

Bellaire High School PTO Minutes
April 5, 2005 Room E143

Opening – President Nancy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on April 5, 2005. We met in Room E143 as the Multipurpose Room was unavailable.

Minutes – The minutes from the March 1 meeting were accepted as written. Nancy commented that the airfare was only \$220 for the student traveling to attend the Japanese competition in Los Angeles.

Voting - Nancy announced that although the PTO usually votes by a show of hands or a voice vote, the PTO would instead vote by ballots any time an issue might make someone uncomfortable. Anyone attending could make the request that a vote by ballot be taken.

Treasurer – Nancy announced that the PTO would have extra funds to be allotted. With \$3,900 more in food sales expected and \$7,975 currently unslotted, there was almost \$11,000 available for PTO expenditures this fiscal year. (The fiscal year now ends June 30, 2005 as approved in the bylaws change approved at the March 1 meeting.) The PTO has had a strong year financially. The Treasurer's Report showing a cash balance of \$79,446.97 as of March 31, 2005 was approved.

Fund Raising – Liz Kuntz will do the fundraising/membership program again next year for the PTO. The flow of contributions this year is dropping off.

Teacher Grants – The committee has acted on the spring grant requests. Approximately \$11,000 in grants was approved. The deadline was March 16 and teachers must be PTO members to receive grants. Grants were made for up to \$3000. Details of the grants approved will come later. A Thank You was received for the \$150 given to Donna Schnitker (English teacher) to buy supplies for her hike across England.

Scholarships – Leslie Bourne indicated 17 applications had been received. The committee members would meet April 26 and 27 to interview candidates. The 3 winners and their parents will be invited to the last PTO meeting. Debbie Ziegler will chair the Scholarship committee next year. She will also continue organizing the Teacher Appreciation lunch for the end of the year.

Study Abroad – Ed Klein heads the study abroad scholarship committee. The applications deadline is April 30. The study abroad program has \$2500 in funds. One application has been received so far.

PTO Teacher of the Year – The students voted this week during second period. The PTO recognizes two teachers for the award, one with 3 years or more experience at BHS, another with less than 3 years experience. The marquee announces another teacher of the year honoree. – That selection was made by peers and gets a designated parking spot and luncheon recognition.

PTO Nominations – Beverly Cage announced the slate of candidates for the 2005-2006 school year. Current candidates are:

President	Nancy Brown
Vice President	Katie Coughlen
Secretary	Norma Eiman
Treasurer	Open
VP Fundraising & Membership	Ed Klein & Liz Kuntz
VIPS	Jeanette Sebesta & Renuka Trevedi

Beverly also thanked Nancy for the regular emails. They are extremely helpful.

Food Sales – Linda Rosen reported that the Chick-fil-A salad sales are going well. Ilene Flora will coordinate food sales next year.

SDMC Report – Sandy Judson gave the report. For middle school credits that transfer to high school credit, the SDMC continued to approve the proposal that the grades be waived in computing GPA. Another proposal would exempt seniors from spring finals if their attendance and grades meet required standards.

Principal's Report – Principal Tim Salem reported that our 12 students who competed in **Latin** won 12 awards. Three BHS students won in State **Science Fair** competition and will go to the International Science Fair in Chile in July. Hip hop/Modern **Dance** won gold and silver. BHS is hosting 12 **German** students in a 3 week exchange program. **Gail Silver (Drama)** won Teacher of the Year (over 3 yrs). **Kris Brooks (Science)** won the new (less than 3 yrs) Teacher of the Year designation.

Both girls and boys **Soccer** teams are in the second round of playoffs. The Color Guard won 2nd in State in the **Flag and Rifle** competition. Girls **Golf** got first place.

Last week Bellaire won first place among 9 high schools in the District 21 UIL **Academic Meet**. The **One Act Play** regional competition will be Saturday April 10 in Tomball. The **Russian** Language competition garnered 16 silvers, 8 golds and 22 honorable mentions. They go to state this weekend. The **Art Club**, under Ms. Zider, has completed a mural outside the main hall.

A meeting for 9th and 10th parents about the **IB program** is scheduled for Friday. The school has a very strong AP program and wants to increase the IB program participation. The IB program is co chaired by Ms. Johnson and Ms. Lindsey Kennedy. If the IB enrollment is increased more IB type courses can be added.

VIPS will have a celebration Wednesday. Bellaire's PTO has been recognized by West Central District for its **Teacher Grants** program. Earth Day will be celebrated April 22 with a rainforest in the courtyard. April 19 is the **BISA festival**. This international festival features performances by students and a great variety of foods served in the cafeteria.

There will be 4 days of **TAKS** testing this month. **National Honor Society** induction is April 28. The Senior Prom is April 30 in the Hyatt Regency downtown. AP testing will occur for the first 2 weeks in May. On April 25, Principal Salem will visit the Middle Schools that feed to Bellaire.

BHS will not host **summer school**. Lamar will be having summer school classes. The fee may be \$175. Some students will attend classes for advancement at Rice. HISD also has AP classes taught virtually (on line). Students have 18 weeks to complete these classes in the fall or

9 weeks if they register in the summer. Payments must be made by cashier's check as per the HISD website. The cost is around \$200. HISD offers a SAT prep class for \$75.

BHS placed first in the region for its **Odyssey of the Mind** competition. The National competition is May 21 to 24 in Boulder. BHS **Academic Challenge** goes to National in June in Chicago.

Bathroom Issue – Tim Salem explained that he has had some restrooms closed during the lunch period and after school. The vandalism in restrooms which prompted the closures was occurring in boys' bathrooms on corner halls or end halls. At least one restroom on the main hall is open on each floor. While the safety precautions are inconvenient, the reason is the students' safety.

Graffiti painted in the back of campus over spring break was photographed and displayed in a local paper. The area has all been repainted. Increased gang activity is occurring in Southwest Houston.

Funding Proposals – With the additional funds the PTO has available, possible uses for the funds include the following ideas.

- AfterProm 2006 seed money
- July conference on teacher development (Professional Learning Community)
- Italian Language Camp Sponsorship
- Art Department display cases
- Pool Repairs
- Parent Values
- Golf Cart for Officer Moore

The \$25,000 that had been set aside for a covered basketball court may not get used for that purpose. The area for the proposed court may be used instead in a future school renovation or construction project. It was moved that the designation of these funds be removed, allowing the \$25,000 to be available for general PTO uses. The motion carried.

The swimming pool needs refurbishing but we have only received one bid for this project. An HISD approved vendor must be used.

The PTO approved \$1000 for AfterProm 2006 seed money.

The PTO approved \$1960 to send 4 attendees to the PLC conference.

The PTO approved \$400 air fare to send a student to the National Italian American Federation class.

Teacher Evaluation Survey – the Parent Values committee working with Michelle Shoulders has been evaluating a process for students evaluating teachers. To allay teacher concerns it was suggested that the results be provided back ONLY to the Teacher. The scanner to read the evaluation forms and a supply of paper for forms will only cost \$2800. The scanner can be reused every year. A motion was made to approve up to \$2800 for the scanner and materials. The motion passed.

The PTO tabled further discussion on the Art cases and the Golf Cart till more information was available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. The next meeting will be May 3.