

BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
6/14/17

In Attendance: Alissa Chilson, Heidi Kerwin, Becky Picone, Emily Brown, Stacia Rush, Emily Minerva, Cynthia Kerber Gowan, Eugene Hong, Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Mark Kokanovich, Beth McDermott, Wende Domm, Katrina Robinson, Robin Samper, Tara Minor, Deborah Pulley, Ellie Rosenbloom, Sangita Patel, Jen Allen, Christina Pearson, Laura Mares, Patrick Nicholson, Ranika Brown, Leslie Seltzer, Ijlal Lenio, Denise Kotalik, Rae Hittinger

Meeting Began at 9:22 am

Ellie Rosenbloom opened with a welcome and a thank you to Central for providing the snack. Last meeting of the year! She also pointed out that old scrap books from the Brighton PTSA, years 1935-1937, are displayed on the back table for everyone to browse through. After the meeting they will be donated to the town Historical Society.

Today we are voting for the new logo. Three entries made it to this final vote.

Ellie expressed appreciation and gratitude for the PTSA/Board relationship, as well as for her experience with the volunteers for the past two years as president. She also pointed out how the staff of the district go above and beyond for the students. As her time as president comes to a close, she thanked everyone here for all they do!

Ellie circulated the emails and cards she received from the retiring staff members who received our gift cards. We gifted 26 retirees with \$20 Barnes and Nobles gift cards this year.

Superintendent's Report, by Dr. Kevin McGowan

PTSA Central Meeting

Superintendent's Update

June, 2017



THANK YOU!

- EVENTS
- RIDES
- ENERGY
- ENTHUSIASM
- FEEDBACK!!



A GREAT YEAR...

- The kids did well!
- Budget
- Project
- BLUEPRINT!
 - Security
 - Looping
 - Kindergarten
 - Cap project
 - Rigour for all
 - 21st century technology
 - Grading
 - Balance



What's Next ?

- Blueprint Survey
- Team being formed
- 6/26, August and September
- Design Phase for Project
- Lots of staff development
- Summer programs
 - DYK about MyOn?



Dr. McGowan thanked Ellie Rosenbloom for her work as the PTSA President for the past two years, and agreed that the PTSA/Admin team has a great relationship.

The budget vote passed with a high percentage of votes, a direct result of the advocacy and efforts of our community and the PTSA collaboration.

Building Project

The upcoming building project will be much better than the Brookside project would have been. Thank you to everyone for all of the feedback during the process. A big thank you to everyone for coming forward with input and for coming up with new ideas, as always. We are grateful for all of the discussions about things that are important for our kids in regard to the blueprint plan, homework issues, etc.

A new blueprint survey will be going out today. It will be a simple survey to check-in as we continue to plan (ie: How did we do last year? What do we need to look at as we go into next year...).

We are in the design phase of the building project now.

Staff development will take place over the summer so that the staff is ready to go for September.

With Myon Program, kids can log in and remotely access reading material. This makes summer programming possible for kids that cannot attend the entire summer program.

**A question was asked about how “Habits of Mind” is moving through the school system. Dr. McGowan’s response was that it is not, currently, but that it is part of the goals of the blueprint process.

Board of Education Report, by Mark Kokanovich

The end of year meeting had a very full agenda. There was, and continues to be an active, ongoing discussion about school start times. All materials related to the topic will be posted on the district website. A new tab will be dedicated to start times.

Thank you for the PTSA's leadership and volunteering time and efforts. Brighton is a unique place and parent involvement is why.

Dr. McGowan is finishing up his 8th year in the district and he is still keeping things moving. The whole admin team is always working to grow and make Brighton a better place. It is a pleasure to serve here. We are in a great place and we are careful not to become complacent and sit back. Thank you!

**Ellie -The Tech, Family, and Consumer Sciences Evaluation Committees. There are a lot of volunteers for other committee areas, but Tech is still in need. There is a kick-off meeting on 8/29, followed by a monthly meeting through May.

Board of Education Parent Rep Report, Beth McDermott

Beth thanked the board at last night's meeting for the strong relationship with the PTSA.

FRES teacher, and BTA rep Beth Jackalyn, displayed the origami birds that her students made throughout the year. They reached their goal of making 1,000 birds! Beth McDermott encourages everyone to read the BTA reports on the board website, as they have a lot of good information about what is happening in the schools.

President's Report, by Ellie Rosenbloom

Ellie started with a round of introductions, as we have many new building co-chairs at the table today.

Thank you to all who assisted as election tellers for the Board of Education and budget vote on May 16th. Please return any outstanding lawn signs.

LOGO VOTE

The three final logo designs were displayed on the screen in color and black & white. The clear winner was submitted by Lili Schwartz.

**Ellie mentioned that she would like to see all of the logo submissions used in some way, and she has spoken with Cyndi Kerber Gowan about incorporating them into next year's calendar. Cyndi confirmed that all submissions will show up in the calendar, and that they will also pop up occasionally on news correspondence.

