

BBMS General PTA Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2012

Present:

Administration and teachers: Carolyn Jameson, Mr. Webster, Mrs. Nanni

PTA members: Yvette Hayes, Maryann Cohea, Mary Nicklin, Edwina Britt, Gaye Stokes, Lori Kelly, Lori Magoon, Wayne Collier, Gail Miller-Myers, Debbi Reid, Liz Beachum, Felecia Murray, Cindy Garnsey, Polly Weber, Malinda Haggerly, Katrina Noonan, Shannon Sann

Meeting Items

PTA report

The president called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. The April minutes were quietly read and approved. Felecia made a motion to accept the April meeting notes as is and Maryann seconded the motion.

PTACHC (PTA Council of Howard County) report (Mary Nicklin)

A major focus of the meeting was the special session that was called about the 8 ½ million dollar hit that the budget is facing. Dr. Cousin's retirement is on June 4th. He will be presented the scrapbook that will contain the Bonnie Branch page that Mrs. Sharbaugh's students assisted with at this time. The nominee slate for PTACHC was given. The Bullying workshop was on April 26th. It was discussed that many of the schools have SIT committees, but have no representation on the SIT committee at the discretion of the school. Mary noted that PTACHC is looking into making a series of workshops which would include bullying and other issues. According to the PTAC meeting, these are major problems at many of the Howard County schools. It was mentioned that there is an HBO series about bullying on Thursday and Friday. There was interest in the Family Wellness but there was not enough manpower to participate this year. They hope to have all the schools participate next year. Yvette noted that she had attended the Wellness Event and how they talked about how obesity affects the whole child. Mary also talked about the Prepare for Success Program where backpacks with school supplies are donated to students who do not have adequate resources. The items need to be collected by June 4th. Mr. Webster noted that during locker clean-out, they often find unused supplies that have been left. Mary and Yvette will coordinate picking up and delivering any items that are donated.

New Resource Outreach Program

Mary Nicklin noted that based on the concerns at the PTACHC meeting of many of the Howard County schools, she has started looking into a Resource Outreach Group. PTACHC would like for all Howard County schools to work together on the issues that we all are facing with our children as a society. According to PTACHC, the problems that they are seeing with bullying, lack of respect, etc. are universal and are happening across the board. Mary already has parents at Bonnie Branch who are interested in helping with this endeavor as well as some 5th grade parents who are coming in next year. Some of the goals are to bring in programs and speakers to address life skills, communications skills, parenting skills and any other skills that will benefit the students. She had mentioned possibly partnering with other groups. Edwina mentioned that Mrs. Germroth would be a great resource to include since she gets to see the big picture and what the students are facing as major challenges inside and outside of school. Wayne Collier expressed an interest in bringing in adults from different careers who can talk to them about specific careers and what they need to do now to prepare themselves. Anyone interested in joining are giving input to this new program may contact Mary Nicklin (MaryNicklin@comcast.net).

8th Grade Dance

The 8th Grade Dance will be held on June 7th from 6-8 P.M. The students voted on the theme which is Glow in the Dark/ Starry Night. Students have been involved in making signs which are up and they are also decorating glow in the dark tablecloths. Students will receive Glow in the Dark Items as they enter and decorations will glow in the dark. Chaperones are still needed. One of the items that was originally planned was pictures for the students. There is less money for the dance than originally planned because monies have gone towards making the 8th grade field trips affordable for all the students. Based on the vote for Mary and Yvette going over the budget, there will be notification on next week about how much money may be put back for the 8th grade of which some may be used for the Dance. Anyone who is interested in helping in any capacity may contact Edwina Britt (eckprime@aol.com).

The Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given by Mary Nicklin. The checking balance as on May 1 was \$4,861.52 and savings was \$2,181.96. Boxtops did bring in some extra money. Mary and Yvette need to review the budget for other extra money that was not used and will not be used. We hope to be able to allocate money for previous requests such as the 8th Grade Field Trips. The money would then be able to be used for 8th Grade items such as the Dance. Edwina made a motion that Yvette and Mary revisit the budget to find monies to pay for previous requests. Lori seconded the motion.

