on PARCC.

Future Agenda Items:

- Website update – Karen
- NISW – Angela and Lori; we will incorporate the theme “giving gifts”, as used at BES (possibly at BMS as well?)
- Resource List

M/s/p to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Approved:

Electronic approvals on file.

_____ Christi Stille, Co-President

_____ Karen Groccia, Vice President

_____ Lori Michalak, Treasurer

_____ Rochelle Peret, Secretary

Submitted by:



Rochelle Peret
