

BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2017

Attendance: Heidi Kerwin, Linda Wilcox, Cyndi Kerber Gowan, Ellie Rosenbloom, Wende Domm, Denise Kotalik, Katrina Robinson, Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Natalie Pincus, Tonya Jacobs, Alden Burno, Julie Alweis, Denise-Marie Santiago, Zion Yerman, Tara Minor, Kelsey Coles, Manish Dixit, Jen Allen, Emily Brown, Leslie Seltzer, Christina Pearson, Stacia Rush, Alissa Chilson, Emily Minerva, Deborah Pulley, Becky Picone

Meeting began: 9:17am

Deborah Pulley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining that we have a tight agenda and will be starting promptly at 9:15am going forward. Most of discussions need to take place online in order to have a short, efficient meeting. We can table discussions if we haven't had an opportunity to finish. Welcome to all guests joining us today.

Building Reports

BHS

The next meeting with the principal is October 25th at both noon and 7pm. Topic is PSATs , and should prove to be an informative meeting.

Sports are rolling along. Boys varsity soccer has been very successful, currently third in the state. The girls swim team is also doing well. The Fall musical is coming up, Legally Blonde, on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of October.

FRES

The first Meeting with the Principal at FRES went well.

School pictures were two weeks ago, they went smoothly.

Roller skating is starting up this week, on Thursday and Friday.

An estimated 200 people attended the Family Picnic in September.

The Winter Wear Community service drive is going on now, having been extended by a week.

We are looking for parents in district who may be interested in leading yoga, nutrition, or other health related classes for the teachers. *It was suggested that they contact Onondaga School of Massage, as the students need hours.

The first Family Movie Night will be held on Nov 8th. Kids will vote on the movie.

The building chairs surprised teachers with popcorn for their teacher conference day on Friday.

SPED

We are having a joint meeting with Council Rock on the 18th about Habits of the Mind. Matt will have a slide presentation available.

Ellie will be meeting with most of the building chairs to discuss more ways to include SPED in each of the buildings instead of having things feel separate.

CRPS

Had very successful calendar sales and iPad online volunteer sign-ups at curriculum nights; thanks so much to all who helped!

Fun Food Friday – The kids were excited to try fresh green beans (“they were a hit!”); kids were eager to learn when they would be back again. Next up: squash

Successful Winter Wear Drive last week – six large bags of donations were collected for Brighton Your Wardrobe and Community Childcare -Troop Street *Denise Kotalik mentioned that FRES is sending their donations to Brighton Your Wardrobe and the Rochester International Academy (primary clientele is refugees).

October 18th MWTP “Let’s Chat, Council Rock” will be a joint meeting with SPED – speaker topic is Habits of Mind, with emphasis on an inclusive approach

CRPS School Pictures off to a great start; chairs indicated that the company (same as last year) has been good to work with so far

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; faculty advisor Laura Bogart and BHS Helping Hands Club will be a critical resource. We are encouraging other buildings to collaborate and explore this option with us.

Continuing to seek ideas for engaging teachers more in PTSA building level events/meetings/initiatives
*Deborah gave a heads up that we added a community service drive to benefit evacuees from Puerto Rico to the agenda for today. That will be discussed later.

*Deborah mentioned that Dan will likely be out soon (expecting birth), so any fliers that need to go out soon, try to plan ahead and take care of them ASAP.

TCMS

ODE was a big success. The TCMStrong students helped out a lot.

208 students are participating in Fall sports, 102 boys, 106 girls (14 of whom are on varsity level).

First activity night is this Friday, 6th graders.

All event chairs met with student council to get ideas for themes in order to appeal to kids as they get older. 7th graders are going to have a Halloween night. 8th graders may have a zombie night, also interested in roller skating in the future. Roller skating is a red light activity for the PTSA, but if the school sponsors and signs off on it, it's ok. Rob is worried about floors.

Picture days went smoothly. Make up day is Nov 14th

Phone policy-phones stay in lockers! Students have been more focused since this policy has been in effect.

The Oct 4th Meeting With the Principal was successful . 22 parents attended. Rob presented on how to be successful in middle school.

Rob is leaving for china this week as part of the ‘Schools to Watch’ program.

