

Bellaire High School PTO Minutes
March 1, 2005 **Multipurpose Room**

Opening – President Nancy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm on March 1, 2005.

Wrestling - Nancy then introduced Kris O'Neal, BHS wrestling coach, who expressed appreciation for the items the wrestling program had received from the PTO Teacher Grants approved in the fall. PTO funds paid for wrestling mats and uniforms and entry fees. The wrestling program has a website: www.bellairewrestling.com. Ten girls were able to compete at meets, Bellaire placed second at district and one girl qualified for the state team.

Library Databases - Bellaire librarians Janice Albright and Carl Casteel presented information about databases available for students to use via the internet. HISD has six databases available for students to use in researching information. HISD may discontinue the databases if they are not used enough. An ID and password is required for access. A link through the Bellaire HS website makes access easy from home, but the ID and password are still required (**hisd1** is the id and **stars** is the password). The databases include summaries of books, encyclopedia info, AP newsphotos from as far back as 1890's, and multimedia info useful for powerpoint presentations.

Minutes – The minutes from the February 1 meeting were accepted as written.

Newsletter – The spring newsletter is out. Thanks go to Natalie Lamont.

PTO Board Elections – Many PTO positions for the 2005-2006 school year may be filled again by officers continuing from this year. Openings on the next year's board exist for Executive VP, Treasurer, Teacher Grant Committee Chair and SDMC representative.

Orchestra – The PTO was thanked for the new instruments purchased by the PTO. The UIL Strings Solo and Ensemble competition was held over the weekend at Woodlands High School. From Bellaire, 68 guitar students and 28 orchestra students competed.

Teachers Encouraging Kids – Mr. Schaaf will provide post cards to teachers to send information home to parents informing them about positive work done by their students.

Treasurer – Approximately \$8000 in funds are available for additional commitments beyond those budgeted by the PTO. This is in addition to money committed for Teacher Grants and other PTO planned expenditures. Funds still are being received from the general fundraiser. About \$200 is received each week. This year was the first to combine the membership and fundraising activities and it has been extremely successful. The PTO will repeat the combined campaign again next school year.

VIPS – Jeanette Sebesta asked individuals who had volunteered with the school for years to list their names for recognition at the thank you function for school volunteers. One

counselor is retiring and a volunteer is needed to answer the phone in the counselor's office for a while. Jeanette reminded new volunteers that the background check form must be completed before volunteers could work on campus. The forms are available in the information office just east of the main office.

Scholarships – Leslie Bourne reported the applications are on the web site and also in the counselor's office. Mr. Lawler is the contact this year. The PTO voted to create another scholarship for graduating seniors. There will now be three scholarships available in the amount of \$2500. The deadline is March 31.

Study Abroad – Ed Klein heads the study abroad scholarship committee. The applications are easy to complete and will be available on the web site. There will be fliers about the program distributed to teachers. The application deadline is April 30. The study abroad program has \$2500 in funds.

Teacher Grants – The deadline is March 16 and teachers must be PTO members to receive grants. Grants can be made for up to \$3000.

SDMC Report – Sandy Judson gave a summary of information from the SDMC meeting. Bellaire Boys basketball received 1st place in its district division. The swim team placed in regional competition. Bellaire has 42 national merit scholars this year and 10 Hispanic scholars, One Beating the Odds Scholarship, and one girl will go to state to compete in wrestling.

Communications – Diane Leeson and Jamey Schaaf are working on improving communications. More college nights are being planned to acquaint parents with information about the college selection/recruiting process. A marketing team is needed with volunteers to help improve the school's image in the neighborhood and obtain additional business partnerships/sponsorships in the community.

AP test registrations begin March 3.

The school population is now at 3280 students.

Carol Brush asked about whether there were standards for teachers to respond to parent queries. When should a parent feel it was time to go to an assistant principal with a problem?

Printing Expenses – concern was expressed about the cost of paper for copiers and the BHS responsibility for providing printed copies of the code of conduct for next fall.

ByLaws Change – The PTO voted to amend the bylaws to revise the fiscal year for the PTO to have the year end on June 30.

Girls Softball – Coach Brien Tuffly presented a request for funds. The BHS girl's softball team has been maintaining the softball fields in Meyerland Park, located behind Lovett

Elementary. The City of Houston and HISD have not maintained the softball field adequately. The field maintenance is being done by Coach Tuffly using a tractor being financed by the softball team parents. Coach Tuffly asked if the PTO could help with the remaining balance on the tractor purchase (approximately \$5400). After considerable discussion about the proposal the PTO voted to approve making the final payoff on the John Deere lawn tractor which the team parents purchased in 2003.

Parent Values Committee – The committee headed by Ms. Shoulders is discussing having students complete teacher evaluations this spring. The SDMC has discussed doing a survey for several years. Using Scantron forms or Survey Monkey would be rather expensive, so other alternatives are being explored. A questionnaire with 10-15 questions is likely. The PTO may be asked to purchase equipment for the project. A \$2000 machine is being sent on approval. Michelle Shoulders will add names to the email distribution if anyone wants to review drafts of the questionnaire. The Parent Values committee will meet again April 5 at 6:30.

NHS Induction – Eleanor Smith asked for 3 parent volunteers to help students setup the multipurpose room for the reception following the National Honor Society Induction ceremony on April 28.

Japanese Competition – A BHS student has won at state competition and has the opportunity to compete at National in Los Angeles, and the PTO was asked to provide funds for air fare. The request was approved for up to \$250 for air fare if the magnet office was unable to fund the trip.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be April 5 at 7:30 pm.