

BBMS PTA Emergency Executive Board Minutes
March 27, 2012

Present:

PTA members: Yvette Hayes, Trina Thames, Maryann Cohea, Mary Nicklin, Edwina Britt, Pam Gray, Pat Coury

The president started the Emergency Meeting by asking anyone if they needed a copy of the letter dated March 16. This letter had been emailed to the Executive Board so that it could be reviewed before the meeting. The letter is a 7 page document written to Sydney Cousin, HCPSS Superintendent and copied to several others including the Howard County Board of Education and the Interim State Superintendent of Schools. The last page of the letter is signed by both Shannon Sann and Katrina Noonan. The sender information contains Parents for Positive Change BBMS PTA Sub-Committee. Yvette asked the other officers if there were any questions about any of the statistics and told the officers that Mrs. Jameson had addressed many of the points that were mentioned in the letter at previous meetings. Yvette also stated that an official complaint has been filed on behalf of the teachers with the Howard County Educational Union about privacy concerns. Many of the officers were surprised by the content of the letter as none of the officers were aware of the letter before Yvette sent it to the officers. The President also asked the officers if anyone was aware of chocolate bars that had been left in the PTA box. She had arrived at school one day to find the PTA box filled with chocolates with typed notes that said, "Thanks for All You Do." They were signed, Parents for Positive Change. Yvette remarked that the candy bars had been delivered to the teachers who had returned them to the PTA mailbox. None of the officers were aware of this incident. Mary talked about her contact with the insurance company. She mentioned that the policy discussed loyalty (good faith), care (cannot have conflicting interests) and obedience (following the bylaws) and that the information from the insurance company was that there could be a liability issue and they were concerned that the PTA should take measures to resolve these potential liability issues and follow-up with the insurance company as to the resolution. It was stated that per the PTA guidelines, only the President or an agent of the President may sign any correspondence. PTAC had communicated that correspondence should not have gone out in the name of the PTA without the knowledge and authorization of the President. It was also discussed that one of the basic premises of the PTA was violated. One of the purposes of the PTA is to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of the children in youth. It was also noted that the bylaws state in Article VIII, section 6 that a board of director's member may be removed for violating the basic policies, misrepresenting the positions of the organization or acts in any other way which are detrimental to the philosophy and purposes of the organizational. Yvette discussed how she had notified Co-Chairs Katrina Noonan and Shannon Sann that they must notify her of any meetings or intentions of the committee. It was also discussed that an email had been sent to the President from the Secretary on February 2, 2012 which included a request to add PPC on the next agenda and it included PPC guidelines. It was noted that this information was also given out at the next meeting and read and recorded in the minutes. There was some discussion about how the administration and teachers saw the BBMS PTA and thought that the letter had been sent on behalf of the BBMS PTA. Officers were very concerned and brainstormed ways that this emergency situation could be remedied. Officers agreed that they had to act as agents of the BBMS PTA and as agents of the PTA, do what is best for the organization. Personal feelings cannot be used. One of the officers said that her child had been involved in some issues at school and thought it had been handled properly. A motion was made to dissolve the Parents for Positive Change Committee and remove the Chairs. There were some questions about dissolving the committee. Mary responded that a PTAC representative had given us permission to do so because of

the unprecedented liability. The motion was seconded. There was a unanimous vote to dissolve the Parents for Positive Change Committee and to remove the 2 Co-Chairs Shannon Sann and Katrina Noonan. The officers agreed that letters need to go out to all groups involved to remedy the situation. A letter needs to be written to Mrs. Jameson and Dr. Cousin and all the people copied in the letter stating that the letter was not coordinated or sanctioned by the PTA. Also, communication needs to be sent to the Board of Directors about the Emergency meeting and the results. A letter also needs to be written to the Co-Chairs Katrina Noonan and Shannon Sann so that no further correspondence can be written on behalf of the PTA without the knowledge of the officers. The letter to Shannon Sannon and Katrina Noonan should note all 4 violations that were discussed. A review of the 4 violations are 1) violation of the Maryland PTA bylaws and the basic policies of the PTA ; 2) violation of the BBMS PTA bylaws per Article VIII section 6 by misrepresenting the position of the organization and acting in a way that is detrimental to the philosophy and purpose of the PTA ; 3) violation of the duties required by the BBMS PTA insurance policy and ; 4) corresponding on behalf of the BBMS PTA without the consent of the President. The meeting was adjourned.