

BBMS PTA General Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2011

Present:

Administration and teachers: Carolyn Jameson, Nan Brown, Ashley Libey, Kelly Farquharson, Anne Schaefer

PTA members: Yvette Hayes, Mary Nicklin, Maryann Cohea, Donna Sudbrook, Edwina Britt, Meena Amin, Lori Magoon, Donna Sudbrook, Pamela Gray, Felecia Murray

Meeting Items

The president called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. Yvette then talked about her recent experience with PALS being a positive one. She urged everyone to volunteer with the PALS program. It is not too late to sign up for PALS. For information, please email Dana Crisco at dkcrisco@verizon.net. Yvette also went to the Howard County Drug Free program meeting. She talked about how they see the middle school as a good point of contact for preventing drug use. The president also urged all committee chairs to review any upcoming events with the executive board before they are published. Yvette would like to also order PTA t-shirts for everyone. There was an area to designate size on the sign-in sheet. Next, the president discussed the meeting with Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Williams about International night. Mrs. Rivera already has 2 performances lined up. Mrs. Rivera would like for everyone to eat together as a community at the end of all the performances. The administration has been asked for a date either in 3rd quarter or beginning of 2nd quarter. The August and September minutes were read silently and accepted as written. Mary Nicklin then gave the budget report. There were several checks written for council dues, liability insurance and movie license dues. There is currently \$7,220 that has been deposited, but not coded. As of 9/30, there was \$6,192.23 in savings and \$6182.62 in checking. The check register balance is \$7,896.24. Approximately \$14,000 is currently available in funds. All paperwork has been delivered to the PTA office. The audit report has been done and the current year dues and PTA scholarship funds have been paid. Form 990 is next on the agenda to complete. The pending sales tax form is also on the agenda but it is done as a courtesy because we do not owe sales tax. On 10/31, we need to remit a portion of the dues to the state PTA. Ashley Libey talked about the Web leaders working with the 6th grade students. They are serving as role models for the 6th graders. They enhance learning for them and talk about goal setting. She also talked about needing parents for the upcoming 6th grade field trip. Mr. Rainey talked about how Aspen's features are much different than Teacherease and it is hard to identify the music students. Because of this, they need all band, orchestra and chorus students to go to Bonnie Branch's music program website to enter information and whether the child is in band, orchestra or chorus. It was also noted that 3 students had been accepted to the Howard County GT band and 2 were first chair. There are also 2 who were accepted into the GT Chorus program. Next, Mrs. Shaeffer talked about the 8th graded field trip to New York. They will leave at 6:30 am and return at 10:30 pm. The cost is \$200 and a \$100 deposit needs to be paid by winter break. The school requested money from the PTA for students who need financial assistance. The PTA will know by the next meeting how much they can contribute. It was stated that for Terrapin Adventure, many parents gave extra money for students who needed it. This is also an option for the New York trip. Last year, every 8th grader who did not respond about the field trip was contacted by the administration. It is the goal to make sure that any student who would like to attend the field trip is able to attend regardless of financial concerns. The following topic was a presentation by Mrs. Farquharson about Study Island which is a web based enrichment program for math and reading. This program has improvements every year and is aligned to the state curriculum and common core curriculum. It was initially developed for MSA practice but has grown to be much more. It shows you

notes and examples. There is a blue ribbon for 65% proficient, but students may go beyond that percentage. It can be set to game or test mode and the number of questions can be set. There is a classroom response which can be used for clickers in the classroom. Worksheets can also be printed. In addition, there is a text speech feature if they need to hear it. There is also software to detect guessing. It was stated that this software is a huge resource for teachers and can also show a live view. Teachers can see how many questions the students are missing and who needs help. There are reporting features and it could be used for enrichment if MSM1 AND MSM2 are combined. Mrs. Farquharson ended by saying that it is currently being used for students who need extra help, but she would like to see it brought into the classroom for other teachers. They also have great online support. Mary Nicklin noted that the PTA can do some fundraising to pay for Study Island even if it is not in the budget. Donna stated that she would be willing to set up a fundraiser for it. Mrs. Brown gave a short presentation about ASPEN. There are videos on the BBMS website for ASPEN. You can set parameters to get an email alert if a grade is below a certain level. You can also set parameters to receive an email if there is an absence. Emails are set up under preferences. There are 6 videos on the BBMS website and ASPEN can also be used for discipline and graphs can compare from year to year. If you have problems or need to have your password reset, contact Paula Dise. Mrs. Jameson bypassed her principal's report in lieu of her time being used to present Study Island. Donna announced that there was \$6,690 in direct donations with 284 members and \$1,420 in membership fees. The goal of \$7,500 was not met. Donna discussed sending out a letter to the members stating this. Yvette noted that the fundraisers will not be door to door. It was also mentioned that visuals help so that members can see the how much money is raised. Membership and Thank You cards will come out in the next couple of days. It will also note the tax deductible amount. Yvette mentioned that she is piggybacking on Mrs. Brown's idea and she is asking all officers to ask three new members to join. Mrs. Jameson wanted to know if there was a way to find out which staff members were members of the PTA. Donna will come up with a list of staff members for Mrs. Jameson. Estimates were received for the student directory. Movie Night is next Thursday from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Permission slips will go out on Friday. Electronic permission slips were sent out with the announcement. Parents can sign up at Genius for chaperones and snacks. The group discussed a raffle to get the students excited about movie night. Barnes and Noble Night will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Michael Braco who is a science fiction author and art teacher at Ellicott Mills will be there at 6:45 pm and will be available to sign books. There will be student showcases and gift card drawings. Cheesecakes will also be available for ordering. Mr. Yeargin has a wish list for the Media Center. Meena contacted music teachers. Reflections entries are due on November 22nd. The top 3 go to the county level. Pamela Gray who is the PTAC delegate talked about needing more input. The School Improvement Plan was discussed. SIT is not always open to parent involvement at all schools. Donna is on the SIT committee for Bonnie Branch. Pam talked about a need to make parents aware of information that comes up at the meetings. Donna agreed to report back from the SIT meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Old Action Items

-Attempt to find a second PTA delegate and fill other open positions

New Action Items

-Determine amount that the PTA can contribute towards the New York field trip for students who have a financial need

-Donna will send out membership cards

-Donna will come up with a list of staff members who are not PTA members