

**BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**9/13/17**

In Attendance: Becky Picone, Emily Minerva, Katrina Robinson, Denise Kotalik, Wende Domm, Mark Kokanovich, Dan Goldman, Michelle Wheeler, Erin Carlson, Patrick Nicholson, Mitch Sanders, Ruthie Seablom, Alexis Vogt, Linda Stanley, Ellie Rosenbloom, Christina Pearson, Stacia Rush, Leslie Seltzer, Linda Wilcox, Cyhnthia Kerber Gowan, Heidi Kerwin, Alissa Chilson , Melanie Ryan, Tashanda Thomas, Tara Minor , Dr. Kevin McGowan

Meeting Began at 9:15 am

Deborah Pulley opened up the meeting with a welcome to everyone, and she explained that she is making changes to the agenda in an effort to encourage and increase attendance. She stated that we want to know every volunteer and have all guests feel welcome and valued. We know that here is a lot of skill and ability in our community and we want to take advantage of that.

The new goal is to keep the meeting to less than an hour and a half so that more people can fit it into their schedule. Many informative emails were circulated to the board last night for review prior to the meeting. This shouldn't be the norm, but some emails highlighting things she wants reviewed before the meeting.

**Building Reports**

**BHS**

Happenings thus far:

Sports & Clubs have begun for the year

Freshman & New student orientation was held on 8/31

New Parent orientation was held on 8/30

Food Truck Rodeo was held on 9/6. Despite inclement weather it was very well attended and made over \$1100

Homecoming was successfully held on Saturday

Pep Rally was on 9/7  
Homecoming game, Dance, & Parade on 9/9  
The Sophomore class won the homecoming competition  
Our football team put up a good fight, but lost the game  
ACT was also held at BHS on 9/9

Upcoming this month:

Meeting with the principal today, 9/13, at noon & 7pm  
Picture days for BHS are on 9/14 & 9/15  
Open House for BHS is on 9/19 at 6:30pm  
BHS Gr. 12 Parent Night is on 9/28 at 6:30 pm

Feedback

Several parents have remarked that the 9th grade laptops don't seem to be being used effectively by teachers

Lots of feedback on Saturday Homecoming, some good, some bad, overall it seemed well received... although students would have preferred :

- it not coming the very first week of school
- it not overlap with an ACT
- it not overlap with other sporting events

## **FRES**

The new school year is underway at French Road! We are halfway through our calendar sale events – we will be selling calendars at the FRES Family Picnic this Friday and at our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Meet the Teacher nights. Calendar sales are going well.

Our FRES Family picnic is this Friday September 15th at 5:30. We welcome our French Road families to join us! Families can bring a picnic dinner or buy dinner from the Tom Wahl's food truck.

We are looking for ways to streamline the process of finding homeroom parents for teachers at FRES.

We're looking forward to working with Dr Rioux and Mrs Spagnola this year.

## **TCMS**

Locker assignments went well. Notes for next year - add the day before, possibly that evening, 1st day of school morning

Only approx. 20 kids missed 6th grade orientation.

936 kids in TCMS this year

School pictures will be done during Social Studies class this year.

There is a conflict between 6th grade activity night & NYSMMA. Activity night was moved to 10/13. An eNews will be sent out about it.

6th grade gym lockers will not be assigned this year due to class size. This will mean more PE instruction time. This has become an issue for some families. \* A parent guest asked if the school considered sharing. Stacia Rush answered that Rob Thomas said sharing did not work in the past. A building co-chair commented that she felt a trust had been broken, that the school has known about the class size for six years. A suggestion was made that maybe the kids could share the lockers for the class, but not leave stuff there. Stacia encouraged people to come to the meet the principal night to discuss it more.

October MWTP subject will be Middle School Survival Tips. Leslie invited Lance Mitchell to talk. TCMS event chairs will be invited 1/2 hour before meeting to meet each other and talk about the events.

TCMStrong kids will be helping with Outdoor Education 5-7pm each session.

Intramurals will start early October. 6th grade will be after school; 7th/8th grade before school.

Rob Thomas will be visiting China in October for 10 days with Principals from Schools to Watch.

Hospitality did a great job with the 1st day of school treats for the teachers.

Rob changed his schedule to be in classrooms 2x week, Mike & Betsy will be in classrooms 1x week each. TCMS invited Central Office to come in the 5th day.

