

Bells Mill Elementary School (BMES) Sixth PTA Meeting on 3/12/14

BMES Media Center

The Sixth BMES PTA meeting was called to order by PTA President, Mandy Lemar, at 7:00 p.m. at Bells Mill Elementary School. The Following PTA Board Members were present: Mandy Lemar, President, Kurt Shanfield, Treasurer, Greer Bautz, Vice President of Communications, and RobBee Fredricks, Secretary. There were 27 PTA members present.

Ms. Lemar welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked LaTisha Gasaway for the successes of both The Black History Celebration and the Grades K-2 Talent Show. Ms. Gasaway is also chairing the upcoming Grades 3-5 Talent Show on March 21st.

BY-LAWS VOTE: Elizabeth Whitman, By-Laws Committee Chairwoman, reported that we are required by the Maryland Congress of Parent and Teacher Associations to review and amend the By-Laws every three years. These proposed By-Laws were posted on the PTA website more than thirty days in advance. Ms. Whitman further reported that there were minor changes made by the MCCPTA, which our PTA cannot change. Our PTA did make some minor changes, for consistency purposes. Ms. Whitman proposed a motion to adopt these new By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Traci Levine and approved by unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kurt Shanfield reported we currently have 701 PTA members. We need to get 14 new members by March 31st to enter a raffle to win \$1,000, which is sponsored by the National PTA. We got our first corporate match from Microsoft. We got \$1,300 rolled over from last year's 5th Grade Promotion. We are formally acknowledging the excess revenue we have received thus far so that we can spend \$500 for car magnets and still carry forward \$5,000 to next year. This budget amendment was proposed by Kurt Shanfield and seconded by Greer Bautz. All were in favor by unanimous voice vote.

ENRICHMENT UPDATE: Kakki Lewis was not present, but Mandy Lemar reported that Spring Enrichment classes are now on-line. Classes start the week of March 24th.

MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT: Diana Gallagher was not present, but Mandy Lemar reported that the MCCPTA is working on an effort to gain support in passing the budget that will allow for more schools to be built in the next five years. They are also requesting that all parents who received a survey about the Bell Schedule complete it and send it back as soon as possible.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Oglesby relayed it is very important for us to support the other two schools in our cluster (Wayside Elementary and Potomac Elementary) who are in need of modernization.

Mrs. Oglesby reported that Dr. Starr sent out a memo to the community stating that the school year will be extended by 5 days, to June 19th. The 19th will be a full day of school. The 5th grade promotion and picnic dates will not be changed. Dr. Starr will put in a request of waiver to the state of Maryland for some of the snow days.

Mrs. Oglesby further reported that the goal is to get the children outside for recess as much as possible, weather permitting. The fields have been very wet, so extended black top areas have been used. Hopefully, the children will be out on the full playground soon.

Mrs. Oglesby is in the process of receiving the preliminary staffing numbers for next year. It is extremely important to let BMES know which students will be returning to school next year, as well as those who will be new, incoming students. Please return the blue form that came home this week from Mrs. Oglesby, so that she can have an accurate number of students for staffing purposes. There are currently 90 projected Kindergarten students for next year, and a total of 599 projected students for next year.

Mrs. Kemp will be going out on maternity leave on Friday. Mr. Fred TenEyck will be her long-term substitute, starting on Monday. Mrs. Kanter is now out on sick leave. Mrs. Oglesby is not sure if she will be returning before her baby is due in May. A request has been put in for a long-term substitute for her. Students should talk to their classroom teachers first, if there is a problem. Mrs. Oglesby has also made herself available to the children, as well.

Bells Mill Camp will be held from July 7- July 25. There is a camp for both incoming Kindergarteners and incoming 1st-5th graders. The hours are 8:30am to 12pm. No transportation is provided. Camp is taught by BMES teachers.

Incoming Kindergarten Orientation will be held on April 10th and 11th. There is no school for current Kindergarten students those days.

MSA Reading Testing for 3rd and 4th grades will be held tomorrow. Please make sure your student is on time.

UPCOMING EVENTS (SEE ON-LINE CALENDAR FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES)

March 13 th	Parent Resource Meeting 7-8pm Media Center
March 15 th	Club Bells Mill #4- Olympic Night
March 21 st	Talent Show 3rd-5th grades- 6:45 pm- APR (practices and rehearsals on the 18 th and 20 th)
March 28 th	NO SCHOOL- Professional Day
April 1 st	PTA Meeting- 7pm- Media Center-Topic: STEM (for multiple grade levels). Join Mr. Lefler and Ms. Wolfe to learn more about STEM and what it looks like in elementary school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

-Talent Show info here including rehearsal dates and time and permission form-

<http://bellsmill.org/bells-mill-talent-show/>

-Volunteer for Club Bells Mill on March 15th -
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CAEA69-bells>

-Science Fair-April 4th-New this year-Daytime Viewing 9:30 to 11:15am, Open House 7 to 8pm.
Sign up information is on the PTA website.

-Sign up for Spring Enrichment here- <http://bellsmill.org/enrichment-activities/>

-International Night- May 2nd 7-9pm. We need country hosts! Sign up here-
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084CA5AB29A31-2014>

-The Nominating Committee is putting together their nomination slate for the 2014-2015 PTA Board to be presented at the April 1st PTA meeting. If you are interested, or know of anybody who is interested in serving on the PTA Board, please talk to the Nominating Committee.

-Thank you to Elizabeth Whitman for all of her hard work on the By-Laws.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mandy Lemar introduced the Second Grade Teaching Team who discussed the various ways parents can support study habits at home while focusing on reading. They further discussed instructional implications at school and read aloud strategies for the home.

Questions? Contact PTA president – Mandy Lemar – mhlemar@verizon.net, 301-204-1393.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RobBee Fredricks, Secretary