

## BBMS PTA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2012

**PTA Board of Directors:** Yvette Hayes, Trina Thames, Maryann Cohea, Mary Nicklin, Edwina Britt, Pam Wright, Pat Coury, Carolyn Jameson, Donna Sudbrook, Julie Brown, Lori Kelly, Gaye C. Stokes, Lori Magoon, Karen Druffel, Nutan Mathur, Shannon Sann

**School Administration/Teachers:** Nan Brown, Kimberley Harris, Angel McGrath, Ms. A-W, Irene Williams, Marci Smit, Paula Dise,

**PTA Members:** Katrina Noonan, Bob Seipel, Lisa Schwartz, Maureen Taylor, Sara Engelhaupt, Scott Maynard, Barb Krupiarz, Isiah Hayes, Vishali Nuvvala, Jane Holcomb (Presiding Chair), Valerie Verderaime, Renalda Stallworth, Lorri Holda,

**Other Guests:** Karen Lawlor, Meena Khatri, Sandra Lee, Tammy Walter, Shilpa Shah, Scott Maynard

Meeting called to order by Yvette Hayes

Principal's Report

7<sup>th</sup> grade report, 6<sup>th</sup> grade report, No report for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

- 6/7 Town Hall Meetings (3/29 & 4/10)  
Went very well! Students were reminded of teacher and school expectations in regards to HCPSS Policies
- 2/21 Math MSA's & MSA Celebration  
Thanks to parent volunteers! Students did a great job!
- 3/30 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Fun Day  
PBIS loves to celebrate our student success but also hold students accountable who don't follow the 3 R's
- 4/10 Staffing Meeting & Staffing Letters (2<sup>nd</sup> AP & or Admin Intern/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Rdg Specialist) Guidance working on 3<sup>rd</sup> Counselor Letter
- 4/11 Tornado Drill  
Very successful drill with staff & students

Dates To Remember

4/12 & 4/13 Choral Adjudication @ LRHS

4/12 Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation @ 7:00 (Cafeteria)

4/16 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Testing Begins

4/17 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report Cards Issued

4/23 Honor Roll Assemblies/Breakfast of Champions

Breakfast of Champions @ 7:30 AM

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly @9:02

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly @ 9:49

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly @ 1:20

Mary gave brief treasurer's report. The current checking balance is \$3443.95 and savings is \$2183.51.

For the sake of time new business was addressed.

**Vote on nominating committee:**

Donna made the motion to vote in the nominating committee, Edwina Britt, Maryann Cohea and Julie Brown. Nutan seconded the motion. Yvette called the vote and the motioned carried.

Julie Brown began asking questions about the Student of the Month and how it is selected. The same question had been asked at the previous PTA meeting and the teachers had responded that they use the 3 R's and that all the teachers have to agree on the student. Bob Seipel asked to speak and noted that his son had various issues at school.

Jane Holcomb initiated a roll call of board of director members to determine if enough BOD members were present. Although we were expecting additional members to attend later, 14 were present. Jane was concerned that 16 members were needed. Maryann questioned and Jane went to the bylaws to confirm that 2/3 of the BOD members needed to be present. Jane stood corrected.

Before we moved on to the additional new business, a request was made to Yvette to remove Deana Abrams from the March 14 minutes. In preparation to address the next order of new business (see below), Yvette and Jane gave clarification that only one chair of a committee may vote. Therefore parents for positive change committee were asked to advise who would be the chair with the voting rights. Shannon confirmed that she would be the voting chair.

**Recommendation by executive committee to remove co-chairs and the dissolution of the parents for positive change committee:**

Yvette gave presiding rights to Jane. Jane reviewed that only BOD members could speak unless recognized by the presiding officer of the meeting. Roberts Rules of order will be used.

Jane asked for the motion. Maryann motioned: We dissolve the Parents for Positive Change committee for the rest of the school year because of the actions of the committee Co- chairs and not the intent and its purpose.

