

**BBMS PTA Board of Director's Minutes
February 22, 2012**

Present:

Administration and teachers: Carolyn Jameson, Kelly Butler, Debbie Germroth, Laura Honig

PTA members: Yvette Hayes, Edwina Britt, Gaye Stokes, Nutan Mathur, Donna Sudbrook, Meena Amin, Katrina Noonan, Shannon Sann, Lori Magoon, Vishali Nuvvala, Barb Krupiarz, Lisa Schwartz, Sheri Gobell, Cathy Gabriel, Sara Englehaupt, Raina Rahman, Chaun Hightower

Meeting Items

PTA report

The president called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. The minutes were quietly read and approved for the January 11 PTA meeting and the Board of Director's meeting for Jan 26th. Meena made a motion to accept the January 11th meeting notes as is and Trina seconded the motion. Meena made a motion to accept the January 26th meeting minutes as is and Gaye seconded. Yvette announced that Pat Coury has volunteered to be the new PTA delegate. She was voted in.

The Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given by Yvette. The cash on hand is \$3, 660. 17 and savings is \$6,182.62. Income is currently \$10,235.08 and the budget is 13, 246.00. Fundraising is being planned to make up the difference.

Fundraising

The AT& T fundraiser is in full swing. Trina noted that she had asked the Columbia stores about a status and they stated that they had only gotten a handful. She also noted that the plan is to go ahead with the roller skating. The insurance company does not like the inline skates. Supreme Sports has an inline skate waiver. Mary is still talking to the insurance company. Some possible dates for the skate party are Saturday, March 24 or Saturday March 31 at 4:30. There was some discussion as to whether it would be a family event or not. There was a suggestion that there be a family price and an individual price for the tickets. It is \$600 to reserve date. Trina will look into supervision that is needed during the skate party.

Poetry Slam

Gaye announced that the Poetry slam was a big success. She thanked everyone for bringing the snacks and allowing the kids to participate. There were 15 to 16 participants. The LINKS greeted and served. It was a great multicultural event.

Boxtops

Boxtops just concluded on Monday. Clipping and sorting is still taking place and prizes will be given out soon. Many thank you cards have come in for Tonya and the Hospitality committee.

SIT/PTAC

Donna has the SIT powerpoint. Email Donna if you would like a copy. SIT goal 1 is that all students will meet rigorous standards. The number of students on the honor roll is an indicator. SIT goal 2 is that there will be a safe and nurturing environment and it deals with behavior. The PTA Council is having a Candidate Forum at 7:30 P.M. at the Board of Education. There is a Cyberbullying Seminar on April 26. Donna also announced that the Legislative committee wants feedback on whether the PTA would or should take a stand on same sex parents. Either give comments to Donna or email legislative@ptachc.org. There was a question about attending the SIT meeting and Mrs. Jameson noted that usually a representative from the PTA attends and then reports back to the PTA. The February 27 SIT meeting was rescheduled. There will still be the usual March meeting. Donna will table the SIT discussion until the next meeting and then present more information.

Social Committee

Meena reported on the Cultural night which is April 8th from 6 P.M. until 8 P.M. FACS will have food. The Chorus will participate and there will be a Karate demonstration and Latin Band and Flamenco dancers.

Parents for Positive Change

Katrina passed out a handout that was entered into the files. Parents have concerns about things happening at school such as fighting and bullying and they want to come up with a comfort level. Some parental concerns were expressed about the pushing, hitting and shoving at BBMS. Mrs. Jameson responded by saying that any student who is sent to the office is disciplined in some manner and it is not tolerated. There was also a concern about the students with behavioral contracts being rewarded with more scholar dollars than the students who are behaving appropriately. Mrs. Jameson said they are looking into how to reward the students who are doing the right thing. There was also a question about vandalism in the boys' bathroom and how they could not go to the bathroom. Mrs. Jameson stated that the boys had to go to a different bathroom and that words had been written on the mirrors. There was discussion about having to have a signature to use the bathroom. Per the administration, this is standard procedure in Howard County Middle Schools. The PPC will be a conduit to the front office, they hope to increase PTA participation, they will play an active role in PBIS, they hope to gain a better understanding of how discipline is administered, and gain a better understanding of how the administration handles issues of bullying and harassment. They would also like to be involved in Community Outreach. Edwina read the role of the description of PPC Chair which is to serve as a liaison with the school's PPC committee. They also should keep the PTA apprised of the monthly PBIS lesson plans for students and help identify successful workshops/programs which promote a considerate caring community. She also read previous minute notes from previous PPC Chair Jillian Storms which states that they had worked with Mrs. Germroth (guidance counselor). It also stated wanting to show the movie, "Bullied: A Student, A School and a Case that made History" followed by a discussion to mark Maryland's Annual Bullying and Awareness Prevention in May. All information was given to Katrina and Shannon. Shannon will see if the Board of Education PPW who attends Kidtalk for truancy is available to talk to the PTA. Yvette thanked the new Chairs for PPC and Mrs. Jameson also thanked Katrina and Shannon for chairing and helping with PBIS. Mrs. Jameson is excited about the PPC possibly bringing in presenters.

