

Banneker Elementary School

PTO Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2021 9:00 AM

Attendees: Brent Finley, Theresa Finley, Kim Harris, Andrew Stevens, Megan Rafalski, Erin Supplee, Bryan Cornell, Ashley Epling, Brynn Willett, Christa Lynch, Cy Acord, Susan Strong

Guest Speaker 9:00AM - 9:30AM

Blue Ridge School Board Representative, Ian Serotkin

Banneker's Space Constraints and the Capital Improvement Program

- Board was scheduled to vote on 12/14, but vote has been delayed until 1/11/22.
- Funding issues from county may impact final decision.
- Banneker's renovation includes a 5 classroom addition (on chart labeled as K classrooms), additional student restrooms, separating gym from cafeteria with a new gym, renovations to kitchen area, removing the 2 modular units, and renovation/expansion of security vestibule.
- This would be a net of 3 additional classrooms.
- Design would occur in FY 2023/2024 and it would be scheduled to be open by fall 2026.
- Currently, there is a general lack of classrooms to meet educational needs and Banneker classrooms are smaller than newer schools at 539-750 sq ft, but classroom capacity expectations are the same as the rest of the county. Modern school classrooms are built to be 900-1200 square feet.
- There are 4-5 small schools in Loudoun and Waterford and Banneker are slated for the upgrade. Throughout the process, Waterford has been more vocal about needing an addition, and Banneker families have been relatively silent until this point.

What else can be included in this plan?

- Who has the population data to support the growth? Need data to support a drastically different plan than what is currently proposed.
- Will parking be addressed during the design and construction of the addition? There is a plan for parking, but it didn't happen due to geothermal in 2021, but has been pushed to 2022. Has been voted on in engineering, but it will be addressed in 2022
- As construction would not be complete for 2-3 years, Banneker needs interim solutions for storage and larger trailers to house grade-level classrooms.

General Meeting 9:30AM - 10:30AM

President's Report, Cy Acord

General Discussion

- Mr. Carter provided a tour of Banneker to Mr. Serotkin prior to the meeting which was very effective in showing Banneker's space constraints.
- Need parent advocates to push it forward, otherwise it'll take 5 years or potentially be cut during the budget reconciliation process. If parents would like to see the renovation occur sooner, then strong parent engagement and advocacy are necessary.

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- Need interim trailers to house classes and storage solutions.
- Current shed is being re-rented from the contractor (LCPS will not fund a re-rent). When CMTA is released from their contract, then the storage trailer will be removed. As it stands now, the trailer will be removed in February 2022 with no plan or space for storing PE equipment, etc.
- Kimberly Harris asked if a Go Fund Me can be started for building a storage shed.
- Superintendent and assistant superintendent should be invited to Banneker to tour the school.
- Action Items: Susan to help organize a letter to help families to advocate for Banneker's renovation. Susan will reach out to Dr. Ziegler and Tony Buffington to schedule visits.

General Meeting

- Coffee Cart (morning) and Giving Tree 12/17/21. Volunteers have been identified for both.
- Original Works to be delivered 12/16/21-12/17/21.
- Next Teacher Treat 1/12/22 - 2nd Grade, Winter Soups
- After School Activities
 - LCPS has made changes to how vendors and teachers can be paid for after school activities. Due to these changes, activities need to run through the school's account not the PTO's accounts.
 - Because of complications associated with accounting for after school activities, there will be no after school activities for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Would it be better to have CASA at Banneker vs at the Philomont Community Center? Casa comes with supplies and enrichment programs. Banneker is the only school that doesn't have a CASA program.
 - Mr. Carter will look into options, including CASA.
- International Night
 - Canceled due to COVID.
 - Spanish Information night instead.
- Fundraising Update
 - Success this fall means that there will be no additional fundraising this school year.
- Assemblies
 - Holiday sing a long today.
 - Need to identify a company that is doing a good job of assemblies during COVID.
 - Loudoun county ballet, author visits, wildlife ambassadors, etc
 - Mr. Carter and teachers can collaborate to identify assembly options.
- 2022-2023 PTO Volunteer Updates
 - The PTO is looking for new volunteers for next school year to serve on the PTO Board.

Treasurer's Report, Cy Acord

- Current balance: \$12, 853.42

2021 Funds Requests

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Requestor	Amount	Description	Status
Christa Lynch	\$178.53	Middleburg Parade	Approved
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$178.53		

Principal's Report: Robert Carter

- COVID mitigation strategies are working.
- Gaggle alerts – used to identify when students are using their Chromebooks for something other than instruction.
- School has been following-up on mental health issues that are identified through Chromebook usage.
- Staffing may look different next year. It is extremely important for Banneker to have a full time Reading Specialist and EL teacher.
- Schools are expecting a county wide staffing shuffle, and Banneker may need to advocate to keep the current staffing model.
- Mr. Carter introduced a professional learning trip/conference that he would like to attend. The NCTM, 2/2-2/4, in New Orleans. He expects to request \$300 from the PTO to cover the expense of a hotel stay.
- To maintain equity with the administration and teachers, the PTO would also support teachers conference requests.
- Garden is currently not maintained, and a parent volunteer (or a group of parents/students) is needed to maintain it.

2022 PTO Meeting Dates:

For the winter, the PTO will be meeting virtually in the evenings. Links will be sent to families prior to the meeting.

- 1/19 at 6PM
- 2/16 at 6PM
- 3/16 at 6PM
- 4/20
- 5/18