

Bells Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

PTA General Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was held at Bells Mill Elementary School and called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Attendance

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

Welcome & Introductions – Debbie Fleischer, PTA President

- Thanks to our volunteers for all of your support and help with our events like the Back to School picnic, Magic and Muffins, and Book Fair, Spirit Wear, A to Z Online Membership Directory

School Updates – Dr. Stacy Smith, BMES Principal

- Fall Festival – October 31 – parade in the morning, parties in the afternoon
- Parent Teacher conferences – in person or via Zoom – more information to come from teachers.
- Save the date – Principal’s Tea/Coffee with parents (HeadStart-2, 3-5) to review Parent Child Reunification Procedures, anti-racism audit, LGBTQ community resources. Dates to come.

Treasurer’s Report – Debbie Fleischer

- Membership status – 183 family members, goal of 296 families this year is still in progress. Visit www.bellsmill.org to join the PTA
- Budget of \$46,000. Planning to run a deficit budget this year as we return to prepandemic membership.

MCCPTA Delegate Report – Karen Lust & Erin Penfold, Delegates

- MCCPTA is county wide organization – family engagement is this year’s goal of MCCPTA
- www.mccpta.org for more information about suborganizations Bells Mill families can get involved in at the county level
- If have questions for our delegates, can email delegate@bellsmill.org

Recess Volunteer Opportunities – Dorina Kroll

- Parents/Adults assisting with both lunch and recess
- Sign up genius available at www.bellsmill.org
- Must do Volunteer training and Covid attestation

Structured Literacy Presentation – Mrs. Abramson

- An approach to *how* we teach reading – decoding – the “Science of Reading.”
- LETRS training – teachers are undergoing now.
- Defining Structured Literacy: (1) Systematic and Cumulative, (2) Explicit, and (3) Diagnostic and Responsive
- Why? Scientifically-based research, shown to work for nearly all students, explicitly and effectively addresses foundational literacy skills, a core need in learning to decode
- Phonics skills taught explicitly and systematically, decodable text, increasing reading with teaching, systematic and explicit instruction extends what students are decoding and word study
- Leveled Readers/Text Sets
- Complex Texts/Novel Studies – 4th and 5th grade
- Enrichments for small groups – William and Mary, Jacobs Ladder, etc.
- Small group – skill based, reinforcement
- Phonics – Really Great Reading (K-2)
- Word Study Syllaboards - 1st and 2nd
- Curriculum and Assessment – K-2 is Really Great Reading (explicit phonics), Benchmark for reading comprehension and writing. DIBELS assessment for K-2 (3 times a year), MAP-R for 3rd-5th, K-5 Benchmark Advance Interim Assessments (2x year).

Questions and Discussion

- We will continue to partner with SouthLake Elementary
- Parking concerns on Democracy Lane

New Business

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.