



Bellaire PTO General Meeting – November 16, 2023

(Meeting conducted at Bellaire High School – Room 1232 (LGI))

Call to Order: President Amy Allen called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Principal's Report: Mr. Niggli reported. He reported BHS' current enrollment is 3160 which is slightly up from last year. The attendance rate is also up to 95% which is about 1%-2% increase from last year. Ms. Yin, the Magnet Coordinator, is visiting HISD campuses touting BHS' magnet program, and tours are underway at BHS.

Mr. Niggli also highlighted the importance the school library has on campus by informing those in attendance that 1699 students had visited the library, 640 students visited through class, and 680 books had been checked out in November to date.

Mr. Niggli advised BHS is sunsetting the Health and Human Services CTE pathway because the TEA standards are too difficult to meet due to obstacles which include 160 hours of requirements outside of the classroom for students and new certifications for teachers. Instead, BHS is looking to add a Cybersecurity CTE pathway by partnering with the College Board Kickstart Program. The UT OnRamps program will expand next year to include Economics, and Mr. Niggli is also looking to expand the program to include Physics.

BHS is still waiting on parking stickers to provide to students for the parking garage. Mr. Niggli believes the parking stickers will be arriving soon.

Question: How can the BHS community support the administration to maintain BHS' status as an autonomous school? Mr. Niggli informed the attendees that HISD will become a District of Innovation. The District will look at academics, attendance, student behavior, student achievement, and quality instruction in the classroom when making a decision about a school's status.

Mr. Niggli told those in attendance that BHS is currently short-handed on maintenance staff. He advised that the Beautification Club has volunteered to help out and will be asking Parents on Patrol to see if they can help with campus upkeep.

Mr. Niggli also answered questions regarding whether Superintendent Miles had visited campus and questions regarding some of the teaching methods implemented by District Administration including DOI and "turn and talk" strategies. He advised these strategies have been implemented and blended with other strategies utilized by teachers and have been successful.

Debbie Campbell answered a question whether BHS administration was considering a block schedule for next school year. Ms. Campbell advised the SDMC is considering a block schedule along with other options for next school year.

Presentation by Title I Coordinator: Ms. Giesemann introduced herself to the BHS community. She also provided a handout on the HISD Assessments/Testing Schedule with the specific dates for testing windows. STAAR retakes begin in December. In January, there will be interim STAAR testing in English 1 & 2, Algebra, and Biology. TELPAS testing will occur in late February/early March followed by SAT testing in March for 11th and 12th graders. STAAR EOC testing in English 1 & 2, Biology, US History, and Algebra I will take place in April. IB Exams will occur in late April/early May along with AP Exams beginning May 6, 2024.

Minutes: The September General Meeting Minutes were presented. Mindy Travilian made a motion to approve the September minutes. Katherine Nawaal Gratwick seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

PTO Board Reports:

VP Fundraising: Ludy Lopez reported. Ludy advised that the Stronger Together Campaign met its \$65,000.00 goal with 200 families participating. The annual campaign also had 24 corporate sponsors, 19 of which have BHS students. The corporate sponsorships are a 70% increase over the previous year. The PTO recognized and thanked Ludy Lopez, Melissa Bayne, and Surabhi Presse for their efforts.

Treasurer's Report. Dawn Pennington reported.

Summary of Finances

1. TFB Checking balance at 10/31/2023 - \$126,575
2. BOT Checking balance at 10/31/2023 - \$17,834
3. BOT Savings balance at 10/31/2023 - \$31,761

Bank Change

Will move Bank of Texas savings to Texas First Bank by 11/30/2023. Remainder of BOT Checking will have to wait until the Ward Science order is complete, which is now backordered to January.

