

Bannockburn PTA Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2010

Welcome and Introduction -- PTA co-president Jennifer McCarthy and Lisa Sorkin

- Board introductions
- Recap of the summer's capital improvements – new roof and bathroom renovations – the result, in part, of ongoing PTA advocating.
- **Review of PTA communications tools**

Newly revamped Bannockburn PTA Website

<http://www.bannockburn-pta.org/home.html>

The Website was a wide-range of information on activities, PTA programs, and fundraisers. It includes a link to online registration for PTA-sponsored before and after school clubs.

Bannocknet – the PTA's e-mail service. Used by the PTA and it's committees to inform parents about upcoming activities, volunteer needs, cultural and community service events and other information of interest. There is also a weekly Wednesday e-mail of announcements.

To receive Bannocknet e-mails, you must subscribe by sending an e-mail to:

bannocknet-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Bannocknet is separate from **Connect Ed**, an e-mail list generated by the school from student enrollment information. It is used for communications from Principal Walder.

- **A PTA Liaison for each classroom** – This year the PTA board has created a new volunteer position, PTA Liaison, to help ensure good communications between the PTA and parents and to coordinate volunteer needs for PTA-sponsored activities.
- **PTA sponsored before and after school clubs** – The PTA sponsors six before school activities (foreign languages and music) and 15 after school clubs, including drama, chess, science, math, fitness and photography. Some clubs need to restrict the number of participants due to space limitations or other considerations. Clubs that are over-subscribed during the enrollment period will be filled first by working down through the grades (5th, 4th, 3rd, etc.) and then by lottery within a grade.
- **The PTA Directory** – will be published in October once the requisite six-week opt-out period has passed.

Fundraising Committee Report –

- **BES Spirit Wear** – Sales of BES apparel (t-shirts, pants, shorts, sweatshirts) is already underway. A PDF version of the order form is available on the Website: <http://www.bannockburn-pta.org/images/Bannockburn169.pdf>
The sale ends Sept. 24.
- **Grocery Store Programs** – BES families who participate with Giant and Safeway rewards programs can help Bannockburn raise money every time they do their grocery shopping. Both Giant and Safeway require you to re-enroll annually. To sign up for this year, go to the fundraiser section of the PTA Website. <http://www.bannockburn-pta.org/fundraisers.html>
- **Power Walk and Lunch** -- On Oct. 22, the PTA will host a fundraiser walk with lunch to follow at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo.

Social Activities Committee Report –

- **Back to School Picnic** – Will be held Friday, Sept. 24. Families can bring their own picnics or buy food from Potomac Pizza.
- **Donuts for Dads** – Will be held Oct. 11 (Columbus Day), Dads, uncles, grandfathers, any male figure important in a BES child's life will be invited to come to start the school day with their student after sharing a small breakfast together.

In-School Activities Committee Report –

- **Artist in Residence Program** – Opera singer Yvette Lewis returns to Bannockburn to run a program titled, "So this is Opera." For two weeks starting Sept. 20, each grade works on an opera that they will perform Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Whitman High School auditorium.
- **Bannockburn's Help the Homeless Month** – The community service committee is working on several activities -- poster-making, an Oct. 8 mini-walk and the Lunch Project -- to give October a month-long focus on helping the homeless. More volunteers are needed for this effort.

Communications and Treasurer's Reports –

- **PTA membership** – The PTA membership drive continues. There will be a table set up in the lobby for Sept. 22 back-to-school night and at the back-to-school picnic.
- **PTA budget** – Available to anyone who would like a copy. Contact PTA Treasurer Stephanie Seiberg.

Principal's Report – by Dan Walder

- **Enrollment** – 366 children enrolled, including 53 kindergartners from 48 families. Consequently, there are two kindergarten classes comprised of 26 and 27 students. (If there had been 56 kindergartners enrolled, BES would have qualified for a third classroom.)
In first grade there are two classes of 25 students each.
In all the other grades, there are three classes per grade with class sizes ranging from 20 to 23 students. (The county guidelines allow for 28-29 per class.)
- **Staff** – Last year (2009-2010 school year) 20 staff members were hired. For the 2010 - 2011 school year, there are five new hires: 1st and 5th grade teachers, a 1st grade reading initiative teacher, a staff development instructor and an assistant building manager.
- **School Schedule and Program Changes** – Math for the 3rd – 5th grades now runs from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Recess is being held prior to lunch so that kids can burn off some energy and come to lunch more focused on eating and refueling for their afternoon studies.
- **School Upgrades** – In addition to the new roof and renovated bathrooms completed by the county over the summer, the staff is very excited about new technology purchased through the BES Foundation. The foundation purchased Promethean boards for the media center and fifth grade classrooms as well as ELMO document camera projectors that are in all the K-4 classrooms. Teacher training on these tools is ongoing. Mr. Walder would like to see the foundation purchase bulletin boards for the school's hallways.

Principal's Report Continued – by Dan Walder

- **Bannockburn Expansion Update** – With Wood Acres Elementary chronically over-enrolled by some 200 students, the county began to study this issue last year. The began feasibility studies for the following three scenarios:
 1. Expanding Wood Acres to hold the over-flow
 2. Renovating Wood Acres and adding on to Bannockburn so that each school could accommodate more students, sharing the over-flow
 3. Expanding Bannockburn to handle all of the over-flow

In a preliminary assessment of the 3rd option done last spring, Mr. Walder and his staff determined that 14 additional classrooms would be needed, almost doubling the size of the school. (Currently there are 17 sections in K-5.)

These feasibility studies will continue this year and include meetings with the school and neighborhood communities involved. Mr. Walder does not expect a decision on a solution until the end of the current school year (2011) or next school year (2012). The expansion/renovation etc. would not be in place for five years or so.

Two points that have already been made repeatedly:

- Wood Acres wants to keep its children in the neighborhood.
 - Bannockburn wants to keep its school small.
- **Connect Ed** – Mr. Walder will continue to have regular communications with the school community through Sunday night phone calls, e-mails using Connect Ed and monthly principal newsletters.
 - **MCPS Bullying Policy** – Mr. Walder reviewed the zero-tolerance MCPS Bullying Policy. (See below for MCPS definition.) Among the points highlighted were:
 - Mr. Walder personally investigates bullying concerns.
 - Bannockburn students are not allowed to have cell phones in school unless they have received written permission from Mr. Walder.

BES Foundation Report – by Matt McGuire

- The foundation spent the following funds last year:
 - Promethean boards -- \$25,000
 - ELMO projectors -- \$17,000
- The spring auction joint fundraiser with the PTA raised some \$26,000 with \$10,000 going to the PTA.
- Currently the foundation has about \$9,200. It is considering Mr. Walder's request to purchase bulletin boards for the hallways.

In attendance: The PTA Board, Principal Walder and approximately 40 parents.

Drafted by PTA Secretary Susan Shipp, Sept. 14, 2010

Montgomery County Public Schools - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

Board Policy JHF: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

MCPS Regulation JHF: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

The Montgomery County Board of Education is committed to:

Creating an environment that is free of bullying, harassment, or intimidation so that schools are safe places in which to learn

Prohibiting verbal, physical, or written (including electronic) bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any person on school property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored functions

Prohibiting reprisals or retaliation against individuals who report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, or who are victims, witnesses, or others with reliable information

Definition:

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication*, that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is

Motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, or physical or mental ability or disability

Threatening or seriously intimidating

Occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or a school bus

Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school

* "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer or pager