Remember to use Amazon Smile.

Volunteer forms have been updated. Please look them over and make any changes as we move to the new website. Data dumps are necessary prior to the switch-over.

Contact info for PTSA co-chairs, committee members, and officers will be email addresses only moving forward.

The class of 2018 was given a check for \$350 to rectify accounting mistakes in prior years.

Thank you to Deborah Pulley for hosting the PTSA Spring Luncheon. The weather and company were wonderful, and the food was great!

Reminder- we do not offer gift cards at the staff appreciation luncheons anymore, for a variety of reasons. We are over asking parents for things, and asking for gift cards take away from other items that are more vital to the luncheons.

Secretary's Report, by Becky Picone

Becky Picone submitted the May minutes for approval. Leslie Seltzer moved to approve. Tara Minor seconded. So approved.

By-Law Committee Report, by Ellie Rosenbloom and Deborah Pulley

District By-Laws are good for 3 years. Updated bylaws were presented for a vote. Cyndi Kerber Gowan motioned to pass. Robin Samper seconded to implement. All hands approved. Becky Picone and Ellie Rosenbloom will sign to officially submit.

Treasurer's Report, by Alissa Chilson

Alissa circulated the monthly report, profit & loss details, and checking & savings statement.

Class Accounts

Alissa will write a check for the class of 2021 to move over to BHS

Balances:

2021 -\$ 3,391.11

2022 -\$1,835.72

2023 -\$2,126.60

Alissa is closing out the books for the year on June 30th. Any requests for reimbursement need to be handed in prior to that date.

An information sheet detailing the proper financial process to follow will be prepared to hand out to next year's building and event co-chairs.

Quickbooks is now up-to-date.

We will continue to use the accountant that has been helping us this year.

**Jen Allen thanked Alissa for all of her work this year, and for helping us to understand the accounting and our responsibilities better.

**Deborah Pulley asked if Festival of Ideas is breaking even. Alissa responded that an answer will not be possible until the Fall. Ellie said that there will be a cost increase for participants to attend the Festival of Ideas next year. The cost has been \$5 for a long time. It won't be a big increase, but they need to cover costs. Bash made a profit this year. They were very conservative with their spending, and they had a bonus Wegmans gift card, as well as carryover from last year. Most attendees paid. In the past, Bash wasn't a pay-to-go event. They didn't cost to prevent anyone from attending. They tried to hold the event by donations alone, but it was too difficult to budget effectively. Most kids paid this year, and it was the highest % of attendance yet.

**Alissa said we will have Bash totals in the Fall, as she is still collecting checks and requests for reimbursements. Some kids were paid for through us as we were asked directly, and some were covered through our high school hardship grants.

**An attendee asked what Bash is and Ellie gave an explanation, including the ticket price this year which was \$35 for early bird, \$40 after a specific date. A discussion followed about financial support for events/trips/camps, etc. There is a desire to create comfort and awareness of financial support. Hopefully by talking about hardship grants and bringing it up at all schools will help it become common knowledge. The attendee, who has been a recipient of support in the past, mentioned how important it is for parents to learn how to advocate for themselves and to reach out when a need arises. Jen Allen mentioned the Family Support Center and encouraged this attendee to become involved so they can learn from her experience.

Budget Proposal, by Ellie Rosenbloom

The preliminary budget for 2017-2018 was projected on the screen. Ellie went over the budget line by line.

Notes:

Activity nights and ice cream socials will continue to strive for zero waste.

Staff Appreciation allowances were increased because of tight budgets this year.

The school kitchens are not to be used unless we pay staff to be there.

There was a discussion about improving communication between the PTSA and the High School in regard to events and expectations.

The budget proposal was put to a vote. Cyndi Kerber Gowan moved to pass. Heidi Kerwin seconded. All hands approved, so passed.

PTSA Fundraising Committee, by Ellie Rosenbloom

There are a few new vendors this year, Qdoba, Moe's, and Dairy Queen (Brighton family owned!).

This year the FRES picnic was in June. Next year the PTSA will take over the event again and it will be moved back to September. There will be a set date and a rain date. We can use the JCC for overflow parking.

The 2017/2018 fundraising calendar was presented for a vote. Heidi Kerwin motioned to pass. Alissa Chilson seconded. All hands approved, so moved.

Calendar Update, by Cyndi Kerber Gowan

Any changes /date/revisions need to be sent to the school principals ASAP.

All changes/additions to building co-chairs need to be send to Cyndi ASAP, regardless if they are complete.

The committee meeting will be held the last week in June.

Calendar committee:

CRPS - Jen Allen/Stacia Rush

BHS - Heidi Kerwin

FRES - Katrina Robinson

TCMS - Leslie Seltzer

Building Reports

BHS

Exams have begun.

Bash, the senior banquet, and Springiest were all a success.