## **CRPS**

- First - BIG thanks to Deb, Becky, Alissa, & Dan, who have all gone above and beyond to help us!
- Had successful calendar sales and iPad online volunteer sign-ups at K/1st grade open house
- Great turn-out at September MWTP- 57 attendees! Kick-off meeting was held immediately prior for event chairs and committee reps, where they were introduced, thanked and provided with helpful new documents (flyer prep procedures, money-handling)

- New format was used for MWTP - more of building-level PTSA meeting, with co-chairs as meeting leaders that provide information, event chairs giving brief reports, and speaker introduced as special guest. "Let's Chat Council Rock"
- Feedback forms were distributed and collected at MWTP; very helpful and will continue to be used at PTSA meetings and events to gather parent input on meeting effectiveness and speaker/discussion topics
- We will continue to have Becky post documents such as annual welcome letter/MWTP presentations on the PTSA CRPS page of web page for parent reference
- Dan Goldman has again secured cart of iPads for volunteer sign-ups at tonight's Kindergarten Curriculum night and the other nights.
- We've updated our curriculum night PPT presentation to include new info and new PTSA logo
- Is anyone on the Central PTSA Board available/willing to help with calendar sales and volunteer sign-ups on Council Rock Curriculum Nights?
- For future years, exploring the possibility of offering on-site childcare on a limited/pre-registered basis for families who would otherwise not be able to attend curriculum nights due to childcare restrictions; planning to again provide limited childcare on evening MWTP nights this year (thanks to faculty advisor Laura Bogart and BHS Helping Hands Club)
- Room Parents/Class Lists - Matt Tappon sent a message to teachers reminding them that they will need to identify their own class parents (due to restrictions for volunteer access to student contact info); opt-in class list contact info forms were provided in welcome back packets, to be compiled by class parents/teachers
- Opt-in class list forms included a checkbox for families new to the district wishing to be contacted by Welcoming Committee representative
- Fun Food Friday now has a two-year rotating list of approved foods (only grade 1/2 eat lunch), developed in collaboration with Food Services and nursing staff
- Successful School Supply Drive! Miranda Stefano reported that they collected:
- -35 Composition books, 7 Packs lined paper, 18 Notebooks, 4 Packs of notecards, 17 Marker packs, 4 Color pencil packs, 28 Crayon packs, 26 Glue sticks, 75 Erasers, 11 Scissors, 14 Glue bottles, 23 Pen packs, 3 Pencil sharpeners, 4 Pencil boxes, 30 Pencil packs, 8 Backpacks, 100 Folders, 2 Earbuds, all delivered to school #52!
- What is CR budget for Staff Appreciation Luncheon this year? Need to report to committee chair (According to the document Deb provided, it is \$700 across all buildings)

- Cyndi G. directed Matt and Jen to this year's SPED chairs regarding October joint MWTP Habits of Mind speaker topic; usually is Parent/Teacher conferences so need clarification
- Any ideas for engaging teachers more in PTSA building level events/meetings/initiatives? Matt Tappon is also interested. Building chairs want to create an online survey to seek teacher input on how to effectively partner with parents through PTSA on initiatives that would be helpful to teachers, Matt T. would ask teachers to complete during staff meeting.

\*Deb mentioned that there are many flyers and documents on the back table for people to grab (ie. Money handling forms)

Becky will continue to post information from the Meet the Principal nights. Other schools can do this, as well, if you want more people to have access to the information.

## **SPED**

The first meeting is Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, partnered with CRPS, about Habits of Mind.

They used last year's building funds to purchase fidget toys to help students who need to move. They will be distributed. They are bands that go across the bottom of the desk so that kids can put their feet on them and move. This is a good trial to see if the school wants to purchase them later.

\*Alissa used egg timer to keep agenda on track. Deborah said this is a work in-progress, we want everyone to have ample time

