

Bells Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

PTA General Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2022, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Welcome & Call to Order – Debbie Fleischer

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Attendance

A total of 37 individuals from the school community attended the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Ali Jackowitz (5 min)

- Budget – the PTA is in good fiscal health. We exceed our membership donation goals, restaurant nights and spirit wear sales. The PTA is under budget for the year in all areas except “other expenses.”
- Membership Status – 200 family memberships and 25 teacher memberships.

Volunteer Recognition & Recent News (5 min)

- Support for Playwright in Residence for 5th grade – Mrs. Bordley discussed this program which is a longstanding tradition for BMES. The Playwright will be in residence at BMES for 7 days in February. Thanks to the PTA for ensuring this program happened this year.
- Directory updates – Amy Matush – the A to Z membership directory is being finalized.
- Thank you to the chairs and all families who donated to the Holiday luncheon and cookie buffet as well as those who chaired and participated in the BMES Bingo Night in January. Our teachers and families appreciate all you do!

Upcoming Activities & Volunteer Opportunities (15 min)

- Yearbook – Isha Patel is spearheading for BMES this year. Please submit BMES-related photos via Freed Photography (see Dr. Smith’s emails and Bear Post).
- Black History Month – Asmaa Seif Eldin – February 23 at 6:30 p.m. will be an interactive virtual assembly for families by MobleEd; Trivia Friday Mornings at BMES during February; Scotland Community Rec Center February 26 3-6 p.m. with guest speakers discussing history, photography exhibit (open to the public).
- Book Fair & Read-a-thon – support of Scholastic Book Fair and major PTA fundraiser to celebrate reading. Volunteers are needed for these events.
- More to come on Science Fair/STEM Night in May (outdoors), International Festival in April or May (outdoors), and year-end activities (June outdoors) – Amanda Klueger – volunteers are needed for all of the events. Please email info@bellsmill.org to volunteer

MCCPTA Updates – Divya Tonse & Karen Lust (5 min)

- Covid-related community concerns are discussed at the County level

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion activities are being discussed and look for more to come. As with BMES activities, volunteers are needed at the County level.

School Presentation: School Counselor & Resources – Mrs. Kanter (20 min)

- Mrs. Kanter shared what she does as a school counselor at BMES
- School counselors serve all students at the school
- Guidance lessons, small counseling groups and individual check-ins are various methods of meeting with students
- Topics covered during individual sessions-friendship issues, family dynamics, feelings about school, personal struggles and reflections, school-related issues
- Discussion of when Mrs. Kanter refers students to outside therapy
- Mrs. Kanter has many other duties as assigned
- Thank you to Mrs. Kanter for all you do!

Q&A / Discussion / New Business (10 min)

- Summer School will be conducted for reading and math – more details to come.
- Valentine’s Day reminders – each grade level is doing a service project and having a classroom celebration. Thank you to room parents for coordinating!

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.