Summary of Budget

1. Credit Card fees through Square are now included with each payment. For example, if a payment is made for membership, the credit card fee is netted against that payment. In the annual campaign entries, Dawn is making a separate entry for the fees from square to be able to track the actual donations and the actual fees.
2. Food Sales: Currently show \$2,490 net income. This does not include a cash deposit of \$2,936 and square receipts of \$1,128 and food purchases of \$1,540. Next month will have Thursday Food Sales in a separate subgroup so these can be track separately.
3. Homecoming: If there are no more expenses to turn in, we made \$7,729.13. A little under budget, but we did buy Pipe & Drape and the storage cart that will save rental fees year over year in the long term.
4. Annual Campaign - Non-Corporate - \$68,609, Corporate Sponsorship - \$22,501! Matching - \$1,500. The \$715 other income is from Fajita Pete's Spirit Night! Total at 10/31 net of fees \$90,479
5. Teacher Luncheon Expenses – Additional Gift Cards needed for teachers that did not receive one at the end of the 22/23 academic year, along with a Matching Gift of \$206

from May 2023 that was not received until Oct. 2023, and which was specified for End of Year Teacher Lunch

6. Principal's Discretionary Fund – Hootsuite, Inflatable Cardinal Repair, Principal Coffees
7. Teacher Classroom Needs – Index Cards, Whiteboards, Paint & LibraryTrac System
8. College Center – College Fair - Water & Dinner for College Reps
9. Class Funds – Ending Balance for Class of 2023 has been transferred to Class of 2024. Cardinal Camp and 9/13 food sales went to Class of 2024, which had \$6,537.50 at 10/31.
10. Athletics Fundraising – Popsicle Sales – Bank of Texas shows an income of \$2,903, but we have payments of \$1,310.40 outstanding. Current net income of \$1,593
11. Teacher Grants have been decided, will be working on helping teachers make purchases for the next month or so.
12. Tax return for last year has been completed, approved and filed.
13. As of 10/31/23, we have a net income of \$94,380

Current Projects

1. Open Savings at Texas First Bank and move \$\$
2. Close Checking & Savings at Bank of Texas

Question: Why is there a difference between the food sales budget in 2021? The amount budgeted for food sales in previous years was based on different requirements which allowed for more and different food sales.

Questions regarding fundraising for each class. The process for fundraising for each class was explained and the names of volunteer heads for each class were provided.

VP of Communications: Nothing to report.

VP of School Relations: Rachel Berger reported. Homecoming was very successful, raising approximately \$7,500.00. Tickets sales went smoothly with 704 tickets sold. Rachel announced that the next food sales will be during Finals week and on January 17, 2024. Mr. Bellaire is scheduled for Sunday, March 3, 2024, and the Soiree/Gala is scheduled for April 6, 2024.

Secretary: No report.

Parliamentarian: No report.

Past President: No report.

President-Elect: No report.

President: Amy Allen reported. Amy announced that PTO Fall Teacher Grants had been awarded. The Grant Committee received twelve applications totaling \$32,234.48. Of the twelve applications, eight were fully funded, two were partially funded, and two were funded through Title I funds. Funds granted will cover the following: 1) video accessories for CTE media program; 2) nourishments/refreshments for JROTC; 3) aerial/yoga equipment for dance; 4) transportation for SPED events; 5) materials to promote BHS magnet program; 6) 3D printing supplies for library; 7) transportation costs for aquatic science; 8) discus equipment for boys track and field; 9) pottery materials for visual arts classes; and 10) a timing system and discus equipment for girls track and field. The total amount granted by the PTO for the Fall semester was \$22,323.10. The PTO still has over \$12,000.00 to award for Spring grants.

The PTO also recently provided Teacher Appreciation gifts to 250 teachers and staff to show our support. The PTO will also be doing a Chick-fil-A lunch using an in-kind donation for the teachers and lunch for the teachers on the last day of the semester.

Amy announced that BHS has hired Jasmine Davis-Thomas as the new College Access Coordinator in the College Center. Amy, along with other PTO Board members, attended the recent HISD Families and Community Engagement (FACE) Meeting. The next FACE meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023. The PTO recently held an open forum meeting with other BHS organizations' booster clubs to discuss operational resources and is planning another meeting in January.

Amy also announced several volunteer opportunities including the following: 1) someone to review the PTO's financials for the past two years; 2) helping with Mr. Bellaire; and 3) a committee for the Soiree/Gala. Anyone interested can contact Amy.

Before concluding the meeting, Amy announced the Spirit Night at Lankford's and ongoing fundraising through Minted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Minutes submitted by Robin H. Wexler, Secretary