

BIRCH GROVE PTO BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2008
BIRCH GROVE MEDIA CENTER

Board Members Present: LeAnne Tieman, Lori Swedeen, Lisa Monson, Jeff Zastrow, Janean Huser.

Site Improvement Plan: Principal Zastrow discussed how Birch Grove formed a site improvement plan 3 years ago. Goals were created for students in grades 3-6 in 3 areas: academic, behavioral and cultural. This is the third year. Reading programs (ex: Read 180) and math programs (ex: ST math and music) encourage students to learn. Birch Grove has exceeded the district average in these areas. Student behavior/incidents have decreased over the past school years. Teachers also have a goal to integrate the arts into the classroom 3 lessons/day. To continue these goals, new reading programs will be introduced (ex: independent reading and “Good Night Moon”, which is similar to ST Math Family Night). Math programs will continue, and the 1st grade students will be introduced to ST Math. Principal Zastrow would like to implement a program called Pyramid of Intervention, which deals with behavior. Teachers will continue to integrate the arts into the classroom. Principal Zastrow is working on getting approval from the district to have the site plan available on the school website for parents to view.

Levy Information: Tammie Epley from the school district spoke briefly about the 2 levies on the ballot this year. The first is an operating levy. Examples of how the monies would be used are: smaller class sizes, more transportation available, 40-50 teachers and support staff would be hired in the district. The second levy is a technology levy. It would provide new technology (ex: overhead projectors, document cameras) and education for the staff to implement the technology in the classroom. The first levy is \$80 million for 10 years; second levy is \$5 million for 5 years.

Approval of September Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Principal Zastrow, second by Dan Tieman.

Budget: Even though there is a positive balance in the account, there are still bills to be paid from last year. Approximately, \$2,600 was made selling Happenings/Gold C Books. The Scholastic Book Fair did well. \$500.00 was deposited into the account and \$240.00 will be given to Joan Magnuson to buy books for the media center. Box Tops will bring in approximately \$400.00.

Committee Updates: Turkey Bingo will be held on Thursday, November 21. Karon Tollefson, concessions chairperson, informed us that CiCi's Pizza will cater for the evening. In lieu of time, the motion to adjourn was made by Lori Swedeen, second by Principal Zastrow.

Next PTO Business Meeting: November 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center.