



BEALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Beall PTA - Meeting Minutes October 2, 2012

1. Introductions and general overview of 2012-2013 Tida Violante called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Attendees were given a minute to meet some new parents. Tida introduced all of the board members and chairpersons. Tida recounted all the events so far since the end of August: staff breakfast, spirit gear, kindergarten orientation, back-to-school night, picnic and Dragon Men and Donuts.

This is a great time for new parents to get involved in PTA and continue the momentum as many board members will not be returning next year.

Membership meetings will be every other month instead of every month to encourage greater attendance. There will also be a few "Coffee with Mr. Alter" sessions coming up this year and parenting workshops to supplement the membership meetings.

Membership last year increased by more than 50% and the school received a plaque from Maryland PTA and Montgomery county PTA. Tida asked all in attendance to encourage others to join the PTA

2. Approval of minutes - none to approve

3. Reports:

Membership - Zhen Tao reported that our current membership is 280, Our goal is 300. Hopefully more parents can be recruited by sending membership forms to parents who have not yet joined.

Fundraising -Meg Page reported upcoming fundraisers include Mixed Bags, Scholastic Book Fair, March Madness, Dine Out Nights. Last year we gave the school \$22,000 for technology like (Elmo Document projectors) and basketball hoops, etc.

Directory - Meg Page and Sunny Hedgecock - The directory has been outsourced this year. Parent names and email addresses will be in the directory this year. An email has been sent to all families to verify their information so that the directory app can be completed and downloaded to smart phones. Robin asked about "kids classifieds" that is on the directory verification. It is a way for families to send a message to children in the school. The cost is \$15 and a portion of this money will go to the school. Someone asked if there would be a cross reference for parents and children's last names. Sunny responded that this feature would be available. Tida asked for further questions. It was mentioned that store cards can be registered during the verification process.

School Update- Principal Elliot Alter. Open House is on Monday October 8th from 9-11am. Please sign in at the front door before going to your child's class. Please try to refrain from bringing younger children into the classroom. This time is not for parent conferences, it is time for visiting the classroom. 5th and 2nd grades have class field trips October 2nd November field trip to Strathmore.

Picture Day in Next Wednesday 10/10/12. All children will have their pictures taken. Fall pictures are used in the yearbook as well as school database. A parent asked if pictures needed

to be ordered prior to pictures being taken. Ms. Lee responded that you can pay in advance but you don't need to, a proof will be sent home and you can order at a later time.

Grade Level Newsletters will be sent home to improve communication with the home. Some of the classes are putting them on the web. Mr. Alter will send an email to parents in those classes so they can read them online.

Homework Hotline is available T, W, TH 4-6 on cable TV. You can also call in for a live teacher to get assistance. Questions can also be submitted online and will be replied to by 9pm.

Parent Academies - MCPS sponsored classes that are coming up. These are free workshops that can be helpful for parents.

Climate Survey - 3rd and 5th grades take this survey and parents/teachers get a partner survey to complete. This year it is changing to a gallop survey.

Chorus Concerts- Chorus for grades 4 &5. In the past they have been done separately. This year the music teacher would like to combine these to do a bigger performance. They are considering having the evening show at Richard Montgomery.

Staff Update Ms. Lee - Ms. Lee expressed the thanks the teachers have for the staff breakfast, reimbursements, and other things the PTA has done for them.

A group of teachers received ELMO training today and saw all the advance usage of the projectors.

For the fundraiser Claire's Gourmet please do not have children go door to door, money raised will go to technology.

Finances- Rob Gibbs Recess Volunteers are still needed! Rob will be finished with his term as treasurer in spring 2013 and a new treasurer is needed. The budget for the 2012-2013 school year was reviewed. Revenue is up by \$3-4000. (\$41,460 is the goal) Rob reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal 2013. New expenses include: read-a-thon, coffee talk, grandparents day, Race to Nowhere, Bella's Wish List, Tech grant (already spent), explorers club. All expenses tally up to \$41,460 showing a break-even budget. There was a \$200 discrepancy that should have been on the membership drive and it was listed on the teacher breakfast.

A question was posed "what is the usual amount of money usually available for the beginning of the year"? \$5000 is the usual amount. However, this past year we had \$13000.

A question was posed to Mr. Alter as to whether the PTA is covering a shortfall from MCPS to get all schools wireless and Promethean boards. Mr. Alter's response was that we had already had this plan in place prior to MCPS. The school decided to get the ELMO projectors. We are not covering a shortfall. This initiative is not a wish list. It is a tech grant that is being given to state and local governments. The money is available and designed to be used for technology. A parent asked if the money from the county could be reallocated for something else. Mr. Alter said that there would not be duplicate technology given by the county and the money could not be used for something else.

Robin asked if the technology Wish List has been fulfilled by the PTA. Mr. Alter replied that the wish list is mostly fulfilled. The money from Claire's Gourmet is to be used for the remaining technology items needed.

Rob asked about basketball hoops. We are waiting for the county to come install the hoops which arrived in August.

4. Reports of Special Committees - none

5. Special Orders - Tida motioned to pass the FY13 budget. Tonya Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. There were 48 members.

6. Unfinished Business and General Orders

Oct 30th at 7pm Race to Nowhere movie will be shown. Mrs. Puglisi will facilitate a discussion. Please RSVP as this event is open to the public. The question of childcare for the movie was posed. Childcare will most likely not be provided, since it is going to be a late night.

After school activities - Mad Science moved back to Oct. 17th.

Parents Night Out 11/30 - Babysitting with Global for Beall students \$12 per (Beall students only) child and pizza and drinks will be included. The proceeds will come back to the PTA. Global is providing free babysitting.

Amy Bulson discussed that the Scholastic Book Fair will be held Nov 12-13 and possibly 14th. Volunteers are needed to assist K-2 children to preview the books as well as to work the cash register on sale days. Sign ups will be done through SignUp Genius. Middle or High School students can volunteer and get credit. A teacher coordinator is needed to assist with teacher's wish lists.

Kate Chai-Onn presented the Mixed Bags fundraiser- Oct 12th Each families youngest child will be bringing home a catalog. The fundraiser will end Oct. 26.

7. New Business

Movie Night tickets can be purchased here for \$5. Advance purchased tickets will be put into drawing for Trader Joe's gift bag.

Mini Walk for the homeless will be during recess this year on Oct 4th and 5th. All money goes to Stepping Stones Family Shelter. Registration can be online with credit card or check. Forms are available in the office or printable online.

Box Tops - Please remember to keep box top labels. There will be a contest in January. Last year we raised around \$1600.

A former Beall parent Charles Johnson was arrested for possessing child pornography. Please be aware that the only way to keep your children safe is if you talk to them. A workshop on age appropriate sexual communications with children will be held on January 8, 2013. Please save the date.

Next meeting Dec. 4th. Tida adjourned meeting at 8:15 pm