\*A guest commented that she has a concern about the safety of walkers from TCMS. She asked how late crossing guards stay. Dr. McGowan said they are scheduled to stay until 3:30pm. This is a town issue as they are the ones that employ the guards. The guest said she has made calls and has been passed around, so it is difficult to get answers. Young kids are crossing on their own, and perhaps not enough attention is being paid to safety. It was mentioned that clubs typically get out at 3:20pm so that kids can leave and cross before 3:30pm, but Dr. McGowan replied that there are many clubs and sports that often get out after 3:30pm. The main area of issue is the Monroe/Winton walk on the NW side. The guard has two corners, but doesn't often help the kids cross Winton. Many people agreed. This guest said she has talked to the guard who said he can't do both, there is not enough time for him on his own. Dr. McGowan said that he will communicate the concern back to the safety board, but the lights and signs are not something we can likely influence for change. Traffic flow is a priority of the town (it is

frustrating that it is over the needs of children), but that flow is the main issue. Leslie Seltzer said that many parents have also complained about the parents turning between the bank and the school which puts walkers at risk. Dr. McGowan said he would mention that as well. Stacia asked if there are parents on the safety committee. There are (it's a town committee), but none from the PTSA. Mark Kokonavoch said that he knows many people running the committee, and he has been involved. He said that the entire 12 corners area is a constant focus of the town and the safety committee. It's high on the radar of the town. Bill Moehle is often seen walking in the area, and he is aware of the issues. \*Jen Allen asked if we should ask to have a parent from each building on the committee. Perhaps we can add that to the volunteer form (Safety). This may be a future possibility. Mark said that there is a principal from each building on the committee.

#### Treasurer's Report, by Alissa Chilson

Copies of financials were passed around for everyone to review. The style of the reports has changed a little from past reports.

There is still information (receipts for charges) outstanding related to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade closure party. The class of 2021 will need that information so they can know how much they have going forward.

Alissa said she has still not received a bill for the buses for the senior walk through. Heidi said Tom organized it, so possibly touch base with them.

Deborah and Emily are now on the bank signature cards.

There is a form with money handling directions on the table for people to take with them.

\*Deborah mentioned that every month we will see how much money we have in savings and checking on the financials, as well as how much each class is holding in their account.

Grant Application –Deborah emailed the grant to everyone yesterday. Aaron Sheldon is requesting \$500 for the ACE program, to purchase food for students to access as needed. They received the grant last year and the response was extremely positive. \*A question was asked about whether the kids get breakfast at the HS, but the response was that many kids arrive after breakfast.

\*A question was asked about what ACE is, and Kevin explained that it is another alternative program, similar to AIM.

Vote for grant:

Alissa Chilson motioned to approve.

Cyndi Kerber Gowan seconded.

All hands approved. So passed.

### Board of Education Report. by Mark Kokonovich

Andrea and Karen will be the reps, but they weren't able to attend today.

Thank you for everyone for all your work. Emily Odhiambo was welcomed by the board as your parent rep last night. Please come to the board meetings. If there is anything you think needs to be brought to our attention, please contact us and we will do our best to address it.

### Secretary Report, by Becky Picone

Becky Picone submitted June 2017s minutes from approval.

Heidi Kerwin motioned to approve.

Linda Wilcox seconded.

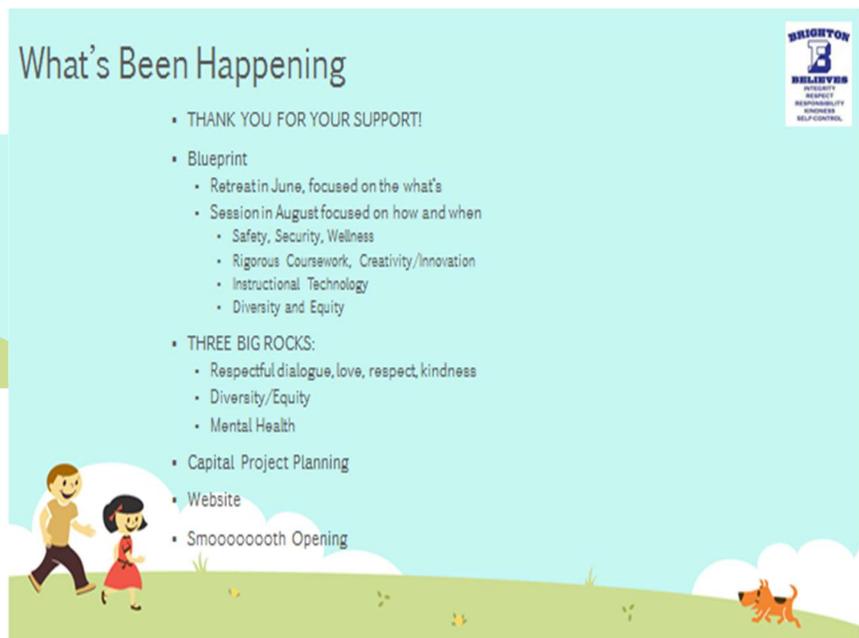
All hands approved. So passed.