Graduation is 6/20 at RIT

**A comment was made about Tom Hall's humorous letter about senior skip day, and about Chance the Rapper mentioning it during his concert the previous night. The rapper told attending Brighton seniors that they better go to school the next day.

Pitch Black and Macapella are successful.

The 1st annual (pilot program) Senior Walk through will take place on Monday, June 19th. This PTSA sponsored event will see the seniors walk through CRPS and FRES in their cap and gowns, then meet up for pizza in the BHS cafeteria.

**Heidi Kerwin still needs volunteers for the event. 17 volunteers have sign up to-date.

Next year's musicals will be *Legally Blonde* and *Crazy for You*.

Brighton Girls Basketball is holding their Sticky Lips fundraiser on June 16th. \$12/plate.

**Ellie circulated one of the 'Friends of Rachel' buttons that the PTSA sponsored with a grant. The buttons say, 'I'm an Includer', and they were very well received. There is a good chance they may ask for grant funding for them again in the future.

CRPS

Staff appreciation went very well. Next year they may move the start time to 12:30pm instead of noon.

Play day was successful. There were many volunteers, and room parents took care of the after-event snacks.

The Empty Desk drive just started and will go until the end of the school year.

Kindergarteners had an opportunity to eat lunch at school, and it went very well. Fun Food Friday volunteers provided help for the event.

The meeting with CRPS principal Matt Tappon resulted in some new ideas:

Establishing a 'Welcoming Committee'- They are looking at 'targeted' events, and for individual contacts for people transitioning in. Matt is looking for support for looping and engaging new families.

The goal is to have some contact throughout the year so that new families will continue to feel personal

connection and support. It was suggested that they plan a date for an event and include it in the calendar, and to contact the district registrar.

Building level PTSA meetings are not well attended. Ideas to increase the reach of our message are:

Vidoetape meetings so that people can watch on own time

Have start of year meetings be a kick-off where folders and information are handed out to event chairs

Make it “coffee/lunch” rather than “meeting” to attract people to a less formal discussion

The lack of a class list is an issue at CRPS. Matt Tappon said that several teachers came up with a standard form to include in the beginning of the year information packet. Parents can fill it out and hand it to a room parent or teacher to compile a class list by mid-Sept. **Hopefully this is something FRES can also adopt in the future.

SPED

Two staff appreciation luncheons were held recently. One for Buildings & Grounds (sub trays, cookies and chips), and one for the admin building (Fiesta theme, rice bowls, tacos, etc). Leftovers were donated to the House of Mercy.

TCMS

Recent events:

TCMS Science Fair

German, Spanish French trips.

Musical was Sleepy Hollow.

5th Graders coming up to 6th Grade had an Orientation at TCMS with parents. Two time slots were offered.

Concerts

Crossover Night (5th Graders attend Middle School for an Activity Night) 231 kids attended. TCMS

Strong students offered tours.

Medieval Day June 20. PTSA has been assisting art department in day-of project. PTSA also supplying desserts as well has serving them.

Field Trips Darien Lake, Seabreeze and Buckland Park.

Meeting with Principal - Topic Sports - Fall and Spring is 45%, Winter 38%. See website for link to athletic page with all information covered.

June 9 preliminary course selection.

Team announcements will be sent to students electrically August 17. Looking into ideas on solving how to reach parents without e-mail.

Drama Club Show.

Upcoming:

NYS Testing.

TCMS Final Exams.

Last Day of School, June 22. Kids will do a climate survey for Food Service Breakfast. Also on last day of school there will be half hour assemblies about what to expect next year. Different for all grades. Rob Thomas will take 8th Grade students to their 5th Grade teachers at FRES to talk to students on what to expect.

FRES

Still looking to complete the building co-chair team.

Staff appreciation went well. There was a southern bar-b-que theme.

Building funds will be used to purchase gardening supplies.

SeaBreeze and the Genesee Country Village and Museum class trips are coming up.

The Empty Desk drive has started and will continue until the end of the school year.

Field Day went well-it was a 90 degree day, but fun.

The Food Truck fundraiser went well. It didn't appear to be impacted by the Food Truck Rodeo the day before.

A donut truck was suggested for next year.

****Ellie - VOLUNTEER NEED:** CRPS is looking for volunteers to water the courtyard garden over the summer.

Mrs. Higgins is the contact.

Open Discussion

Curb Representative - At a recent meeting there was a discussion about having a presentation by the Board to see where we are as a district in regard to inclusion. What do we have in schools, curriculum wise, and is there a conversation we can have/start.

****Ellie recommended talking to Dr. Debbie Baker.** Contacting Dr. Baker's secretary to set up a meeting would be a good starting point. As the PTSA we would be happy to support her if she wants someone to accompany her to the meeting.

****A discussion followed about how these issues have been mentioned by Dr. McGowan and others in the past.** There is a possibility of the PTSA sponsoring an event/presentation by Dr. Baker in the future.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 13th.

Central is providing snacks for the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Picone, PTSA Secretary