



## **Bellaire PTO Meeting – November 19, 2020**

Meeting Minutes (Meeting conducted via Zoom)

**Call to Order:** President David Faris called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

**President's Report:** David welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was displayed and reviewed.

The minutes from the September 17, 2020 general meeting were presented for review. There was a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion received a second and the meeting minutes were approved by vote.

The second order of business was to amend the slate of PTO officers to include Keith Desrosiers as Treasurer-Elect. There was a motion made to approve the amendment and a second was obtained. The proposed amendment of the PTO officers was approved by vote.

**VP of Communications:** Nisha Lobo reported that the PTO has started sharing a PTO newsletter. She asked for suggestions and ideas for upcoming newsletters. These might include events or news to celebrate that could be shared with the Bellaire High School community. David Faris reminded attendees to sign up for the newsletter via the PTO website ([bellairepto.org](http://bellairepto.org)).

**VP School Relations:** Rachel Berger stated that the PTO and school will be attempting to develop a way to safely hold the Mr. Bellaire contest. Yard sign sales (general school signs and class of 2021 signs) are available for purchase. David Faris asked that parents interested in purchasing a sign contact him through his email address on the PTO website.

**VP of Membership:** Cristina Vetrano has received approximately \$19,000.00 in donations from 130 or so families. She asked that members please contribute what they are able – no amount is too little and all donations are greatly appreciated. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the PTO will be limited on the ways that we are able to raise funds. David Faris reminded attendees that the PTO uses donations to support teachers and the school as a whole. He also thanked The '401 for their generous donation of lunch for the Bellaire High School staff.

**Treasurer's Report (by David Faris):** The balance sheet and Profit / Loss statements were presented. The financials are in good shape. The PTO has been able to provide funding for Cardinal Camp and also for Teacher Appreciation lunches. The PTO hopes to be able to provide items for the new building that are not covered by the school district

**Principal's Report:** Mr. McDonough thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that attendees sign in thru the Zoom chat feature (a requirement for Title 1 compliance). There will be no classes next week for the Thanksgiving Holiday break. At this time, the plan is to resume face-to-face and virtual classes on Monday, November 30. There is a STAAR retest window coming up from December 7 – December 18. Last week, parents had the option to make changes to their elections for face-to-face or virtual learning. Any changes will take effect at the start of Cycle 3 on December 7, 2020. It looks as though there will be a small number of students opting to return to a face-to-face option at the start of Cycle 3. The PSAT and SAT exams were recently administered on campus. A January PSAT date for freshman is being scheduled. Once additional testing dates are finalized, that information will be passed on to students and their families.

Athletic teams have started returning to action. The volleyball team won the district and will be starting playoff games this weekend. The boys cross-country team also won the district but unfortunately did not advance to state. Football has played 3 games with several game cancellations due to COVID cases. Boys and girls basketball teams have also started playing.

The new building remains on schedule. The new academic wing, gyms, and fine arts areas should be open next fall. The final phase should be completed in 2022. Administrators continue with furniture selection and planning for keys. Over the next few months, Mr. McDonough hopes to have a better idea of his needs and items that the PTO may be asked to help with financially.

In early November, the city of Bellaire approved the permits for the baseball-softball complex near the intersection of Bissonnet and Avenue B. Demolition and site preparation should begin soon with a completion date approximately one year from now. The BHS football team recently transitioned practices from Pin Oak Middle School to Butler Stadium. Football will not return to campus until the last phase of construction. The tennis team recently moved from Sharpstown to Westbury. Although it is a potential long-term solution, Mr. McDonough would love to have the team within the city of Bellaire.

Mr. McDonough also thanked The '401 for their generous donation of lunch for the BHS staff.

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Lee, BHS College Access Coordinator**

Mr. Lee gave a very informative presentation of the resources available through the College Center, as well as grade level appropriate considerations for college planning. Topics included academic considerations, suggestions on the college search and financial support, and resources for summer enrichment and "brag sheet" development. Given the current restrictions imposed by the pandemic, he encouraged students to reach out to colleges and admissions offices virtually. Students should also be thinking about establishing connections with their teachers for letters of recommendation, as well as ways to enhance their standardized test performance. For interested students, individual meetings are

available and there are open advising hours in the College Center thru Teams. Those times are available on the College Center website. Key links are also posted on the College Center landing page.

Mr. Lee's presentation will be posted on the BHS website homepage, as well as on the BHS College Center page.

**President's Reminders:** The next PTO meeting will be January 21, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Anne Kayl, Secretary