



Bellaire General Board Meeting – January 25, 2024

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

Call to Order: President Amy Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and encouraged everyone to sign in with the QR code. She also recognized the corporate sponsors.

Principal's Report – Mr. Niggli

- School Accountability Ratings for HISD resulted in 40 more NES schools. BHS will not be one of those schools and is also not eligible to be one of those. This is great news. BHS scored a B – (81) grade. Last year BHS received an 83. There are two other comprehensive high schools in HISD, and both schools received B ratings. BHS had to pivot halfway through the year when they changed the rating guidelines. Most schools dropped a grade level. The high schools that received a Grade A are specialty schools and are not comprehensive like BHS. Remaining autonomous is our goal.
- HISD is now considered a District of Innovation (DOI). Both the District Advisory Committee and Board of Managers voted HISD to be a DOI. This exempts the district from some TEA guidelines.
- Next year, we will be moving to eight class periods. This is related to Accountability. The State is putting an emphasis on Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs. In the past, students could take a test and receive a Career, College, Military Readiness (CCMR) point. Each student needs a CCMR point to graduate. Now students need to take a 4-year instructional course and pass a test related to the course of instruction. Bellaire's current schedule with seven periods will not allow for the additional coursework required. Therefore, BHS will have to move to eight periods. This will not affect the IB or AP programs. We must maintain good accountability scores to remain autonomous. Beginning this year, all freshmen were scheduled into CTE classes.
- Cardinal Hour will continue to be in place for next year. It offers great benefits to accommodate time for tutorials, interventions, and club meetings.
- Culture reset this semester. More messaging with District mandates around use of cell phones and headphones in the hallways during passing periods. Congregating in bathrooms was an issue in December but has been resolved. The school administrators and staff will continue to enforce the dress codes.
- Social Media issue: There are a few Instagram handles that are posting fights allegedly occurring in Bellaire High School. To remain autonomous, we must continue to have a high student performance and an orderly school. It is a small group of students posting these videos. These can lead to cyberbullying; shaming; online violence. Handles: Bellaire News, Bellaire News 2. Mr. Niggli encouraged those in attendance to reach out to Instagram administrators and request these sites be taken down.
- No decision has been made on changing the dress code, i.e. adding school uniforms.
- Not sure when the 2024-2025 calendar will be finalized, possibly in February.

Title 1 Report - Ms. Giesemann

- Ms. Giesemann discussed the STARR performance levels: Masters/Meets/Approaches/Does Not Meet
- Went through more description with the Biology, English 1 & 2, US History, Algebra 1 tests.
- There are two reasons why STARR tests matter:
 1. Students need this to graduate.
 2. Accountability Rating.
 - Three domains: Student Achievement – STARR is 40%, School Progress and Closing the Gap – STARR is 90%
- April is testing season. Final dates are to be determined.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the November PTO Board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve as presented was made by Jennifer Sermon and seconded by Catherine Gatwick and approved by all attending.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Amy Allen presented in Dawn and Sandy's absence.

Summary of Finances

1. TFB Checking balance at 12/31/2023 - \$125,003
2. TFB Savings balance at 12/31/2023 - \$31,775
3. BOT Checking balance at 12/31/2023 - \$18,184
4. BOT Savings balance at 12/31/2023 - \$2

Bank Change

Both Texas First Bank checking and savings have now been set up. Bank of Texas Savings has been transferred, last small interest payment for December has been transferred to the checking account. Still waiting for backordered 22-23 teacher grant items to finalize moving the checking account.

Summary of Budget (Nov & Dec activity)

1. Food Sales: (line 23) \$7,353 net income for first 6 mos. As of 12/31, the Thursday sales are at \$4,025; Fun Food Sales are at \$3,328.
2. Annual Campaign (line 36)
 - Non-Corporate - \$68,709 (\$100 contribution)
 - Corporate Sponsorship - \$22,839! (\$350 contribution less \$12 fees)
 - Matching - \$3,041 (\$1,500 in matching contributions)
 - Other income-\$787 - Fajita Pete's & Travelin Tom Spirit nights.
 - Membership Expenses - \$1,870 – Final Donor Wall Expenses
 - Total at 12/31/23 net of fees \$90,632

3. President's Discretionary Fund (line 59)– Check written for donations to Ms. Barnes for \$650. The fees from Square of approx. \$25 will be absorbed, the full \$650 will be given to Ms. Barnes.