School report Administration

The Delegation from the State Department which included Dr. Sadusky (Interim Superintendent) and Sydney Cousins visited Bonnie Branch's Financial Literacy Programs. David Adelman and John Norfolk were also present. Approximately 25 people gathered in the media center to review the Financial Literacy Programs. They received rave reviews. At some point, others will come to review the Financial Literacy Programs. MSA practice in homerooms has already started. The second practice session will be February 27th. The projected enrollment for 2012-2013 will be 733 students which is 27 students more. There will be 2 new staff positions. There is also a new World Language position (.6). The total new positions will be 2.6. There will be a loss of a .5 Reading Specialist and a 1.0 Special Educator for a total loss of 1.5 positions. The Administration is going over the schedule with the teachers and it is still fluid at this point. It will be final in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Every school in Howard County will now be on the same 7 period day (50 minutes) schedule. There were questions about the new schedule. One parent inquired about what happens to a child who has been waitlisted for the foreign language that they requested. Mrs. Jameson responded that the plan is that with the additional foreign language resource that all students will be able to be accommodated. Another question was about the priority to give the students the language that they have requested. Mrs. Jameson answered that they are trying hard to give the students the language that they have

signed up for. She stated that many of the students want Spanish, but that they students who take French really enjoy it and Mrs. Honig is here to encourage French also. Bonnie Branch is requesting additional resources of an additional Assistant Principal or Administrative intern and another School Counselor. There have been quite a few students in crisis this year and there is a need for a 3rd counselor. The Links Partnership has been wonderful. Illustrator Brian Collier talked to all the 6th grade students and the Links purchased his book for all the 6th graders. The Peabody Concert that the LINKS sponsor was tremendous. Many Bonnie Branch families attended. In addition, Horace Mann is donating one girl and one boy bike and there will be a drawing in the spring. Howard County also has a partnership with Edible Arrangements. The Administration had talked about how the 8th graders would not be allowed to participate in Fun Day if there was an "E" or an office referral. They are thinking of implementing the same policy with the 6th and 7th graders in 4th quarter. She also noted that there is Saturday school for truancy. Mrs. Jameson also responded to the parents that approximately 95 percent of the students have appropriate behavior. There is a small group of 10-15 students who need extra support. In response to the question about the police at Bonnie Branch, Mrs. Jameson said that there was a student in crisis and that all students were safe at all times. The student was not responding to the administration and the counselor after several hours so the police was called for reinforcement and he was able to handle the situation. A question came up about the definition of a student in crisis and Mrs. Jameson stated that it was a student who took medication and usually had a diagnosis such as ADHD, bipolar, etc. It was also noted that many times with bullying, the bullying is performed by both parties. Mrs. Jameson also briefly discussed the characteristics of young adolescent development. She welcomes the PTA bringing in presenters on this topic. Bonnie Branch has experienced staff working with the middle schoolers and what is happening at Bonnie Branch is no different than what is happening at any other middle school. Mrs. Jameson emphasized that parents need to communicate with the administration when there is a concern. Keep in mind that BBMS has met AYP for the last 5 years. A big thank you goes out to Tonya Sigalis and the Hospitality staff. The staff was overjoyed with the food that was made available to them during conferences.

Student Services

Debbie Germroth noted that the Peer Mediation process has started. Background checks are made and student mediation is used in appropriate situations. Two-hundred thirty students are registered for high school next year. They will also help the students come up with a tentative four year high school schedule. There will also be a date in May for the students to visit their feeder high school. Additionally, there will be a breakfast for the 5th graders who feed into Bonnie Branch; Mrs. Byron is working on the breakfast. Student Services is also visiting the classes and teaching anti-bullying lessons.

7th Grade

The 7th Grade team would like to thank the PTA for the funds for the March 2nd field trip and the Patapsco Park field trip. Also, thanks to the parents for all the extra money donations.

8th Grade

Mrs. Butler thanked everyone for the scholarships provided for the New York field trip on April 23rd. The last installment is due on February 29th. The Centennial Park picnic is May 30, the 8th Grade Farewell is June 1st at Howard High School. The 8th grade Dance is June 7th in the cafeteria. Catina Evans will be the contact person for the 8th grade dance. The 8th grade also wanted to say thank you for the wonderful conference dinners. Empty Bowls is tomorrow with a 5:30 P.M. and 6:30 seating. Soup and fresh bread will be served and you get to keep the empty bowl which represents hunger. All money goes to the Food Pantry. Tickets can be purchased at the door and Mrs. Kinsella is the contact person.

Related Arts

Mrs. Chesser and Mrs. Williams are prepping for Empty Bowls. It was stated that there is a Related Arts Budget and Mrs. Chesser will communicate with the other Related Arts teachers.

The PTA meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Old Action Items

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

-Determine the amount if any that can be contributed to Study Island

-Trina will look into supervision at the skate party and finalize the inline skate information

-Need 3 to 5 persons to form a Nomination Committee

-A Budget Review Committee needs to be formed for March

New Action Items

-Donna will gather information from previous SIT meeting to present at March meeting

-Shannon will contact the Board of Education PPW worker to see if she is available to speak to the PTA