Gaye seconded the motion. Jane opened the floor for discussion. Julie, Nutan and Donna asked questions in reference to the necessity of dissolving the committee and removing the chairs. There was

then a challenge from the floor questioning the number of board members and 15 BOD members were confirmed present. (Edwina joined the meeting late which made the final count 16).

Jane then addressed that we needed to stipulate a time limit for each side. It was agreed that each side would receive 20 minutes with a 5 minute rebuttal each.

Jane recognized Yvette and she took the floor to give reason for the motion and stated the BBMS PTA Executive Committee's Recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Removal of Co-chairs and Dissolution of the Parents for Positive Change Committee.

Their actions have resulted in (1) tensions with BBMS Teaching Staff/School Administration and the PTA where none existed before, (2) increased the PTA's risk exposure for liability for the actions of the Board members that expressly represented that they were acting on behalf of the BBMS PTA, 3) violated our local and State PTA bylaws, and 4) violated PTA policies that hold the PTA President responsible for all external communications of the local PTA and therefore the signatory, unless authorized by his/her designee.

Yvette then reported how the Executive Board was made aware of the Parents for Positive Change Committee's actions by the 3-16-2012 letter sent and addressed to Dr. Cousin, some of the BOE members and the State of MD's Superintendent of Schools and that neither Mrs. Jamison nor the BBMS PTA was copied on the letter.

It appears that the Committee didn't have the intention to work with School Administration or the PTA to resolve the issues. Once the letter was shared with the PTA President on 3-22-12, she informed the PTA Treasurer and the Secretary and it was agreed to pull the Executive Committee together to discuss further. The PTA President called an Executive Committee meeting on 3-27-12.

Yvette then went on to state several results of the Parents for Positive Change Committee's actions. One included tension between the teaching staff and school administration as outlined below:

- a. The data requested by the PPC Co-chairs was very detailed and could not easily be understood without experienced help, so the BBMS Administration met with the Co-chairs on February 8, 2012 to give them a feel of the most recent data available. The Co-chairs had asked for more data and their request was denied by Administration.
- b. The Co-chairs were not satisfied and went "over the head of" the Principal and contacted "Central Office" or HCPSS Public Information Office for the data. The following data was provided:
  - i. Bullying report data – 2008 through 2011 (as of 3/5/2012)
  - ii. SWIS (School-Wide Information System) data – 2008 through 2011
  - iii. For SY 2011-2012 (through Jan 2012): Average Referrals by day per month, Referrals by problem behavior, Referrals by location, Referrals by time, Suspension/expulsion Report and Referrals by staff (as of 3/13/2012)

- c. It is the SWIS data that had details listed by staff member and it is this data that the teachers/staff objected to the release of and didn't know how this information would be communicated to/or used by parents.
- d. A complaint was filed by teaching staff with the HEAC. Mary will speak more about our Directors and Officers liability insurance, but I inquired of HEAC President of what the status of this complaint is and he responded as follows: An inquiry of the status of this complaint was made to HEAC President and he responded that he would work with BBMS PTA and the staff to resolve any lingering issues to avoid any potential lawsuit.
- e. In addition to this data request, a number of the teachers/staff attending our PTA meetings are also PTA members – this is important to emphasize – we are an organization of parents and teachers and staff members. We've always welcomed them for giving us an update of what's going on school-wide, by grades and in related arts and student services. In the last few meetings they've come to hear what they view as criticism about just everything from: students needing their agenda books to ask for permission to go to the bathroom to how the student of the month is selected – inferring that they think someone is getting it unworthily, also that hall monitoring is not being done well enough, etc. They felt unappreciated for all their efforts.

Yvette also advised that their actions increased the PTA's risk exposure for liability for their actions as they expressed that they were acting on behalf of the BBMS PTA. She also stated that the local and state PTA bylaws were violated.

