



BEALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Beall Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting
October 3, 2017

1. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTA President Joshua Schnell, who confirmed that a quorum had been established, in accordance with the PTA's Bylaws.
2. Meet the Specials
 - a. Mr. Robert Healy – PE Teacher
 - i. Mr. Healy works at Beall full time Monday – Friday. This is his 14th year teaching at Beall.
 - ii. He emphasized that students are encouraged to wear sneakers on PE days.
 - iii. He discussed how MCPS grading has changed this year (K & 1 – use P/I/N scale while 2-5 use A-D scale. Kindergarten – 2nd grade are focusing on locomotor skills.
 - iv. He was asked how often PE class takes place outside and responded that it's hard to coordinate that due to recess and the fact that there are no bathrooms/water fountains outside plus the inevitable distractions.
 - b. Mr. Brian McCarty – PE Teacher
 - i. Mr. McCarty works at Beall on Tuesdays & Thursdays. He has been teaching in MCPS for 10 years. He has one solo class, the rest he co-teaches.
 - ii. He tries to emphasize social responsibility (sportsmanship, etc.).
 - c. Meghan Groth – Music Teacher
 - i. Mrs. Groth works at Beall full time Monday – Friday. This is her 4th year teaching in MCPS and she teaches Pre-K to 5th grade. She is a curriculum writer for MCPS. She is joined by Mr. Au (not present) on Mondays & Tuesdays. She also mentioned that Mrs. Kanowith (not present) is the Instrumental Music teacher.
 - ii. Mrs. Groth shared that she has a website which can be found by going to the Beall website, clicking on "Specialists" and then "Mrs. Groth's Webpage". It has a tab for each grade plus both the 4th and 5th grade Choruses. It features YouTube videos of songs being studied and games.
 - iii. She has upcoming field trips to Strathmore for the 2nd and 5th grades.
 - d. Mr. Ryan Ives – Art Teacher
 - i. Mr. Ives works at Beall full time Monday – Friday. This is his 3rd year at Beall and 6th in MCPS. He emphasizes motor skills, exploring, multi-focus and open-ended projects. He encourages collaborative work.
 - ii. Art work is generally sent home at the end of the quarter.
 - iii. There is a MCPS Art Show at Lakeforest Mall in April where Beall usually has 2 panels. He will contact students whose art will be displayed.
 - iv. There will be a 3rd grade field trip to the National Gallery of Art with a related lesson.
 - v. Always looking for donations: Ziploc bags, recycled materials (paper towel rolls, tops)
 - vi. Mrs. Morse (not present) is a part time art teacher.
 - vii. Art on a Cart – traveling art cart for art classes to take place in classrooms – all but K and 3.
 - e. Clarice Poole – Media Specialist
 - i. Mrs. Poole is new to Beall this year. She spent 11 years at Stonegate as an Assistant



- Media Specialist.
- ii. This year's Media Center theme is "Reading is an Emojinal Experience"
 - iii. She will be introducing a new MCPS program to grades 3 – 5: Common Sense Media. The goal is to show students and parents how to be good digital citizens, utilizing age appropriate websites/apps and teaching them that what they do online lasts forever. There will be a family piece with the lessons.
 - iv. Grades K & 1 have a weekly book exchange. 2 – 5 can exchange at their convenience.
 - v. 1st graders are being introduced to Chromebooks.
 - vi. She will be conducting research projects for Grades 2 – 5. Citing sources and taking notes.
 - a. 2nd grade – Nutrition
 - b. 3rd grade – Ancient Rome
 - c. 4th grade – Native Americans
 - d. 5th grade – NASA – mystery substance on Mars
 - vii. She mentioned the Black Eyed Susan Award program – kids will get to vote on books.
 - viii. 4th & 5th grades – read 5 books and get a pizza party.

3. Officer's Reports:

- a. President - PTA President Joshua Schnell
 - i. Boundary Study for the new elementary school in the Richard Montgomery cluster ("RMES #5")
 - a. Last spring a committee was formed to establish some boundary options (Paula Tully and Mike Kohut from Beall participated). There were several public hearings and factors like demographics, overcrowding were taken into account and the study projects the boundaries to be in place for 30 – 50 years. The committee's report was published on August 30, 2017 and is on the MCPS website.
 - b. The Beall PTA did not support any of the boundary options presented as they were not in the best interest of Beall. Approximately 1/3 of Beall students would be affected.
 - c. All boundary options did not include the build out of the shell space planned on the 3rd floor of the new school. The shell would add room for 120 students, bringing the capacity to 740 students. The Mayor of Rockville has recommended that it be built out as a part of the original construction rather than being left a shell. This could affect the distribution of students.
 - d. The Superintendent is scheduled to give a recommendation to the Board based on the committee's report. It should be released on October 23 and will include the capital improvement schedule.
 - e. Wednesday, November 8 – Cluster representatives will provide input.
 - f. There are a series of working sessions scheduled for early November. Work Session – Nov 2, Hearings Nov 6 and 8, Business Meetings – Nov 14 and 16 (if needed)
 - g. Final Decision is scheduled for November 27.
 - h. If you plan to attend a public hearing, you must sign up in advance to



