

**Bollman Bridge Elementary School
PTA Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2009**

Present were: Jonathon Davis (Principal), Tricia McCarthy (Vice Principal), Tina Ferguson (PTA President), Nicole Verdejo (PTA Vice President), Michelle Poindexter, Rachel Quade, Julie Mauldin, Corrine Edwards, Letha Jackson, Keith Berning, Jennifer Palmer, Jamida Cooper, Heidi Maxa, Raquel Braithwaite, Diane Dombeck, Beth DiMeo, Tricia Walls, Tricia Fato, Carmen Obeso, Cristina Schneider

Introductions

Tina Ferguson opened the PTA membership meeting at 6:05 pm. The agenda and sign in sheet were distributed.

President's Update

Tina Ferguson welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the PTA meeting. Tina announced that right after the meeting our first guest speaker will discuss nutrition. Please stay after the meeting to learn from our very knowledgeable guest speaker, Jenn Palmer.

Treasurer/Budget Update

The budget will be deferred until next month. The treasurer was unable to attend tonight. The budget is being revised and will accurately reflect our current status.

Delegate Report

The delegate report will be emailed to everyone separately.

Committee Reports

Auction:

The PTA President and Principal asked the group whether or not it was beneficial to hold the auction this year given the economy, lack of volunteers and minimal donations thus far. Last year the PTA only made about \$4,000 whereas in the year prior we made \$10,000. Last year the auction was held with the wellness fair which was felt to be a distraction. The year before, the auction was held with a carnival and was quite successful. Typically the PTA has to pay out about \$1000 for supplies, printing and postage and the rest is profit. Many ideas were explored including using Savage Mill with an adults only auction or another site for an adults only auction however; the alternate site would need to be free because spending money for the site cuts in to the profit too much. The PTA needs to query the members to see if anyone has contacts that might have a room for free or very little cost. It was decided to hold off on the final decision until some of the ideas expressed could be explored further. All were in agreement that a fundraiser is necessary, whether it be one large signature event or several small fundraisers. Regardless of the outcome or fundraiser chosen, it was also agreed that we need community support. Mr. Davis agreed to begin to give the money from the box tops fundraiser to the PTA since we do the work of the box top program.

Cultural Arts

The cultural arts coordinator provided information about 2 assembly ideas. Both are for the whole school. Both would hold 2 sessions for the day; one for the lower grades and one for the upper grades, tailored to each age group. One is an author who'd come in to read a book about

Terrapins. With this lesson, the focus is on state history and science. The author also brings in a turtle for display. The other assembly option is the Blue Sky Puppets. Their show topics are about banana's and sand castles. They focus on wellness and the importance of exercise. A vote was needed to decide on one or both options for upcoming assemblies. If both are chosen they are within the allotted budget. The membership voted to have both companies come in for 2 separate assembly days.

F.I.T.

Volunteers are needed to donate extra supplies to supplement the classroom school supplies. Due to a lawsuit in Montgomery County, the school can't request or require parents with students in a public school to purchase too many school supplies. So, the PTA is planning to request through the room mothers and/or information that Mr. Davis will obtain from each grade, a list of additional school supplies. This way we are accepting donations and not potentially breaking rules per the lawsuit. Needed items for donation will be sent to PTA members/parents in the Friday folders and via email.

Wednesday morning family groups will be held to introduce new BBES families to the school. Kerry Foy is coordinating these sessions and will have specific topics for each 45 minute session. All parents are welcome, not just new families. We also need PTA volunteers to babysit the younger siblings of BBES students for parents visiting during the 45 minute sessions. We'll likely need about 2 to 3 adults per session.

Family Fun

Octoberfest Report

Oktoberfest was a huge success. This year the PTA decided not to charge an entrance fee. Despite no entrance fee, the PTA still raised \$293 selling food and holding raffles; a \$200 profit.

Upcoming Events

Bingo Night will be February 4, 2010 – 6 – 8 pm.

