

**Bellaire High School PTO Minutes**  
**January 5, 2005** **Multipurpose Room**

Opening - President **Nancy Brown** called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm on January 5, 2005. Parliamentarian Carol Brush verified that a quorum was present. Nancy explained that the December meeting had been canceled due to conflicts with the date and that instead we were meeting in January.

The minutes from the November meeting had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as presented.

The Parent Handbook is available on line and printed copies are available for parents to pick up from the APs. There were copies available at the PTO meeting for parents as well. Nancy thanked Carol Brush for doing such a fine job on the handbook and providing great information and a school calendar. The Parent Handbook will be available each year at open house and will be presented to parents as they purchase PTO membership. A Spanish version is being prepared with HISD doing the translation. This version will be available from the AP office as well. Parents are asked to provide any changes or corrections to Carol Brush. Her email address is [clbb813@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clbb813@sbcglobal.net).

Magnet testing for 8<sup>th</sup> graders applying to Bellaire has changed some. The testing will be done each day Jan 10<sup>th</sup> to Jan 14.

The PTO Newsletter deadline for articles to be inserted is February 15. Please send articles to Natalie Lamont at [bnlamont@earthlink.net](mailto:bnlamont@earthlink.net).

Treasurer's Report – **Becky Grinstead** presented the financial report. There have been a number of matching funds checks received from companies whose employees made donations to the BHS PTO. Becky reported that many teacher grants were completed with purchases made for pianos, projectors, wrestling club items, a trophy case in the east hallway and a theater outing for special ed. She recommended an increase of \$250 to the budget for pizza parties to reward classes with high PTO membership. A motion was made by Christianne Melanson

to increase the budget and the motion passed. Becky also thanked Lisa Torry for the multiple mailings that generated the funds from the combined PTO membership/general fundraiser campaign. The PTO currently has \$89,936.69 in cash on hand. While much of that is already committed, we are projected to receive additional funds, and at this time can conservatively state that excess funds in the amount of \$25,859.37 are available for PTO use this year.

Becky indicated the tax return would be available to show at the next meeting as it was due to be filed by January 15, 2005. She also reported receipt of a check for \$175 from Primescore SAT & GMAT Test Prep. The PTO will receive \$25 for each student that is referred by the PTO to the Primescore test prep program. Becky indicated her family had used the services and was pleased with the quality and the reasonable fees.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

Membership/General Fundraiser - **Liz Kuntz** indicated over 850 families had contributed so far to the **Commitment to Learning** campaign. Those who have contributed \$75 or more will receive a thank you/tax receipt by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Sara Binau** has arranged for a fundraising weekend at **Escalante's Mexican Grill** in Meyerland Plaza. When a patron comes in the weekend of January 14-16 with a flier from the PTO, the restaurant will donate 15% of the check less alcohol, tax and gratuity to Bellaire HS PTO. Sara brought many colorful fliers to the meeting and suggested we give fliers to our friends and neighbors as well. They can also be printed from the PTO email announcement Nancy Brown sent on January 3<sup>rd</sup> (and a copy is also attached to these minutes).

VIPS – **Jeannette Sebesta** announced that new ID cards were ready for volunteers who had registered in the information office. All volunteers are now required to complete a form (each year) authorizing a background check before they can participate in any school volunteer activities, even accompanying a student field trip. The volunteer hours can continue to be recorded in the volunteer book, also kept in the Information Center. Jeannette passed the form out to those in

attendance.

Teacher Thank You's. **Ms. Gail Silver** from the drama department thanked the PTO for the grant to purchase the projector. It has already been put to use. Parents may be interested in attending plays at BHS Jan 11-13 and a musical to be performed Jan 19, 20<sup>th</sup>. The admission prices for the musical are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. She also thanked the PTO for the bus rental that allowed students to travel to Austin and helped inspire their win at state drama competition.

**Mr. Larry Dunlap** thanked the PTO for the funds to purchase the two new Yamaha pianos. These benefit the choir, band and orchestra. A letter from Mr. Dunlap, Mr. Chad Allen (band) and Dr. Kathryn Brown also asked the PTO to consider purchasing a set of acoustical shells. These would direct sound throughout the auditorium more effectively, and could be arranged in various ways for various kinds of performances or moved aside for dramatic performances where they weren't needed.

Special Allocation - A motion to allocate \$11,200 for the purchase of the acoustical shells was made by Janis Boulware. The acoustical shells should enhance performances for the 400 to 500 students involved in choir, orchestra, band, and theater. The motion passed.

