

# Bells Mill Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

## PTA General Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2023

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### Call to Order

The meeting was held at Bells Mill Elementary School and called to order at 6:33 p.m.

### Attendance

A total of 17 individuals from the school community attended the meeting.

### Welcome – Deb Rosenberg, VP Communications and Family Engagement

- The agenda is very robust and we have 2 major topics to vote on as a body this evening - the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget and the PTA Officer & MCCPTA Delegate elections.

### Treasurer’s Report – Alison Jacknowitz, Treasurer

- Current budget as of April 30th still stands at \$46,294 and we continue to run a deficit.
- We have met all our income goals with fundraising and are awaiting final income numbers from the yearbook sales and spirit wear.
- We are currently under budget in every category, however May and June are our big expenditures.
- Final membership numbers for the year are 222 families and 28 teachers.
- Proposed Budget of \$45,274 can be found here:  
[https://bellsmill.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-2024\\_Budget\\_Proposed\\_May2.pdf](https://bellsmill.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-2024_Budget_Proposed_May2.pdf)
- Notable adjustments are the inclusion of a line item for movie night, capping of “other events” at \$1000 and an increase in budget for the planners for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. There was also an increase in the projected income from the readathon to \$17,000.
- Community questions regarding budget for sister school (yes - \$200) and if there was a line item for school beautification such as the addition of benches or exterior paint etc (not currently, but can amend - may require further vetting with MCPS).

- Budget was approved by voice vote at 6:44 p.m. by all present. Motion by Erin Penfold. Second by Mr. Chung.

**PTA Officer & MCCPTA Delegate Elections – Jessica Farnsworth, PTA Board Nominating Committee Chair**

- Slate

President	Deb Palisin
Vice President – Membership & Fundraising	Amanda Klueger
Vice President – Community Events	Shara Reiter
Vice President – Communications & Family Engagement	Jessica McClellan
Vice President – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Varsha Morar
Secretary	Debbie Fleischer
Treasurer	Mia Bautista
MCCPTA Delegate	Karen Lust
MCCPTA Delegate	Erin Penfold

- All proposed Officers & Delegates were approved by voice vote.

**School Updates- Dr. Stacy Smith, BMES Principal & Mrs. Brooks Kemp, BMES Vice Principal**

- Grade level transitions input was provided by each class team lead. Please see slides.
- Should you have additional questions regarding the transitions please feel free to reach out to the grade team leads. Ms. Matthews - 1st grade, Ms. Ginsburg - 2nd grade, Ms. Hinkle - 3rd grade, Ms. Voyton - 4th grade, and Ms. Lang - 5th grade.
- For 5th graders transitioning to 6th grade at Cabin John: CJMS will provide an opportunity to come in for a mini day roughly one week before school starts and it is highly encouraged to attend to better understand your schedule and the school layout.
- Process for forming next year’s classes is a robust 4 phase process that begins in May and runs through August when class assignments are finalized and released.
- All school staff including teachers, paraeducators and specialists are a part of the process.

- Phase 1 (May) includes a review of the basics including demographics, family dynamics, enrollment numbers, ethnicity, gender, and FARMS with a full emphasis on equity in all areas.
- Phase 2 (June) begins the class list development and includes conversations between the grades both above and below and consideration of IEPs/504 plans. Classroom dynamics are further looked at including student behaviors.
- Phase 3 (July) allows for teachers to really dive in and provide their suggestions as well as look at everything considered up to this point including information from assessments data, enrollment numbers, and factoring in social-emotional aspects.
- Phase 4 (2nd/3rd week of August) is the teacher assignment phase. Teachers do NOT pick their classes rather other grades make the classroom assignments for them. These are then communicated to the teachers as well as the parents.
- As a parent should you feel strongly about your child's placement please contact their teacher first and provide objective information as to why (ie. my child would benefit from an environment that does X Y and Z or would best be supported in these ways).

#### **MCCPTA Delegate Update - Erin Penfold, MCCPTA Delegate**

- MCCPTA represents 210 schools across the county.
- MCCPTA has a number of committees that are looking for volunteers, including Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Technology, and Curriculum.
- MCCPTA has many levels of engagement, please email [delegate@bellsmill.org](mailto:delegate@bellsmill.org) for opportunities to get engaged.

#### **PTA Board Updates & New Business - Deb Rosenberg, VP Communications and Family Engagement**

- Teacher appreciation week is next week and includes a number of activities for the students to show their thanks to the teachers. PTA will also be providing treats and meals throughout the week.
- Upcoming events include Breakfast with Bears and BASH. Please keep an eye out for more information in the Bear Post and Dr. Smith's weekly communication. Volunteers will be needed for these events.
- Kindergarten Orientation was extremely successful and there will be a number of playdates offered over the summer.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



# Bells Mill Parent Teacher Association

General Meeting - May 2023

[bellsmill.org](http://bellsmill.org)