Fundraiser

The Sally Foster catalogue sale was successful. We sold about \$900 in online sales and about \$7,000 in catalogue sales. With 50% of that and the cookie dough sale proceeds, the PTA raised about \$5,000. Thankfully this covers most of the budgeted items for the year.

Staff Appreciation

The coffee cart for the teachers was successful and much appreciated. Because of the success, it will continue monthly.

Ms. McCarthy remarked that the conference dinners that the PTA sponsors for the teachers are very well received and stressed that we should continue them if at all possible despite our limited budget this year.

Grade Representative Report

One grade representative remarked that it would be useful to have translation assistance for some of the Burmese and other non-English speaking students/parents. Mr. Davis recommended that the ESOL school representative be contacted to assist in any translations needed.

There is a need for 1 more 4th grade rep for Mrs. Lindstrom and 1 more grade rep for kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Brown-Niles.

PTA Newsletter

The PTA will begin creating a newsletter bi-weekly rather than quarterly. The Bridge will be sent home one week while the PTA newsletter will be sent home the other week. Our next newsletter will be sent home on November 5, 2009. Tina needs a volunteer to help with the Newsletter. The Vice President volunteered to create the newsletter. So, if anyone has significant dates or information for the newsletter, please email that to Tina Ferguson. It was suggested that grade rep info can be put into this PTA newsletter as well to decrease the pieces of paper being sent home to parents.

Questions for Guest Speakers

Tina mentioned that next month, Maryland Delegate Shane Pendergrass will be our guest speaker after the PTA meeting. If anyone has any concerns/questions for the speaker, please provide them to Tina prior to the session so that questions can be prepared in advance.

One member is requesting that the delegate speak about the Huntington Deli and the proposed liquor license application. The community is concerned about the deli selling liquor especially since it is located so close to the community swimming pool.

Principal's Report

Mr. Davis and Ms. McCarthy discussed the following:

BBES' PBIS program is going very well and is keeping our kids in class and school more often. Teachers are increasingly correcting undesirable behavior in class. There have been no suspensions thus far and the numbers of referrals are way down. We're on our 30th Green Day already!

One parent had a concern about canceling recess as a punishment for students who do not complete their homework. Mr. Davis said that in staying in accordance with the wellness policy, it is best to minimize the use of canceling recess as a punishment because the children still need exercise. So, he'd recommend losing ½ of the recess period if that is a punishment that will be used. He also recommended parents to speak directly with the teacher to try to resolve issues such as this. One parent remarked that last year parents were sent home permission slips to approve the use of removing recess as a punishment. She said that maybe the permission slips should be used this year too.

Bollman Bridge will be redistricted in two years and will also get a 100 seat/4 classroom addition. This addition will also remove the pods and create separate classrooms for all. A speaker will be coming in soon to discuss the plans.

BBES was budgeted to have building repairs/upgrades for the school year. However, the school is in good shape and really doesn't need many repairs. Therefore, our redesign is on hold.

Mr. Davis is still in collaboration with traffic pattern experts to address the parking/traffic congestion problem. He presented one idea that is being considered but still welcomes innovative ideas from parents to address the issue. If anyone has any ideas to share with Mr. Davis, please forward those ideas to PTA President, Tina Ferguson.

Upcoming Events:

1. November 6 – Professional Development Day. ½ of the day will be for professional development for the teachers and the 2nd half of the day the teachers will finish grades for the quarter.
2. Report cards will be distributed on November 17, 2009.
3. American Education Week is November 16 -20, 2009. Parents are encouraged to visit the children's classrooms this week.
4. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 23rd and 24th. Online scheduling will be available this year. More information is forthcoming about the online scheduling process.
5. There will be a Strings Concert on December 12, 2009 and a Band Concert on December 15, 2009.

The October PTA meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. The nutrition discussion immediately followed the PTA meeting.

Submitted respectfully,

Michelle Poindexter
Recording Secretary
SY 2009-2010