President's Report

Yvette noted that even though Parents for Positive Change was disbanded and for a very good reason, the PTA is still open to all input. Yvette also noted that many of the issues that we face at school are societal problems and she had been given input that they were also spiritual. One idea that has been mentioned was some type of Town Hall meeting. We are in need of coordinated efforts. There has been mention of WATCHDOGS or some other version of WATCHDOGS. Mary has looked into the program and there is flexibility. Per Mary, there are County Resources available also. Mr. Webster added that the images that our children are exposed to in the media and on the internet are causing major problems and that we will not know the full effects of what it is doing to our kids until much later. Edwina noted that with the coordinated efforts that are made that it is important that all stakeholders are involved and able to give input. Mr. Webster stated that there may be a need to address the social media and other societal issues in the WEB leaders program. Sarah Koslowski, Avi Turner and Alba Rivera are in the process of finding new WEB leaders. The WEB program was especially designed to help middle schoolers with the transition and Bonnie Branch has the only program in Howard County. Yvette noted that the PTA would like to have some input into the changes for the WEB program. She also stated that there needs to be more feedback into the online Cultural survey. She noted that the survey does not take much time. Eight hundred dollars was raised with the Hershey's Candy Fundraiser. Yvette said she saw about 15 families at the Uno Restaurant Night. There was a question about the direct donation and the fundraiser. Yvette replied that the \$10,000 direct donation goal was not reached and that is why there were additional fundraisers. She also noted that we are trying to make the fundraisers fun like the restaurant night and the skating. There was a combined STARS/Volunteer Appreciation celebration. Yvette also gave a Bylaws update. The first suggestion to add a Corresponding Secretary was not added at this time due to having to fill another position. She is looking at adding a newsletter committee. The proposal to change the 2 year term back to 1 will not be added at this time because it needs more discussion. The bylaws will be submitted with no changes. Maryann made a motion to accept the bylaws as is and

Edwina seconded the motion. Next was the election. The slate is as follows: 1st Vice President is Trina Thames (current officer), Treasurer is Mary Nicklin (current officer) and the new PTA delegate 1 is Gail Miller-Myers. These officers will be voted by the general PTA body. Pat Coury for Secretary and Maryann Cohea for the PTA delegate 2. These two offices are voted on by the Board of Directors due to the fact that they are fulfilling the term requirement. Officers will take office on the first day of the fiscal year which is June 1st. There were no nominations from the floor for 1st Vice President, Treasurer, PTA delegate 1, and secretary. A voice vote was taken and all officers were elected. A voice vote was also taken for the Secretary and PTA delegate 2 and they were both elected. Yvette thanked all the officers. Lori Magoon volunteered to do the Ink Cartridge Recycling. Edwina added that she also wanted to thank all the volunteers for the new Chairs.

School report

Administration

Mrs. Jameson began by first thanking the PTA, Lori Kelly, Tonya Sigalas and the other volunteers for all the wonderful meals, desserts and the surprise gift cards. She noted that it really meant a lot to the staff and that they were overjoyed. She then talked about the STARS/Combined Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on May 7th. Any volunteers who did not receive their certificates can pick them up. The Enrichment fair on 5/10 was fabulous. There was great parent/school community attendance. The last SIT meeting will be on 5/29 at 3:05 in the Media Center. On 5/11 there was an Arson Awareness Presentation and it was very interactive. The students had many questions. Outdoor Education is 5/15 through 5/17. The 5th Grade Visitation with the WEB leaders was on 5/16. The Presidential Awards will be on May 22nd. The Current 6th and 7th Grade Parent Information Night for the New Middle School Program/Schedule is on 5/24 and Dr. Cousin's retirement is on 5/25. Mrs. Sharbaugh's students made a nice scrapbook page for him.

7th Grade

Mrs. Nanni announced that the 7th Grade team would like to thank the PTA for all the meals, treats and surprises during Teacher Appreciation Week. The staff really enjoyed everything! Last Tuesday was the Patapsco field trip. The students hiked and performed stream study in addition to other items during the last field trip of the year. The challenge will be to keep the students focused for the remainder of the school year.

8th Grade

Mr. Webster wanted to thank the PTA for all the meals and surprises during Teacher Appreciation Week, the Farewell Ceremony is June 1 and the 8th Grade Dance is June 7th. The Centennial Park Picnic is May 30th, rain or shine and it is all day. He also agrees that it will be a challenge to keep the students focused with all the end of the year events coming up.

The PTA meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Old Action Items

-A Budget Review Committee needs to be formed for March

New Action Items

-Review current WEB program based on the new social media challenges