

Bells Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

PTA General Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2023

Call to Order

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

Attendance

A total of 60 individuals from the school community attended the meeting.

Welcome – Debbie Fleischer, PTA President

School Updates – Dr. Stacy Smith, BMES Principal

- Our school's priority is safety first. An incident was reported to the BMES community today via email regarding a school Twitter posting that involved a 5th Grade teacher reading a LGBTQ+ book that was distributed on Twitter. MCPS is doing an investigation and is monitoring social media sites.
- Tamitha Campbell and Cedric Boatman were in attendance and introduced themselves and reiterated their support of the BMES community. The cluster has walkthroughs and rovers that have a presence in the school which is increased with incidents like this.

Presentation – Mrs. Havenstein, School Counselor

- Welcome to Ms. Havenstein, our new school counselor. She thanked everyone and said she is happy to be at BMES as our new counselor. She has 25 years of school counseling.
- New wellness room at BMES has been built on a comprehensive approach.
- Review of social emotional learning programs like mindfulness, self-esteem, emotional recognition.
- No Place for Hate Pledge – student led program designed to fit the needs of the school, 3 school wide activities and curriculum
- Wellness Room Supplies
- Questions concerning additional counselors, supporting teachers in addition to other duties, and identifying stress in our students

Treasurer's Report - Ali Jackowitz, Treasurer

- The BMES PTA is doing well financially

- Membership – close to membership numbers goals - 222 families and 28 teachers. While we are a little behind budget on donations, we are grateful for the additional support.
- Restaurant nights have raised additional revenue.

New Business

- School of Excellence discussion to come
- Upcoming events: Read a Thon Fundraiser, Science Fair, STEM Night
- Green Team – sock drive will be run at the school beginning this week.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. with school administration remaining to answer additional questions.