Open Forum/Parent/Guest Questions

Tara Minor voiced her concern about movie night being on Wednesdays and Tuesdays this year, which may not be the best nights. Look for feedback from parents. *Ellie mentioned that Wed . night tends to be Hebrew school night. Tara said that Thursday nights would be preferable. Last year was on Thursdays and it was incredibly well attended.

Calendar Sales Report, Cyndi Kerber Gowan

We've been selling calendars. CRPS has about 100 left. At this point, we've sold about 1800 of the 2000 we purchased. At this time, our \$8,200 profit already exceeds last year's profit. Next year we will be more efficiently monitoring where the calendars go. *Deborah gave praise to the work Cyndi has done this year, the calendars look great. Cyndi said they will continue to work to improve how we run calendar sales to make them more efficient and to only purchase what we need. Printing expenses have increased over the last few years, and we don't want to be wasteful. Last year we had to 'recycle' 250 calendars, and we are a zero waste district so we should to prevent leftovers if possible.

*A comment was made that there were complaints about the size options this year. Cyndi mentioned that there is a large cost different to make the middle size. There is more paper waste associated with cutting the standard large size down to a smaller size. Cyndi said we can continue to work with the printer and consider the demand/profit when thinking about changing. As a whole, the calendar has been improved and continues to sell. We are making a great profit.

Treasurer Report, Alissa Chilson

Budget sheets were circulated to everyone.

Class of 2021 is finally settled. \$3335.70 will be sent to the high school for the class now that expenses are paid for the end of year closure party. This money came from profits from activity nights. *Alissa reviewed the financial processes associated with class funds from activity nights for the visitors in the room who were not familiar with it.

Reminder- you need to fill out forms associated with startup cash. It is important for us to keep paper track of all of our funds.

Alissa is sending a check to the Brighton Education Fund for our author visits and \$8000 for hardship grants.

*A question was asked about which author visit was this for, this year or last? Alissa said she is sending \$3000 to replenish some funds spent last year, and refund it for this year. Once the check is sent to Brighton Education Fund, the principals deal with them directly to determine how funds are spent between buildings. This year FRES is having the author visit, and they are attempting to have the visit have a connection with our Zero Waste initiative. The librarians and principals work together for this, we just give the donation.

At last night's meeting, the Board of Ed thanked us for the \$500 donation to the ACE program.

Last night we made a \$200 donation to the Brighton Ed Fund in honor of board appreciation night. We originally intended to donate to the Family Resource center, but as they are in transition with staff, we thought we'd hold off.

*Cyndi mentioned that we are not having secretaries handle any calendars at the school now. Calendars will continue to be available at the admin building. We will continue to give them to new students coming in to the district.

Deborah presented a proposition online to increase what we donate to staff appreciation from \$0.96.6 cents per staff member to \$2 per person, with a total cost of \$1,450 for this year. We have a good amount of funds that have been raised through fundraising from our parents, and some of these funds can be used instead of asking parents to donate more specifically for this event. We have funds in our account that we should spend down. Event chairs will continue to have freedom in planning. * Deborah noted that it is illegal to give financial gifts to school employees so we will not be giving out any gift

cards or gifts to the staff members. Individuals can gift staff members, but we as an organization cannot.

The Staff Appreciation cost increase proposition was put to a vote.

Leslie Seltzer motioned to pass. Wende domm seconded. All hands passed. So approved.

Secretary Report/Minutes, by Becky Picone

Becky submitted the September meeting minutes for approval.

Leslie Seltzer motioned to approve. Stacia Rush seconded.

All hands passed. So approved.

Leslie Seltzer volunteered to take minutes during the Thursday evening PTSA meeting in Becky Picone's absence.

Spirit Wear update, by Cyndi Kerber Gowan

The sale will be started by October 20th, with delivery the week of Dec 15th. Many items are the same as last year. The PJ pants were particularly popular last year, and they will be available again. We will also have some wind breakers and basketball pants. Also, flat billed hats with B embroidered on front and back, and scarfs. There will be many additional choices this year, with some variety of color. There will be an option to have home delivery for a cost, but can be delivered free to homerooms. *There was a discussion about the spring sales timing, as some schools want school specific shirts in time for the district kickball game. Cyndi said we can ask the printer to add a sale, but the full spring sale will not be held in time for delivery by the game. We've also talked about having a 'rolling sale' to keep things available. This is a discussion that will continue. *Jen mentioned that this would be particularly of interest for kids entering new schools, having a new shirt for their new school. *Cyndi said there hasn't been a large demand for CRPS and FRES shirts in the past. Every time we run a printing and don't sell the minimum amount, we have to pay. This is ok, simply decreasing our profit, but it will take some consideration. It is worth talking with parents of younger kids to gauge interest.