# Tonight's Agenda

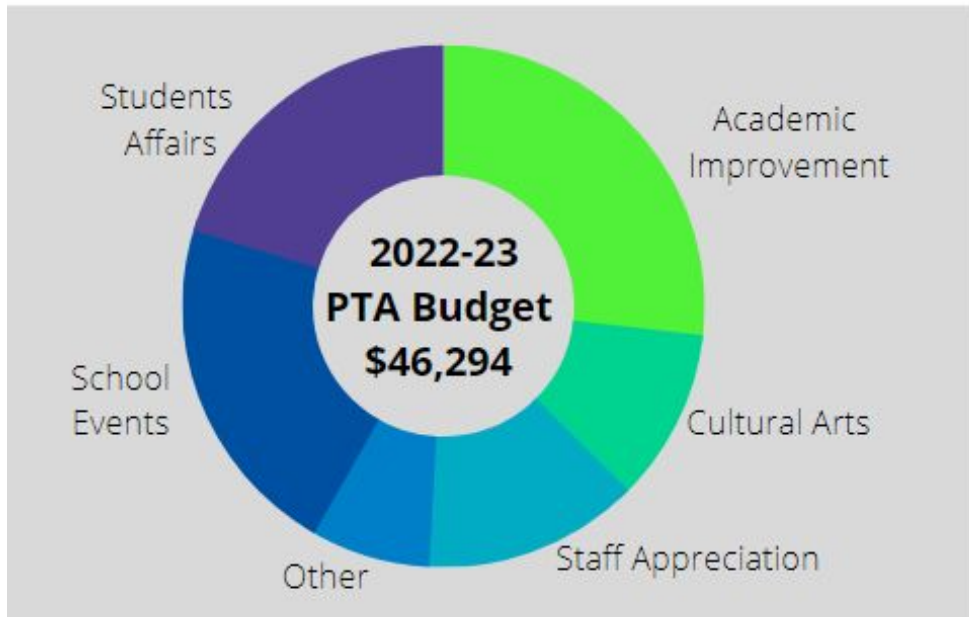
- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Treasurer's Report & Budget for Next Year (15 min)
- ▶ PTA Officer & MCCPTA Delegate Elections (10 min)
- ▶ School Presentations (20 min)
  - ▶ Grade-Level Transitions: What to Expect
  - ▶ Process for Forming Next Year's Classes
- ▶ MCCPTA Delegate Report (5 min)
- ▶ PTA Updates
- ▶ Discussion & New Business
- ▶ Adjourn

# Treasurer's Report

Financial statements posted online at [bellsmill.org](http://bellsmill.org)

Draft budget posted for review.

Recap of where we invest:



# '23-'24 Officer and Delegate Elections

President	Deb Palisin
Vice President - Membership & Fundraising	Amanda Klueger
Vice President - Community Events	Shara Reiter
Vice President - Communications & Family Engagement	Jessica McClellan
Vice President - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Varsha Morar
Secretary	Debbie Fleischer
Treasurer	Mia Bautista
Delegate	Karen Lust
Delegate	Erin Penfold

# School Presentations

Grade Level Transitions: What to Expect

- Mrs. Kemp, Assistant Principal

Process for Forming Next Year's Classes

- Dr. Smith, Principal



# Transition from K to 1st

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- Smaller spaces
- Responsibility and organization of belongings
- Desks
- Hallway bathrooms instead of in classrooms



# Transition from 1st to 2nd

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- Beginning the process of “Gentle Release” regarding executive functioning skills (i.e., transitioning from fully printed homework agendas to writing assignments themselves, etc.)
- Learning to manage independent time effectively.
- Working on mastering the mechanics of reading.
- Building the foundations for higher level math



# Transition from 2nd to 3rd

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- Independence (First year using agenda books)
- State Assessments
- Content Writing
- Building of second grade math foundations:  
Multiplication, division, fractions



# Transition from 3rd to 4th

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- Time management skills for long-term projects (novel studies)
- Completing math and reading HW Monday-Thursday
- Stamina in all subjects (independent work, productive struggle)
- Problem solve for themselves
- Organization/ taking care of materials



# Transition from 4th to 5th

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- Independence-stamina for problem solving, preparation
- Advocacy-communication, block schedules
- Organization- binder



**\*5th Grade Walking Field Trip May 25th**

# MCCPTA Delegate Updates

Erin Penfold and Karen Lust

# Teacher Appreciation Week: May 8-12

**Sunday:** Chalk the Walk for Teachers! Use sidewalk chalk to write messages of appreciation for BMES staff for them to see when they arrive on Monday morning.

- PTA will have a large box of chalk available at the front doors of the school at 10AM.

**Monday:** If teachers were flowers, we'd pick you! Bring your teacher a flower.

**Tuesday:** Give your teacher a thank-you note. It can be a homemade card, a drawing, or just a little "thanks" on a piece of paper!

- Keep an eye out for a request for donations for a staff breakfast on Tuesday!

**Wednesday:** Bring your teacher a tool for their classroom (e.g., pens dry erase markers, books, etc.)

**Thursday:** Give your teacher something you made. Examples include homemade bookmarks, cookies, artwork, or painted rock paperweights. Get creative!

**Friday:** Write a note or give a treat to someone in the building.

**PTA will also be providing treats and meals throughout the week!**

# Upcoming Events!

## Breakfast with Bears

- May 17 @ 8:30AM: Grades K-2, Autism, Head Start
- May 18 @ 8:30AM: Grades 3-5

## Bells Mill Bash - June 9, 2023

## Kindergarten Summer Playdates

- Saturday, June 24, 10-11am
- Saturday, July 15, 10-11am
- Sunday, August 13, 10-11am

## Newcomer Playdate

- Sunday, August 13, 11-12