- provide testimony.
- ii. Mayor Newton scheduled to join Beall students for Walk to School Day – Oct 4.
- b. Vice President of Programs – Jonathan Schwalbe
- i. Gabe Meyer is coordinating after school activities.
 - ii. The annual Back to School Picnic had a great turnout. Mr. Schwalbe thanked Melissa Scales for coordinating.
 - iii. Walk to School day is October 4. Groups will meet at Welsh Park, Peg Sante Park and Laird Street at 8:30am.
 - iv. Open House is on Monday, October 9 from 9:10am – 11am. Sign up in advance.
 - v. Dragon Disco will take place November 17 (tentative) 7 – 8:30pm.
 - vi. Movie Night will be October 20th at 7pm in the gym. Students will vote on the movie.
 - vii. Open positions for which volunteers are needed.
 - a. Science Expo (1/25) – Need a helper and need visiting scientists (not parents).
 - b. March Madness
- c. Vice President of Communications – Monica Berger
- i. If you are not receiving emails from the PTA you can sign up on the PTA website.
- d. Treasurer – Gotthard Saghi Szabo
- i. Mr. Szabo distributed the proposed budget.
 - a. It is similar to last year's. The first two pages show event income/fundraiser revenue. We expect approximately \$37k in revenue.
 - b. Expenses include – Bella's wishlist, teacher support, culture & art assemblies, staff training, reimbursing teachers, \$3,400 for media center (from book fair sales)
 - c. The PTA cannot spend money without members voting on the budget.
 - d. The plan is to begin the year & end the year with approx. \$18k in the bank.
 - e. Mr. Szabo will propose a vote later in the year for the following:
 - Next year's budget will run July 2018 – June 2019. He would like approval for \$4k of non-discretionary expenses to get us to the 1st meeting of the 2018-2019 school year.
 - Donation to the RMES # 5 PTA as a start-up fund in Sept 2018. The other 3 RM cluster schools will be encouraged to contribute as well.
 - ii. Paula Tully motioned to approve the budget. Multiple attendees seconded and the budget was approved.
 - iii. Revenue, etc. will be reduced when student body is reduced by new school opening.
 - iv. Current cash balance needs to be audited. Need an audit lead.
- e. Fundraising – Paula Tully
- i. There has been a general disinterest in the sales related fundraising initiatives. It seems like parents are more interested in direct donations and the bonus is that they are tax deductible. There is a donation aspect on the website and a form to print out for a receipt.
 - ii. A "successful" fundraiser raises \$4-5k. It was suggested that a visual indicator showing how much has been raised would help motivate people.



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- iii. Sponsorships are available through the PTA to appear on the website and in the student directory.
 - iv. Dine out committee – dates have been selected. Monies raised are considered a donation from the restaurant.
 - v. T-shirts are available for sale – children and adult sizes.
 - vi. Money raised from the Claire’s Gourmet fundraiser is to be used for flexible seating for classrooms.
 - f. MCCPTA Delegate’s Report – Susan Gorant
 - i. Working on advocacy for the upcoming Capital Improvement plan.
 - ii. Participating in discussions about supports for undocumented immigrant children.
 - g. Secretary – Liza Ford
 - i. Kids Helping Kids food drive kick off – goes until October 27.
 - ii. Minutes for both May and June meetings were distributed earlier for review.
 - a. Paula Tully motioned for both months’ minutes to be approved. Multiple seconds. Minutes are approved.
4. Principal’s Report – Elliot Alter
- i. Communication – separate school v. PTA communications (emails) but they sometimes overlap. If you are not receiving from the school, contact the main office.
 - ii. Dine outs – Questions have been asked about healthier options/sit down restaurants. The dine-out restaurants are chosen due to the volume of business expected and it’s not realistic to use sit down restaurants.
 - iii. There have been drainage issues near the portables for the last 5 years so there will be some ongoing work conducted to remedy. Fencing will be gone by Monday.
 - iv. Open House – Please pre-register (to obtain a count and to ensure the safety of students). Open house cannot be an all-day event due to lack of space for lunch and recess.
 - v. MCPS Volunteer training is good for 3 years.
 - vi. MCPS requires 10 fire drills/year. There will also be shelter in place/lockdown drills and bus evacuation drills.
 - vii. Picture Day – scheduled for October 11. Retakes in November. The fall pictures are the ones that will appear in the yearbook.
 - viii. Parent-Teacher conferences scheduled for Nov 10 and Nov 17.
 - ix. They are looking to better utilize the website. If anyone has some training/time to assist it would be welcomed.
5. Staff Liasion – Danielle Hessler
- i. Teachers are working with the after-school club rosters. Please notify teachers of changes to students’ dismissal routines.
6. Membership – Delaney Higgs
- i. Online registration is available. Individual is \$25, Family is \$40.
 - ii. Paper registrations can be sent via backpack mail or put in the PTA mailbox.
 - iii. Currently we have 239 members.
 - iv. Benefit of membership = student directory.



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7. New Business
 - i. Box Top collection will take place in January.
 - ii. MCPS is currently asking for input on the 2018-2019 school calendar
 - iii. Parents should be receiving information for the new MCPS Parents' portal. It's the elementary version of Ed Line and will feature grades/test scores/teacher newsletters.
8. Speaker - None
9. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned by PTA President Joshua Schnell at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza Ford
Secretary