4. Teacher Classroom Needs (line 77)– Dry Erase Lapboard sets

5. Teacher Grants – (line 78) Aerial & Yoga Silks/Equipment for Ms. Kent, 3D printing supplies for Ms. Carpenter, timers for Coach Jones and Mr. Upton reimbursement done in Dec. Discus Cage for Coach Jones purchased, still communicating for shipping date. Discus circle for Coach Strozier has been ordered and delivered. Ceramics for Mr. Simmonds to be delivered Monday.

6. Class Funds – (line 133) Class of 24 (\$8,891) and Class of 25 (\$4,597.01) split finals food sales. \$1,759 per class. Class of 24 also had yard sales deposit of \$580.

7. Athletics Fundraising – (155) Popsicle Sales – currently at \$3,186.44

8. As of 12/31/23, we have a net income of \$91,299

Current Projects

1. Financial Reviews for FY 21-22 & 22-23 are completed. Will be reviewing at this PTO meeting.
2. 1099s will be issued by 1/31/24

VP Communications: Nothing to report.

VP Fundraising: Ludy Lopez reported. Donor Wall has been completed. Recognizes our higher-level donors. Another way to say thank you for our generous donors. Had the Principal Reception this past week. Trying to recruit volunteers to help with Fundraising goals. Brochures and discounts from our corporate sponsors are available on table in front.

VP School Relations: Rachel Berger reported.

- Mr. Bellaire – Sunday, March 3rd
 - All proceeds go to the Class of 2024
 - Contestants first meeting is this Sunday
- Go Texans Day – February 23rd
 - Mechanical bull
 - Line dancing
 - Petting Zoo
 - Food sales
- Student Council Spring Dance – February 24th
 - Student driven
 - PTO is providing guidance
- Let us know if you want to be on the Volunteer Email Distribution List

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Parliamentarian: Nothing to report.

Past President: Judy Cheng reported.

Judy thanked everyone for attending the PTO meeting. She stressed the importance of parent support for teachers and students. It is a very different experience for these teachers under the TEA guidelines. Students need to be a good example to help lead the other students.

President-Elect: Nothing to report.

President: Amy Allen reported.

- Proposed calendars:
 - Link to the proposed calendars
 - Increase the number of instructional days
 - Start school year dates
 - Staff professional development days distributed throughout the academic year
 - Winter Break Return
 - Last Day of School
- Our BHS Social Worker and Nurse would like to create a calming space for students meeting with the social worker or other counseling or mental health appointments in the nurse's office. They have created an Amazon Wish List for items needed for this space. Provided QR code to purchase items.
- Financial Review for school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
 - Ali Septimus and Negin Aghigh conducted the review and copy is available for interested parties.
 - The Board will submit a response to the review.
- Purchased bleachers for the athletic field.
- Spring Grants will be opening. Please let teachers know that the opportunity is open through Feb. 29th.
- Teacher Appreciation
 - Julie Goldberger, Tiffany Morrisette and Amy Allen met with Debbie Campbell to discuss teacher appreciation ideas.
 - Decided to donate \$100 for each of the nine department chairs to use for meetings, etc. in order to give each department some autonomy.
 - Have extra funding because we were unable to have our annual holiday lunch.
 - Doing monthly Teacher Appreciation events for each month for the rest of the year with the extra money.
- Still recruiting for Parents on Patrol (POP).
 - Would like to have male volunteers.
 - The time commitment is flexible. You can do it for any 30 minute and more time period. Do not need to sign up in advance. Can just show up.
 - Teachers are stepping in to help monitor bathrooms. If more POP volunteers could be available, it would cut back on time teachers would need to monitor bathrooms.

- Upcoming PTO Meeting dates:
 - March 21 @ 6pm
 - May 16 @ 6pm

- Other Important Dates
 - Wed., 2/21/24 – Cardinal Kick-Off
 - Fri., 2/23/24 – Go Texan Celebration
 - Sat., 2/24/24 – Spring Fling
 - Sun., 3/3/24 – Mr. Bellaire
 - Thurs., 3/21/2024 - General PTO Meeting
 - Sat., 4/6/24 – Soiree
 - Thurs. 4/18/24 International Festival
 - May 6 – May 10 – Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Thurs., 5/16/24 - General PTO Meeting
 - Fri., 6/6/24 – Teacher End-of-Year Luncheon

President Amy Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Goldberger, President Elect and formatted by Robin Wexler, Secretary