*A guest asked if we should have the shirts available during the calendar sales at the beginning of the year. Holding the items in inventory would be an issue, but maybe having an order from there might work.

*Dr. McGowan mentioned that there is an effort to have a year round district central sale. Cyndi said she has talked to the district contact, Nate, about this, and will be looking at what is available. The district contract is with UnderArmour which is more expensive than the shirts we typically have. Dr. McGowan said there is potential to have one online store with each group (ie: PTSA,) having it's own section. Cyndi and Nate will continue to discuss.

Superintendent Report, Dr. McGowan

Today's KEVtalks will be about how testing and assessments shape teaching strategies/guide instruction. The start time committee is continuing their work. Lou Alaimo is looking at logistics (what would specific times cost, how would that impact transportation, etc). Many people have sent in research about start times, and Dr. McGowan said that the district doesn't dispute the research, it's the logistics involved that are the issue. This may go forward, but regardless, it won't happen fast.

Mental Health is a major concern with superintendents across the state. How can we provide different interventions, involve staff, etc. *Leslie Seltzer asked if the focus on that concern will increase the need for the Family Support Center? Will making the Family Support Center position a full time be a consideration? Dr. McGowan said they are not yet looking to fill the position, but first want to figure out what exactly they want going forward.

Foreign Language exchange teachers from Spain, France, and Germany are working in the classrooms. They bring a great language connection for kids. The Israel exchange students are here for 12 days, a great opportunity for all.

Staff Superintendents day focused on unconscious bias. Understanding it as an educator is very important. We will continue to strive to grow and improve in this area.

KEVtalk

See Central PTSA Monthly Meeting section of BCSD website for the October Superintendent PTSA Presentation.

Questions and answers:

*Dr. McGowan mentioned the importance of good 'bed side manner' when teaching. A parent asked what we do if we are not seeing a good level of 'bedside manner'. McGowan said it is important to mention it to principals/administrators. It is important to keep communications open. It's not easy, but it is the same as giving positive feedback. We address the issue by having constant evaluations, with principals and admin regularly popping in to classrooms.

Community Service announcement

Denise Marie Santiago came to present on a new Community Service initiative focused on assisting the influx of Puerto Ricans coming to Rochester after suffering from the storm. Rochester has the 2nd largest population of Puerto Ricans outside of NYC. Denise reached out to social service agencies in this area to see how we could help out. They are expecting a transition of many families coming here in the upcoming weeks. They would welcome donations such as filled backpacks for kids coming. These would be local donations, so there would be no delivery costs. *Deborah asked if they want us to limit it to school supplies. Denise said that she will collect more information soon to determine all needs. They will likely need winter coats, etc. Many families will be tripling up in housing, so some may be homeless for a time. *Ellie mentioned that we typically have a very generous community, so she encouraged Denise to have them ask for everything they need.

*Deborah asked if there is going to be an issue for families that come to Brighton, will we be able to accommodate all of the students? Dr. McGowan said that they can come to school the day they arrive if they want. Staff will be able to connect them with resources such as the clothing cupboard, etc. He encouraged us to tap into student driven groups, engaging kids to be involved in the service group.

*Deborah said we will be happy to help in any way that we can. We will work to communicate the collections to the principals and buildings. *it was suggested that they do not put restrictions on what they ask for. Dr. McGowan said it can get sticky if we ask for money, items tend to work out better. The main issue, however, is collecting money IN the classroom, but it could be possible to collect at an event or at an office. It should be a passive approach, vs. pushing kids to collect in the classroom (non-coercive). Potentially collecting gift cards or cash would be a good idea.

*The service club at TCMS is currently doing a drive for hurricane victims.

Closing thoughts

There is an evening Central PTSA Meeting tomorrow night (Thursday, 10/12) in the Admin Building Board Room at 7pm.

TCMS has snack for November.

The next Central PTSA meeting is on Wednesday, November 8th at 9:15am.

*Heidi Kerwin mentioned the combined SOTA / Brighton concert tonight.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:46am