

PTA BOARD MEETING #3

1/27/14

at Greer Bautz's House

The PTA Board Meeting was called to order by Mandy Lemar at 9:15 am. The following people were present: Mandy Lemar, Lang Lin, Cristin Caine, Stacy Ganz Kahn, Kurt Shanfield, Greer Bautz, Kakki Lewis, Elizabeth Whitman, and RobBee Fredricks.

BY-LAWS: By-Laws Chairwoman, Elizabeth Whitman, distributed the Report of the Bylaws Committee of the Bells Mill Elementary School PTA, Inc. These are the proposed by-laws as deemed by the MCCPTA. Voting by all PTA members will take place at the March PTA Meeting. A motion for the Board to accept the by-laws at this time was made and approved by voice-vote.

OLD BUSINESS: No feedback has been received by any board member from parents who did not join the PTA and, therefore, did not receive a Student Directory.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer/Membership Report: Kurt Shanfield reported that the PTA is ahead of the game in revenue; however, there will be lots of spending soon. Mrs. O has been contacted about the computer carts, which were introduced and discussed at the December PTA meeting. PTAs no longer need to collect state tax. As a result, a request for a refund of \$915 dollars has been submitted to the state. Discussion was had on where/how to spend the refunded money, if received. Membership is up to 700 (31% increase). Additional discussion focused on the donation of classroom materials, especially for new teachers, to insure that there are enough materials available in the classrooms.

Fundraising Report: Cristin Caine suggested that the funds left over from Game Night could be used to pay for year books for those students who cannot afford to purchase their own (FARMS students), or be put toward another Family Dinner/Game Night in the future.

Student Affairs/Enrichment Report: Kakki Lewis reported that the winter session had a rocky start. Next year, the three schedules should be finalized and advertised in advance, so that people are aware of the activities being offered throughout the school year. The possibility of having an Enrichment Fair at the beginning of the next school year was also discussed.

Communication Report: Greer Bautz requested that anyone who needs her to put information into Bear Mail, get it to her before Wednesdays (especially this spring!).

MCCPTA Report/Compacted Math for grades 4 and 5/Parent Resource Meeting Update: Diana Gallagher was out sick, so Mandy reported that the Parent Resource Meetings are going very well.

Lang reported on the Compacted Math Program for grade 4 and 5. The possibility of forming an open discussion group in the future (for all parents and staff to learn more about this program) was discussed.

BRIEF EVENT RECAP REPORT FOR SEPT/OCT/NOV/DEC/JAN:

Cultural Arts: Mrs. O would like to have Cultural Arts Assemblies in the fall and January or February of the upcoming school year. There is a budget of \$3,300 to use toward county approved events.

Room Parent Coordinator/Documents: Going forward, all emails sent from the room parents need to be the mandatory, form-letter documents approved by Mrs. O and provided by the Room Parent Coordinator. This needs to be clarified for next year.

Recess Volunteers: Cristin will touch base with BMES staff and the PTA Chairwoman to see what is needed for next year. The current structure seems to be working well. The buddy system and the new grade combinations at the various recess time periods are working well.

Walking Club: This was a great initiative, but, unfortunately, there was no Chairperson for this year.

Club Bells Mill: All is going well.

Book Fair: This went well again this year.

Walk for Homeless: This year's focus was on getting the children to understand why they were participating in the walk. The education piece was great. The students look forward to participating each year. It is nice to support our local shelter.

Principal Teas: These were lightly attended, possibly because Mrs. O was out on sick leave this fall.

Bingo Night: All went well. The current Chairwoman has agreed to chair again next year.

Ice Skating Night: It was highly attended and went really well.

Math and Literacy Night: It was a great night. Many compliments were received on this new event.

EVENT STATUS-UPCOMING FEB/MARCH/APRIL/MAY/JUNE:

Kindergarten Round-Ups and Kindergarten Orientation: There are dates on calendar for several events, starting with a parent meeting on January 30th, Open Houses on February 6th and 7th, and Orientations on April 10th and 11th.

Community Night with Dr. Starr: Dr. Starr will be coming to Churchill on February 3rd at 7:30 pm. There is a dessert reception at 6:30 pm for parents involved in school leadership.

Book Exchange: The Book Exchange will occur on February 7th. The Chairwoman is working on this event, and all is going very well.

Movie Night: Movie Night will take place on February 8th. The projector from the music room will be used this year, so there is no need to rent one. Smurfs 2 will be shown. A Parent Pot-Luck Dinner will be held simultaneously.

Talent Show: Talent Shows will be held on two nights this year (Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 on March 7th, and grades 3-5 on March 21st). All is going well.

Science Fair: The Science Fair will take place on April 4th. All is going well. There will be an effort to incorporate the Fair into the school day this year. There will also be a Science Assembly prior to the Science Fair.

International Night: The Chairwoman can plan the May 2nd event, but cannot be in attendance that night. She is currently looking for help on the night of May 2nd.

Staff Appreciation Week: This will occur the week of May 5th. All is going well.

Geography Bowl: This will be held on May 19th.

Bells Mill Bash: The Bash will take place on June 6th. All is going well.

5th Grade Picnic and Promotion: The picnic will occur on June 10th. 5th Grade Promotion will occur on June 11th. All is going well.

Yearbook: The Chairwoman suggested having the PTA cover the cost for the 5th graders who cannot afford a year book. All is going well, as far as the yearbook is concerned.

NEW BUSINESS/NEW INITIATIVES

Bell Times position reminder: The PTA will take a neutral position on this issue. The PTA needs to advise the community to attend the MCPS meetings.

Yearbooks: The PTA is considering covering the cost of the yearbook for the 5th graders who can't afford to buy one.

Social Media Workshop/Speaker: There was discussion of having the PTA sponsor a workshop or community panel to discuss social media use and issues. This may be held at the beginning of next year.

Buddy Bench: Kurt suggested this for the 5th grade class gift. There were further suggestions to have students paint it, so that it looks different than the other benches.

Nominating Committee: A Nominating Committee for next year needs to be assembled.

Chairperson Notebooks: Notebooks need to be completed by the current Chairperson. These will be handed to the new Chairmen at the beginning of next school year. Mandy will send a reminder e-mail to the current Chairmen.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

RobBee Fredricks

PTA Secretary