### Superintendent Report and 'Kev Talks', by Dr. McGowan

Dr. McGowan said he is being teased by his family for the 'Kev Talk' title.

Thank you for support for smooth opening to the year. Parents make a big difference in how the start goes, whether it be getting kids to the bus on time, supporting teachers, being patient, etc.

Regarding the recent tragedy of Owen Thomas-we thank everyone for their support. Brighton is a great, supportive community.



## What's Coming Up

- Diversity and Equity Work
- Have wonderful holidays!
- Start Times
- New staff
- Curriculum Nights



## Heads Up!

- Zero Waste
- VPA Update
- BOE Recognition
- LT changes



As we move toward the reality of full day K, the early childhood education is moved into that area.

A video is posted about the three big rocks.

-Treating people well is not a partisan issue. We should all be focused on that, and it is important now, particularly in the aftermath of Charlottesville. How can we make everyone feel included? We are working on having a student rep involved in this as well.

-We are trying to figure out how we can be supportive and effective in regard to mental health.

We are currently in the process of development of the project for CRPS and building improvements. They started doing that after we voted to approve the project in the budget. They are fine-tuning the project while being mindful of the budget that was approved.

The Website- this was not an optional change for us, the server for the past site was no longer available to us. So far, it has gone well , but it is still a work in progress and getting used to this change will not be quick and easy. Tell us if something is not working. There are a ton of different variables, so there are still issues that are popping up. \*Tara Minor confirmed that it is Dan that we have to let know if we find something. Kevin said yes.

The start of the year was really uneventful, which is good. The buses were generally on time. There was much positive feedback by parents.

We are continuing to work on start times. The committee is working on what the new times would look like. It is understood that later times for kids would be beneficial, but it is important to look at the cost-benefit.

We have many new staff members this year. Dan will be putting together a booklet with their information. In the meantime look at the start of year video on the website.

Zero waste continues to be a goal for our district.

VPS (visual performing arts update) the kids will perform for board appreciation night.

Matt Comeau returned to his High School roots. He has a background working at Penfield H.S. Alison Rioux is acting principal. She has been at FRES for a while now and we are excited about having her as principal.

### **Key Talk presentation:**



*"the best way for parents to  
communicate problems with school"*

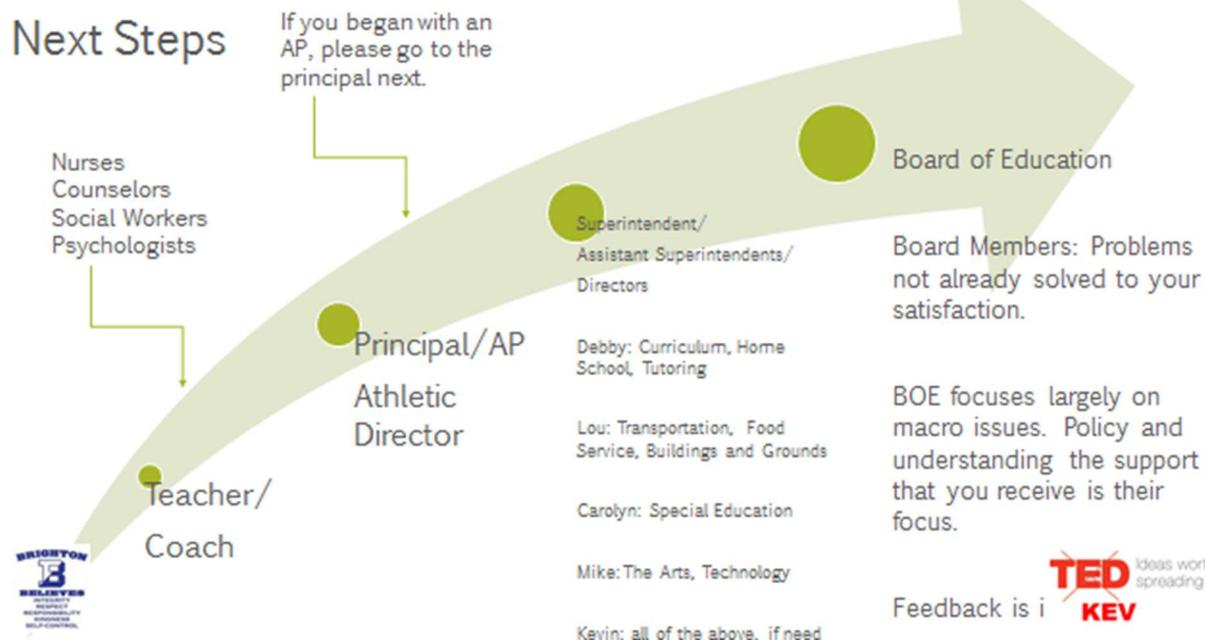
- Have we told you about Brighton Breathes?
  - Wait, don't slap me...I didn't say, don't be upset...I promise!!
  - Simply saying, please take one step back for one moment...
  
