

PTA Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2010 (Final)

Meeting called to order 7:10pm.

In attendance: Lisa Sorkin, Jennifer McCarthy, Susan Eagle, Ellen Wright, Allison Harrison, Siobhan Gonzalez, Ruth Ann Nicastrì, Hugh Dainer, Jen Nordheimer, Michelle Rubin, Lauren Menkes, Diane Epperson, Miriam Weintraub, Grace Park, Angie Zeidenberg

- Presentation on head lice by Stephanie Evers, RN (Nurse Manager, Montgomery County Department of Health)
 - Montgomery County changed its policy for dealing with head lice. It was previously a “no nits” policy. Now a child is sent home only if a live louse is found or if a nit is found ½ inch or closer to the scalp. Parents are encouraged to notify the school nurse if their child is found to have head lice. This information will be treated confidentially.
- PTA Business began at 8:10pm
- Summary of the November 5th meeting with Sean Bulson and Denise Greene.
 - Expressed our concerns for lack of staff for the kindergarten classes
 - Found out that the MCPS kindergarten enrollment exceeded county-wide estimates by 300-400 kids
 - As such, all reserves were exhausted and had been since mid-August
 - Sean came back this week and told BES that they wouldn’t be able to give us any help
 - Next step is to let the Board of Education know that we aren’t happy
 - PTA is working with Deborah Goldman, Cluster Co-coordinator
- Jennifer McCarthy had a meeting today about the potential expansion of BES
 - Dates for the community meetings were announced (1/4 at 3:45pm, 1/18 7:00pm, 2/3 3:45pm, 2/22 7:00pm, 3/1 7:00pm)
 - PTA would like access to all local community list serves to spread the word about the meetings
 - Timeline is long-term; 4-5 years out
- PTA directory has been recalled due to printing errors. The revised directory should be sent to the printer by the end of the week and new ones released next week.
- Drama club production was a success. The PTA thanks the three co-coordinators – Kathy O’Connor, Janet Forlini, and Amy Strent.
- Cluster Report –
 - Cluster-wide meeting about new math curriculum to be held January 4th
 - Operating Budget meeting to be held January 3rd
 - Whitman Cluster testimony on January 19th. Our priority will likely be class size and support staff and staff development positions.
- Fundraising
 - Waiting on Sally Foster final results – expect it to be approx \$2,000
 - Book fair income exceeded last year – over \$3,500
 - Ledo Pizza Night is next Tuesday night

- Would like BES parents to register their Giant and Safeway cards so we can get fundraising proceeds. Must reregister each year. Currently we only have 30 families in the Giant program and less in the Safeway program. However, we received \$200 for October and November so it is an easy way to raise money.
- Million Minutes of Reading will have a pledge component
- March 19th will be the first BES fun run – we have great volunteers but would love more
- Social
 - Winter Sing has been moved to the day. Parents are invited.
 - February 5th will be the All School Social at the Bannockburn clubhouse. It will be pot-luck.
 - Grade-level socials aren't happening this year. Next year we will get them on the calendar before school starts.
- In-School
 - On December 17th, there will be a cultural arts assembly featuring Illstyle and Peace Productions, a hip-hop group from Philadelphia.
 - Manna Food Drive is the week of December 13th
 - Pennies for Patients will be the week of January 10th
 - Jump Rope for Heart is February 11th
 - Geo-Bee is December 17th and we still need volunteers. The finals will be January 7th.
 - Math Day is January 20th.
 - Opera DVDs are still available. PTA gives great thanks to Erin McCahill for making the DVDs.
 - The drama club DVD will be available soon.
- Communications
- Principal Report
 - One Million Minutes Challenge was created to emphasize the importance of reading
 - All students have been challenged to read 35 minutes a day – 15 minutes at school and 20 minutes at home
 - If they make this goal – a collective 1 million minutes – Mr. Walder will do a crazy stunt that is selected by the students
 - The new projections for next year's enrollments have been released.

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5
2010-2011 Actual	54	49	62	62	70	69
2011-2012 Projection	53	58	51	63	59	71

- In March the numbers may change again.

- Reminder that teachers and staff really appreciate the holiday gifts that they are given. However, these gifts can not exceed \$25.
- We have a new lunch/recess aide and a new ESOL teacher