

Bonnie Branch Middle School PTA Minutes for meeting dated September 14, 2011 6-7pm

Executive Board meeting called by Yvette Hayes, PTA President

Meeting was called to order by Yvette shortly after 6pm.

In attendance were: Yvette Hayes, Irene Williams, Nan Brown, Carolyn Jameson, Debbie Waeger, Nga Clark, Chris Nobis, Montrez Bruton, Meena Amin, Mary Nicklin, Maryann Cohea

Mrs. Jameson began the meeting by stating that she knew there was a lot going on and thanking those who came. She talked about the Aspen parent portal hopefully coming up tomorrow. She thanked parents who came to back to school night and said she had received many comments about parents being pleased with the staff including a family who had relocated to Bonnie Branch. The silent auction brought in \$1574 for the baskets which funds the Sharkshop and fundays.

Mrs. Jameson stated that Mr. Ensor's portable had been checked for mold and cleaned and sealed. There was no longer a moldy smell in the portable and it will be monitored by the county throughout the year. There was also repair work done in the staff lounge where there had been leakage.

Mrs. Jameson stated that on August 30th, she and Ms. Brown had gone over all policies with students. On September 2, a student had violated policy numbers 9230 (drug and alcohol), 9200 (discipline) and 1040 (safe school). The student brought an illegal substance on the school bus. There was an investigation and the other students on the bus were talked to. The student responsible did not initially acknowledge the incident but did later on. Letters went home to parents of the children on the bus. Mrs. Jameson has not seen an issue of this nature in the past 15 years. She did not want to upset the entire community but in retrospect felt the letters should have gone out to all parents. The substance had been thrown out of the window of the bus. Mrs. Jameson suggested talking to your kids can help prevent risky behavior. The parents of the child involved were relieved and supportive when notified. All parents involved were glad of how the incident had been handled and investigated.

Trina Thames then stated it would have been a good idea to send out general info regarding the incident as she heard about it from other sources.

Yvette Hayes mentioned looking into the HC Drug Free program for the school.

Nan Brown stated that the school had been doing lots of emergency drills such as the duck, cover and hold in light of the earthquake and hurricane. She stated the school would be also doing a lock down and modified lock down. She also said that the Howard County news guy was amazed that Bonnie Branch had their own TV studio while he was here doing the article on BBMS.

Debbie Waeger then talked about her department and stated parents can schedule team conferences Mondays or Wednesdays thru student services. The 6th grade trip to Camp Letts is scheduled for May 15,16,17. Chaperones are needed for this 6th grade highlight.

Chris Nobis represented the 7th grade team and said that Wednesdays were available for scheduling conferences. The 7th grade has several fund raisers scheduled: Chick Filet night, and Pei Wei nights are two of them. 7th grade will be taking 3 field trips, one in the fall, Medieval times on March 2nd, and one in either May or June.

Nga Clark spoke up as the 8th grade team leader. She said Fridays are their scheduled day for conferences. 8th grade would be doing Terrapin adventures at a cost of around \$60. The New York field trip is scheduled for April 25th. She was wondering if the PTA would be able to provide some help with the cost of this trip for families with twins if needed. Mary Nicklin advised her that it was within PTA policy to help students with financial hardship.

Irene Williams then spoke about the Service Learning project for the 8th grade which will be "Empty bowls". The 8th grade will be selling soup and donating the proceeds to Howard County families in need. The world language department will be hosting a Bonnie Branch cultural fair during the day for students. They would like to bring in music and dance. It will probably occur during the 3rd quarter. It was mentioned by other attendees that it would be nice to complement with an international night at the school.

Yvette Hayes stated that she had attended the council meeting and the main topics discussed had been redistricting and composition of the board. Council would like more input and feedback from parents, etc. Meetings are the first Monday of the month from 7-9:30 and open to everyone. It was also mentioned that the county emergency messaging system needs more help. There is also a desire for more partnerships with the community such as family farm nights, etc.

Trina Thames stated she was looking into fund raising options such as coupon books, etc if we needed to go in that direction.

Maryann Cohea then gave some input regarding standard fund raising.

Mary Nicklin then gave the treasurer's report. She stated that the general membership meeting had been held on back to school night and the budget had been approved and voted in at this meeting. Upon processing the audit it was discovered that Sangita Patel had a computer virus which had occurred during the middle of the prior school year and had had to reenter all her data. Upon doing so the current year budget had not updated itself and had reverted back to the prior year data which explained the large reserve left at the end of the year.

Meena Amin talked about the social activities being planned such as the movie night, and Barnes and Noble family night.

Yvette Hayes then talked about wellness and health and the possibility of a program for dads on campus such as FBI.

Irene Williams said she was working on a health intramural for the students.

Nan Brown commented on the health issues and said there would be health providers coming to do seminars.

After some general personal commenting was made it did not appear there was any further business to be discussed at the current time.

Yvette Hayes then adjourned the meeting about 7:10 pm.