Donna asked how many teachers filed the complaint and the onsite union rep Irene explained that it didn't matter how many teachers as the complaint represents all the teachers.

Mary Nicklin was given the floor to discuss the insurance. Mary noted that the the insurance company views the PTA to be in violation of three duties, loyalty, duty of care and duty of obedience.

Duty of Loyalty: requires you to act in good faith. You must not allow your personal interest to prevail over the interests of the organization. Don't use PTA as a personal forum.

Duty of Care: requires you to be diligent and prudent in managing the organization's affairs. You must be informed and regularly review all financial statements, have regular attendance at board meetings and avoid conflicts of interest.

Duty of Obedience: forbids acts outside the scope of corporate powers. The governing board of the organization must comply with state and federal law, and conform to the organizations charter, articles of incorporation and bylaws.

There was discussion on floor that perhaps the PTA could have a defense against the insurance company as the individuals didn't have the authority to act in the PTA's behalf. Mary stressed that the insurance company views this has a liability and will only insure the board up to a certain dollar amount. She also noted that according to our insurance carrier, they considered us in violation of all 3 duties and

stated that if the committee was not dissolved and issues taken care of that the PTA would need to start reporting provisions. The floor was given back to Yvette and she stressed the importance of working together for the good of all the teachers, parents and children. She continued her explanation of the violation of the local and PTA bylaws and read Article VIII. She gave an example of Sandra Lee's complaint of her issue with the bus and how it was handled. Yvette closed by stating that there was no communication with the PTA.

Jane then reviewed the MD PTA responsibilities of a committee and then the floor was given to Shannon. She apologized and stated that she didn't know they needed to obtain Yvette's approval to send communication out in behalf of the PTA and that the Parents for Positive Change Chairs only handed information to people that were on the committee. Both Katrina and Shannon stated that it was not their intent to go behind the back of the PTA board and executives to send the letter. Their intent was to make their concerns known and to have them addressed. The PPC chairs as well as others from the floor wanted to address the concerns of the letter. Jane explained that we must speak to the business at hand of the committee's actions not the content of the letter. Several people from the floor stressed that the discussion to dissolve the committee and remove the chairs doesn't mean that the concerns of the letter shouldn't be addressed. Mrs. Jameson had noted earlier that she is responding to all items addressed in the letter and that the administration has always and will always have an open door policy. Parents are welcome to talk with the administration about any concerns.

Barb Krupiarz gave her opinion that the PPC group was hostile. Barb noted that she would like it recorded in the minutes that she was part of the committee and had attended the first meeting, but did not have any knowledge of the letter that was sent on behalf of the PTA. She also thought the Committee was needed, but agreed that the current leaders could not lead the Committee. There was a comment from the floor that Parents of Positive Change Committee members were not privy to the letter unless they were signature to the letter. The people of the Google group were considered the committee. There was discussion from the floor in reference to how the chairs could be removed but keep the committee in place. Karen Druffel asks that the minutes show that a committee needs to be in place, as it is part of the PTA's duty to address the concerns of parents. Donna also commented not to dissolve the committee. Donna also talked about how long she had known both Katrina and Shannon.

There was more discussion. Pat Coury commented that she found it hard to believe that the letter was dated 3/16/12 which was 2 days after a PTA meeting in which they were all present and there was no mention of the letter that was sent on behalf of the PTA. After Pat's comments, Bob questioned how long Pat had been an officer and the process. Jane quickly explained that Pat had been appointed to the vacancy as stated per the bylaws. Pam Gray spoke in reference to her comments made in the January 26 meeting reminding the PPC Chairs that they should be proactive about coming to the PTA before acting since they were a new committee. Pam noted that it was the only comment she made during the entire meeting and it was very clear.

Maryann made the following motion:

We dissolve the parents of the positive change committee for the rest of the school year because of the actions of the committee co chairs and not the intent and its purpose.

The motion carried with 12 votes yes and 4 votes no.

The meeting was then adjourned.