- Important to consider the types of issues...
  - Teacher
  - Other staff member
  - Transportation
  - Athletics
  - Service
    - Buildings, grounds, website, enews, tablet, phones, building use, others



## Who. What. Where. When



## Next Steps



## Social Media

- Helpful:
  - Clarifications
  - Quick Info
  - Reminders
  - Mutual Interest Items
  - Positive, patient and proactive
  - Pause before you post...a great way to keep teaching our kids about how digital citizenship applies to all of us.
- Not as helpful:
  - Problems not yet brought up with school
  - Things you used to vent about to a loved one
  - Opinions as facts
  - Highly personal situations...and highly personalized comments



*\*\*important to note that we do not have a formal or routine system for monitoring and responding to social media discussions. We do our best to respond to comments on our official page, but the best responses will come from email, notes or phone calls.*



## Other Ideas and Considerations

- Intent
- Electronic tone
- Face to face
- Desire to help
- Time to get it right
- We want to know, we want to help and we want to get it right...
- Kid discussions vs. adult discussions



*Thank you for asking!*



Breathing is important. If there is an issue, take a breath... communication is key

There is a flow chart at the back of the calendar. We can all talk about issues with you, but we will likely encourage you to take issues back to the person closest to the issue. In today's world, people expect immediate response. Please be patient if you send an email. Teachers have personal lives at home and are teaching during the day. They will get back to you, but it may take a short while. We will never tell you that we won't talk with you until you have followed the communication flow chart. However, you will likely have an answer to your question or resolution to your issue if you first go directly to the coach/teacher, etc.

Social Media has become a place where people who used to vent to a loved one over dinner now post online. Please pause before you post. We are role models for social media behavior for our kids.

Intent- people are really here to do right by your kids

Electronic tone- important! Email doesn't do a great job of conveying the right tone.

Face to face really helps. People have a desire to help, give them time to help.

Kid discussions vs adult discussions -sometimes conversations should happen before kid involvement.

#### New website report, by Dan Goldman

We are trying to simplify things.

It is important to know school scroll bar is up at top. Each school has its own page. Each building has a teachers directory that is alphabetized by last name.

We could only have five quick links, so we used what we heard to be the most important links to have access to at the top.

\*a question was asked if we could have the PTSA up there, but since we are limited to five we cannot add anything more up on the top bar where the "our schools" is.

\* a comment was made that it would be nice to have a direct link to school tool off the 'parent portal' page, instead of having to navigate to find the link.

\*a question was asked if there is an app for school tool. People said there is an app. A comment was made that the app doesn't show everything that the site shows. Dan said there should be an option to 'show full site' if you use the app.

\*Denise Kotalik suggested that he mention the school tool app somewhere on the website.

\*Heidi Kerwin asked if Dan could do a meeting with the principal so that people could ask questions and get directions. It was mentioned that many people have complained and who are frustrated with the site because some things are not up yet, and that it is hard to navigate.

\*The morning show used to have a live link so that parents and students could watch. Dan said there is a new morning show coordinator, so he will contact him about it.

PTSA President's Report, by Deborah Pulley

Thank you to Dan Goldman for his responsiveness.

Deborah read notes at end of agenda (about upcoming events)

The evening Central PTSA meetings will not include Kev Talks, and WILL include student involvement.

Expect more emails throughout the month. She is setting up meeting to consult with a CRPS parent who specializes in organization and flow.

Today there is a BHS Meeting with the Principal at 12pm and 7pm.

CRPS Kindergarten Curriculum Night is tonight from 7-8:30pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Staff Development Room, followed by an evening meeting at 7pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> in the Board Room.

BHS is providing snack for the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Picone, PTSA Secretary