

Minutes of the
Beall Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting
November 5, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by PTA Board President Tida Violante. Ms. Violante distributed copies of the minutes of the October 2014 General Membership Meeting and a meeting agenda.

- I. Approval of the October Minutes – A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the Beall PTA General Membership meeting on October 1, 2014. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously via voice vote.
- II. MCPS Capital Improvement Plan Budget - Tida Violante distributed a press release regarding School Superintendent Joshua Starr’s Capital Improvement Plan Budget, which he announced from Beall last week. Dr. Starr is asking for an additional \$220 million from the county to put school construction back on schedule. Last year, several projects were moved back one year, including “RMES #5,” the new elementary school planned for the Richard Montgomery Cluster. Ms. Violante noted that design and planning meetings for RMES #5 are moving forward, so if funds are restored, school construction can begin as soon as possible. It is unclear how the results of last night’s elections will affect school construction funding.
- II. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
 - A. Membership - Ms. Violante reported that PTA Membership currently is 305. This year’s staff participation is at the highest level ever. We will continue to recruit parents. We need about 10-15 more parents to reach last year’s level of participation.
 - B. Principal and Staff Update.
 - i. School Principal Elliot Alter was attending a planning meeting regarding construction of RMES #5, so Kathleen Cohan provided updates on behalf of the principal and the staff.
 - ii. Mr. Alter and the staff wanted to thank all who attended the recent Open House. There were more than 350 attendees this year.
 - iii. Ms. Cohan reported that Assistant Principal Mary Reed is expected to return in December. Mrs. Hardy from the office staff and Mr. Walker from the custodial staff also are expected back in December.

- iv. During the weeks of December 3 and December 16, the school will begin to evaluate second grade students for instructional placement in grade 3 and for Gifted and Talented identification.
 - v. A Flu Mist clinic will be conducted at Beall on November 10 for school-age children. Parents should contact the Health Room if they are interested in reserving a spot.
 - vi. School Superintendent Starr will give his State of the Schools address on November 11 at 7:30 a.m. The community is invited to attend and can RSVP via the MCPS website.
- C. Directory and Communications - Vice President for Communications Sunny Hedgecock reported that the School Directory was sent to the printer and is due to be finalized in the very near future. She will follow up with the printer regarding the delivery date. PTA members expressed their thanks to Ms. Hedgecock and the Directory Team for their hard work on this project.
- D. MCCPTA Delegate's Report
- i. Andrew Breychak, delegate to the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations ("MCCPTA"), reported that a major focus of the recent MCCPTA meeting was the wording of a resolution regarding funding for capital improvements. The initial draft was overturned by a group from Walt Whitman High School, who felt that it lacked specifics to help the Board of Education fully understand school funding needs. Representatives from our cluster and several others are scheduled to testify at the Board of Education meeting on November 12.
 - ii. Mr. Breychak reported that a teaching award has been established to honor a former MCPS teacher. Three master's level teachers and one "rising star" will receive cash awards. If the PTA wants to nominate a Beall teacher, Mr. Breychak can provide details regarding the process.
- E. Treasurer's Report
- i. Treasurer Jon Walsh distributed a report of the PTA's financial information through October 2014 and reviewed the highlights. Recent expenditures include \$3500 allocated to the Media Center so that Ms. Mazur could replace damaged books and purchase new titles. The Innisbrook fundraiser was successful, as were the sale of Beall t-shirts and the Five Guys / Marble Slab Dine Out Night.
 - ii. Members suggested reminding parents of the PTA's "Painless Fundraising" efforts (via Amazon, Safeway, etc.) in advance of the holiday shopping season. Sunny Hedgecock agreed to send out a blast email on this topic.
 - iii. As of the end of October, the PTA had over \$32,000 in the bank, with some expected costs still to be incurred. Mr. Walsh does not anticipate any budgetary issues at this point.

iv. Mr Walsh reported that he submitted the required audit report and membership fee to the Maryland PTA. Our revised Bylaws were submitted to them as well, bringing us into full compliance with MDPTA's requirements.

- III. Upcoming Events – The membership was informed of upcoming events PTA events, as follows:
- A. Our annual Book Fair will take place on November 10-12. Preview days will be on November 6 and 7. Tida Violante passed along information regarding a program conducted by a reading teacher for preschool kids in Med Star Georgetown Hospital. Members generally were in favor of circulating a wishlist of books for this program in advance of the Book Fair.
 - B. Tea with Mr Alter is scheduled for November 10 at 9:15 a.m.
 - C. The Dragon Disco is scheduled for November 21.
 - D. Innisbrook Fundraising is available on line through the end of the school year via the Innisbrook website. Orders will incur shipping but will be delivered right to each individual's home. The bulk order placed via the PTA is scheduled to arrive at school next week.
 - E. The school and the PTA will be conducting a Food Drive in April. Details will be forthcoming.
 - F. Ms. Violante reminded members that Head Dragon Man, Rob Gibbs, is looking for a volunteer to take his place next year to continue the tradition of fun and fabulous Dragon Men events.

A motion was entered to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously via voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gorant

Secretary, Beall PTA Board of Directors

Approved by the Beall PTA General Membership on December 3, 2014.

