

**Minutes of the
Beall Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting**

December 3, 2014

DRAFT

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTA Board President Tida Violante. Ms. Violante distributed copies of the minutes of the November 2014 General Membership Meeting and a meeting agenda.

- I. Approval of the November Minutes – A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the Beall PTA General Membership meeting on November 5, 2014. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously via voice vote.
- II. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
 - A. MCCPTA Delegate's Report
 - i. Nicole Santiago, delegate to the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations ("MCCPTA"), distributed copies of the MCCPTA legislative platform for the current school year.
 - ii. Tida Violante reported that representatives of the Richard Montgomery Cluster testified before the Board of Education on November 12 regarding the vagaries of the schedule for construction of RMES #5, the new elementary school for our cluster. The Board of Education was strongly encouraged to expand the new school's maximum capacity from 600 to 740 students, but the Board did not vote on that issue at the meeting.
 - iii. Ms. Violante also noted that members of the Rockville City Council will conduct a hearing on January 5 regarding proposed changes to the city's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance ("APFO"). She encouraged PTA members to review the details of the proposed changes.
 - B. Programming - Vice President for Programs Cathy Lease reported that information regarding the PTA's after school activities for the Winter season is posted on the PTA website. She encouraged parents to contact her with questions or feedback regarding the activities.
 - C. Staff Update
 - i. Staff Liaison Kathleen Cohan noted that the third grade teachers and students wish to thank all those who helped to make their recent blood drive successful. Twenty six pints of blood were donated, helping to save approximately 70 lives.

- ii. Ms. Cohan reported that two Beall graduates are serving as substitute teachers at the school.

D. Principal's Update

- i. School Principal Elliot Alter reported that third grade and fifth grade students are scheduled to receive Chromebooks after Winter Break. The equipment already has been purchased and is not affected by the MCPS budget freeze. Mr. Alter explained that students will need Google accounts in order to use the Chromebooks. MCPS is working closely with Google to implement appropriate safeguards.
- ii. Mr. Alter reported that the final planning meeting for RMES #5 is scheduled for December 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- iii. Mr. Alter noted that Assistant Principal Mary Reed and Secretary Denise Hardy are expected to return to work on Monday. Mr. Walker from the custodial staff is expected to return later this month.
- iv. Mr. Alter noted that the MCPS website has a video and links to information about the Spring PARCC testing for grades 3-5.

E. Treasurer's Report

- i. Treasurer Jon Walsh distributed a report of the PTA's financial information through November 2014 and reviewed the highlights. He reported that Movie Night and the Dragon Disco were successful events. We do not yet have the final numbers for the Book Fair, but preliminary figures indicate that it was a successful event. Tida Violante thanked all of the Book Fair volunteers.
- ii. Mr. Walsh noted that 50 Beall staff members have joined the PTA this year, exceeding our initial goal of 40. We currently need 17 more parents to become members in order to reach our goal of 280 parent members.
- iii. Mr. Alter reported that Ms. Mazur has been very excited to receive deliveries of new books funded with the money the PTA allocated to the Media Center. Ms. Mazur has conveyed this enthusiasm to the students, getting them excited about the new books, too.
- iv. As of the end of November, the PTA had over \$37,000 in the bank, with some expected expenses still to be incurred. Mr. Walsh expects that we will have approximately \$13,000 in the bank at the end of the school year.

- III. Upcoming Events – Members were informed of upcoming events, as follows:
- A. Dine Out Night At Gordon Biersch - December 4
 - B. Grandparents Day - December 23
 - C. Staff Holiday Lunch - December 11 - Food donations should be dropped off on the morning of the event. Those needing to make other arrangements should contact Julianna Panzer Harris. Gift card donations can be dropped off in the school office any time before the event.
 - D. Parenting workshop entitled "Talk to Me First: Conversations about Sexuality" - January 7 immediately following our next PTA meeting.
 - E. Science Expo - January 27. Science Expo Coordinator Kay Newhouse informed parents that Science Expo registration information will be coming home via backpack mail next week. All Beall students are invited to present a science project, and the entire Beall community is invited to attend. More volunteers are needed to help make the event a success. Potential volunteers were encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. A Sign Up Genius for the Science Expo is accessible via the Events page of the PTA website.

A motion was entered to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously via voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gorant

Secretary, Beall PTA Board of Directors