



Bellaire PTO Meeting – September 22, 2022

(Meeting conducted at Bellaire High School Auditorium)

Call to Order: President Judy Cheng called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Judy introduced herself and thanked the corporate sponsors for their support.

2022 Student Summer Award Presentations: Brian Smith, chairman of the Teacher Grant & Student Summer Scholarship Committee, introduced the student recipients. The Bellaire PTO recognizes the educational value of summer activities and endeavors sought by students to broaden their culture or scientific understanding, or which provide unique opportunities for student service and leadership – either abroad or here in the U.S.

The first recipient was Nur Makdisi, 11th grade. He has moved to California. He went to France for a month as part of the CIEE educational exchange program.

The second recipient is Sidney Chang, 12th grade. Sidney traveled to Germany as part of the American Association of Teachers of Germany and spent three weeks immersed in the culture.

The third recipient is Amy He, 12th grade. Amy participated in the Drain the Hurricane, hurricane preparation.

The fourth recipient is Vincent Lin, 10th grade. He organized a free learn-to-swim club for ages 5-8 years in conjunction with the Team 300 Swim Club.

The fifth recipient is Lydia Tong, 11th grade. Lydia attended The University of Iowa for a secondary student neuroscience training program at a 6-week camp.

Title One Update: This report is a requirement in order for Title One schools to receive their funds (formerly called “No Child Left Behind”). The program is designed to close the achievement gap. A school must have 40% of students that are economically disadvantaged to qualify. Bellaire is at 48%. Free breakfast and lunch is available to every student. Miriam Mulet, Title One Coordinator, provided an orientation to the Title One program. The presentation is also available on the Bellaire website. Ms. Mulet encouraged each parent to complete the Socioeconomic Information Form if they have not already done so.

Wraparound Services Introduction: Chanse Sylive, one of the two Wraparound Specialists at Bellaire, introduced himself. He and Simone Gardner work together to provide resources and non-academic support. The Wraparound Specialist strive to connects students and their families with community

resources that address the non-academic challenges, such as basic needs of food, safety, shelter, that students face which ultimately impact their ability to learn.

Approval of Minutes from 5/10/22: The minutes of the 5/10/22 general meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting and have been posted on the BHS PTO website. There was a motion to accept the 5/10/22 minutes as presented by Amy Allen. The motion received a second by Shannon Hoffer and the meeting minutes were approved.

Approval of 2022-2023 Budget: Dawn Pennington, co-treasurer, presented the budget. Dawn explained the adjustments that were made to the budget. (see board minutes for detail). There was a motion to accept the 2022-2023 budget made by Dawn Pennington. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Pollan. The motion carried and the budget was approved.

A question was asked about why we weren't able to do food sales for the previous two years. Judy explained that we must comply with the USDA Food Guidelines for the federally funded free lunch program.

PTO Board Reports:

VP of Communications: Peggy Chang explained how to sign up to receive PTO emails.

VP of Membership: Julie Goldberger and Ludy Andrade announced the PTO fundraising goal of \$65,000. We have currently raised \$41,000 (25% of these funds were donated through corporate sponsors). Julie and Ludy explained why it is so important to join the PTO.

VP School Relations: Shannon Hoffer announced that Homecoming is on October 29 at Bellaire High School on Main Street. Tickets will be on sale the week before. On, October 11, the College Fair will be held with 185 colleges will be on campus at 6pm. The College Fair is open to any student (even outside of BHS) and all are invited.

Treasurer's Report: Dawn Pennington provided the Treasurer's report. Dawn explained how each class is given seed funds of \$1,000. Each class has various fundraising activities throughout the four years and the funds are used for the After Prom Party. The PTO needs \$10,000 to pay for the After Prom Party and the prizes for each class year. The remainder of the 2021 class has been donated to the 2022 class per a PTO Board vote.

Secretary: No report

President-Elect: Amy Allen encouraged all parents to continue to reach out the HISD Board about Mr. McDonough's re-assignment.

Past President: Past President David Faris had nothing to report.

Parliamentarian: Kent Cantrell announced the Homecoming Tailgate prior to the Homecoming Game in the Butler Stadium parking lot.

President: Judy Cheng announced that Teacher Grant applications will be open until October 14. The application is open to all staff. They can apply up to \$3,000.

A golf cart is needed to patrol the parking garage by the AP's. The PTO will fund the purchase. We are looking for a sponsor for the golf cart. The cost is \$4,000 to purchase the golf cart. We are also looking for an additional golf cart. Please contact Mr. Lloyd if you know of anyone selling or willing to sponsor.

Judy encouraged all to continue to email about Mr. McDonough.

The PTO Parking Auction is no longer allowed. We were told that the reserved parking auction was against the HISD policy but no policy has been provided. Other schools in the district still have auctions.

HISD is positioning for a bond in 2023. HISD will need District V voters' support to pass the bond.

Principal's Report: Debbie Campbell, Dean of Instruction, reported for Dr. Franklin, Acting Principal. Debbie started by saying that this has been a very smooth opening to the school year. Kids returned to school with smiling faces for many reasons including not being required to wear masks and the fact that the new building is now fully open so more space for kids to spread out. 3,100 was the predicted enrollment. Snapshot date for enrollment in late October determines funding. 3,164 has been our average.

The new library is about to open and we have the world's best librarian, Kaitlyn Carpenter. She operates a mobile library for students to check out books.

Good news about AP scores. We have exceeded pre-pandemic highs. African American and Hispanic students have increased enrollment in AP classes. For the first time in Bellaire's history, we exceeded the 50% threshold in AP scores. 52.4% of our senior class graduated with a 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Bellaire has 21 National Merit Sem-Finalists. We are the highest number in all of HISD. We rank 13th in the State of Texas. We are 6th in the greater Houston area.

Bond Update: Some construction challenges have come up with the fields. There may be delays. The deadline is January. It is an issue that Dr. Franklin has been reaching out on our behalf. Our athletes have been off the fields for a long time. Debbie mentioned it when Superintendent House visited our school. The project needs to be finished as it was promised to us in 2012.

Debbie announced some upcoming important dates. These dates are also on the Bellaire website.

We are only one teacher short for the year. We are so grateful to have all but one spot filled.

Other Business:

Judy asked each parent to send a note of encouragement to Mr. McDonough through an electronic card.

Questions from attendees:

The question was asked about the Superintendent's visit to Bellaire on Monday. Debbie Campbell responded that Superintendent House came on the invitation from the Three Penny Press for an interview. The interview will be published shortly. He visited several classrooms.

The question was asked about why the parking lot space auction is not allowed when it is done in middle schools and elementary schools around the district. Judy responded that she is still fighting this with the district. Superintendent House has stated that he sent out an email this summer not allowing

any principals to hold auctions. Judy asked for the email and the new policy in writing, but it was never provided.

Is there a limit to how long a re-assignment can go on? The average HISD investigation is 147 business days. A Public Information Request was submitted by Judy. Judy was told there was no data available. Other subsequent Public Information requests have been sent to Attorney General Ken Paxton's office for ruling. We have received the information on the invoices from the law firm for May – July for \$69,000 so far.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Smith, Secretary

DRAFT