Principal's Report – **Tim Salem** thanked the PTO for the several volunteers who helped counselors in distributing student's schedules to all the students for 2 hours this morning. The use of both the cafeteria and the multipurpose room allowed the lines to move more quickly. He reported that 18 new students had registered today. He expects more later this week.

The varsity basketball team is doing great. They are sponsored by Nike and have attended numerous national invitational tournaments. The girls basketball team is also doing great.

Our new magnet coordinator, Ms. Rosalon Moorhead, is expecting 1250 applications for the 150 spots open to entering freshmen next year under the language magnet program.

Upcoming calendar events:

1-13 Report Cards

1-17 Holiday

1-25 Early dismissal at 2:00 pm

1-27 Cardinal Clash at 3:30 with students vs faculty on

Academic Challenge

1-27, 31 8th graders & parents orientation nights

5-29 Graduation ceremony at 5:00 pm in Hoffeinz Auditorium

Mr. Salem announced that the Bellaire Alumni Association had granted \$20,000 to the school for purchase of new bleachers for the gym. He congratulated the 347 AP Scholars from BHS as announced on the HISD web site. These students are recognized for completing multiple AP tests with qualifying scores and only 17% of students taking AP exams in the nation qualify as AP scholars. AP testing will again take place in May for students enrolled in AP classes who have signed up for these exams.

New Staff members:

Ms. Yeimi Tije in Special Education office

Sonia Alonzo, and Maria Gayosso, in the Registrar's office.

Linda Hobson – Business Computer classes

Ms. Paloma Sanchez – Spanish & Italian classes

The PSAT information has been received and is being prepared for distribution to the students. An announcement will be made on the web site to let parents know to ask their students for the information.

A neighborhood newspaper article about four students arrested at the school at midnight on a Wednesday in December was discussed. The four students were allowed to take finals but are suspended for this first week in January.

PTO Election – Volunteers to serve on next year's PTO board are asked to submit their names. Nancy Brown indicated she was willing to serve another year as the President. A nominating committee will be

appointed and 6 members will be asked to find individuals willing to serve in the open positions. Some current board members have indicated they will be able to serve again next year.

After Prom for 2006 – Junior parents who are interested in serving on the after prom committee for next year are invited to sign up soon to get started on the fundraising ideas for next year's AfterProm. The expenses of Afterprom usually run around \$30,000. The prom will again be held at the Hyatt Regency downtown, with the Afterprom activities continuing in the basement till 6:00 am. The early start is needed because there will be some conflicts with the Bellaire Reunion fundraising activities also scheduled for next fall including a November auction.

SDMC – Tim Salem, Sandy Judson and Christianne Melanson shared some observations from the December SDMC meeting. There was discussion about adopting a middle class level for students that would slot between AP and regular level classes. Teachers are concerned about the short time line to develop coursework. Bellaire and Lamar were asked by HISD to take the approach. If new classes are approved, they would need to be added to the courses offered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders registering for freshman classes in April/May meetings. Other SDMC topics included parents as sponsors for school clubs and dual credit courses where both college and high school credit are offered – primarily to technical/career students.

Nancy announced that student directories are available for sale tonight for \$5. This is a fundraiser for AfterProm 2005.

Ilene Flora continues to sell bumper stickers by mail for those interested in receiving them. The cost is \$1 per bumper sticker. Ilene Flora is also selling window clings for \$2.

Mr. Salem indicated the AfterProm sales of Bellaire jackets and sweatshirts was popular.

Next PTO Meeting will be February 1st and the Students as Allies club will be presenting information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Eiman  
PTO Secretary

Flyer for Escalante's to print and cut:

## **Bellaire High School PTO**

**Invites you to  
"Ask a Friend to Dinner" at**

**in Meyerland Plaza**

**Friday thru Sunday  
January 14-16, 2005**

**Dine in or carry out!**

**Escalante's has graciously agreed to donate  
15% of each ticket back to our school!**

**Excluding alcohol, tax and gratuity.**

**\*You must give this flyer to your wait person to participate.\*  
Flyers available at school and at the restaurant!**

**\*Faculty & Staff-Relax and Enjoy!**

**\*Students and Family's – Bond!**

**\*Clubs – Meet and Eat!**

**\*Sports Teams – Unite together!**

**\*Alumni & Friends – Come join us!**

**See ya there!**