



BEALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes
Oct 4, 2011

Board Members Present: Elliot Alter, Principal; Tida Violante, President; Rachel Frier, VP for Communications; Rob Gibbs, Treasurer; Jennifer Martella, Secretary; Membership Chair, Meg Duskin; Fundraising Chair, Meg Page; MCCPTA Delegates: Robin Ofner and Beth Wisneski

September meeting minutes approved.

Officer Reports

Finance (Rob Gibbs): We have \$17k in bank for \$30k annual budget. Question – biggest upcoming expenditures? Answer - Arts integration grant, teachers' reimbursements, Cultural Art Assemblies and Dragon Disco.

Membership (Meg Duskin): At a little more than halfway through our membership drive, we have increased our membership from 176 to 214. We will announce the winning class(es) of the membership contest mid-week next week. There will be 2 winning pizza lunches with Mr. Alter – one for membership increase during the drive, and one for most members from the beginning of the year. Multiple kids in a family will be counted.

Dragon Dateline and Fridge Notes (Rachel Frier): This year's first Dragon Dateline recently went out. Rachel received lots of submissions, so she condensed the information. She will announce upcoming deadline for submissions again. She also had great volunteers for copying the dateline. She also sent out the first Fridge Notes, which is the calendar of monthly Beall and PTA events. Finally, she published the listserv guidelines on the listserv (per last meeting's approved motion) as a reminder of good email practices.

Principal's Report (Mr. Alter): Beall Open House is Monday 9:15 to 11:15. We have a new attendance secretary, Denise Hardy. She comes to us from Burning Tree Elementary and she is also a former Beall parent. Melonee Noll is now an Instructional Data Assistant at Beall. The school received 32-36 additional computers for the classrooms and media center, due to our increased enrollment. We are also scheduled to get updated computers next summer. Oct 26th is the curriculum 2.0 presentation. The MCPS facilities staff has turned Beall's air conditioning to heat for the season, so please send kids in layers and label all clothing.

Special Orders:

Tida reported that John Spano, current VP for Planning and Programming, is moving away from the Beall community soon, and has resigned his PTA position. We are now seeking a replacement on the Board. The PTA bylaws allow the Executive Committee to fill a vacant officer position, but Tida is accepting nominations, interest, and questions.

Unfinished Business and General Orders

Bylaws update (Jennifer Martella): Our revised bylaws, that we voted on in September, were rejected by the MD PTA because, unbeknownst to us, the PTA approved a new bylaws template in July. We will most likely have to vote to approve the newly revised version next month.

Directory update (Jennifer Martella and Elliot Alter): The directory is progressing with staff lists, artwork, compiled address and phone changes, and the like. We have hit a little snag in that a significant number of parents opted-out differently on the MCPS form than on the PTA form, and we have to call them and confirm their opt-out choice. Because of privacy concerns, the Beall staff has to make those phone calls. The directory publication will likely be delayed.

Book Fair (Tida Violante for Amy Bulson): Amy needs coordinators for the book fair. The event raised \$3500 for the PTA last year, so we should not have to cancel the event and lose that money for lack of volunteers. The book fair is 11/7-11. Requests for coordinators were made at the meeting, on the listserv, and on the website. If you are interested, contact Tida or Amy.

Movie Night (Tida Violante for Priya Agarwal): Movie night is 10/14. We need some volunteers to sell snacks. Maybe some middle schoolers looking for volunteer credit? Contact Tida or Priya if you are interested.

Dragon Men and Donuts (Tida Violante): On 10/8, from 8-8:30 am. A quick breakfast to celebrate men in the lives of our students and to encourage volunteering.

MCCPTA assembly (Beth Wisneski and Robin Ofner): The MCCPTA proposed a resolution opposing co-locating services that do not have to do with students in MCPS schools. The resolution exempts after-hours groups and events, and those services that are directly related to the school children. The resolution will be voted on at the next MCCPTA meeting. Robin will post the resolution on the Beall PTA website. The MCCPTA also proposed another resolution clarifying MCCPTA's role in the school site selection process.

MCPS Capital Improvement Projects (Tida Violante): The Superintendent's recommendations for elementary school additions, a new elementary school and JWMS addition in the RM cluster will be announced 10/28 along with all the rest of the schools' improvements. There will be hearings before the Board of Education on whether or not to approve the Superintendent's recommendations. The RM cluster PTA reps (and families are welcome) will meet on 11/8 – no location yet. We will discuss the Superintendent's recommendations, and our position, at the next Beall PTA meeting on Nov. 1.

New Business

Walk to School Day: tomorrow, 10/5.

Dine out night: 10/19 at Noodles and Co. Keep in mind they do take-out orders, because it is not a large restaurant, but it was our biggest dine out night last year. They will match 20% of the bill from Beall customers. Flyers will come home to bring with you.

Recess classes, provided by the PTA, have started up again. We started this last year to alleviate the crowded conditions at recess and provide organized activities for the kids. Alternating hip-hop and fitness classes are offered on the playground once a week.

Local Band: There is an offer from a local band to do a Beall fundraiser event. We are trying to fit it into a winter event.

Gardening Coordinator needed. Lori Sokolowski, Beall's Administrative Secretary, and her husband have been maintaining the butterfly garden in the front of the school. She asked that the PTA provide volunteers to take over the job. And we also have the PTA garden at the walker's exit. If you are interested in helping out, contact Tida.

Listserv Coordinator needed. One of John Spano's responsibilities was listserv coordinator. In that role, he approved listserv postings and served as moderator. Please contact Tida if you are interested in filling this role.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, November 1.