

BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
3/8/17

In Attendance: Alissa Chilson, Heidi Kerwin, Becky Picone, Linda Wilcox, Sangita Patel, Stacia Rush, Linda Stanley, Cynthia Kerber-Gowan, Andrea Costanza, Beth McDermott, Denise Kotalik, Leslie Seltzer, Robin Samper, Tara Minor, Deborah Pulley, Ellie Rosenbloom, Jen Allen

Meeting Began at 9:22 am

Ellie Rosenbloom opened with a welcome and a thank you to CRPS for the snacks. BHS is hosting next month.

Superintendent's Report, by Dr. Kevin McGowan

# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE TO THE PTSA

MARCH, 2017

## IT HAS BEEN IN LIKE A LION FOR SURE...

- BUDGET
- CAPITAL PROJECT
- PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR
  - BLUEPRINT
- CURRENT EVENTS
  - BRIGHTON BELIEVES
  - CALENDAR CHALLENGES
- "OTHERING" AND RESPONDING
  - OUR BRIGHTON FAMILY

# BUDGET PROGRESS

- THE GOVERNOR PROPOSED A SMALL INCREASE IN STATE AID
- WE HAVE ALL CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE
- OUR INITIAL PROJECTIONS WERE A TAX INCREASE OVER OUR CAP OF 1.85% OR A NEED TO REDUCE PROGRAMS
- WE SURVEYED
- WE REVIEWED PROGRAMS
- WE WERE REASSURED
- WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A TENTATIVE PLAN TO AVOID CUTS AND COME IN UNDER THE CAP
- CURRENTLY, WE ARE READY TO PROPOSE A TAX INCREASE OF 1.8%. THIS INCLUDES THE CAPITAL PROJECT.
  - COST INCREASE OF JUST \$100 ON A HOME VALUED AT \$200,000

# CAPITAL PROJECT

- WE LISTENED
- K-12 PROJECT
- K IN 2021
- ARTS, ATHLETICS, CLASSROOMS, BUILDING UPKEEP AND REVITALIZATION
- HALF THE COST (\$144 ANNUALLY IN THE FUTURE)
- LOTS OF INFORMATION AND MEETINGS TO COME

# OTHER...

- PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR
  - BLUEPRINT
- BRIGHTON BELIEVES!
  - IN BRUNCH AND FUN
- OTHERING!!!
  - JCC, TRANSGENDER, TRAVEL BANS
- CALENDAR

Dr. McGowan started with comments about the recent events involving the JCC, what he referred to as “othering”. All of his emails regarding the travel ban and the JCC bomb threats were an effort to stress that our school environment is inclusive, that we care about any groups feeling marginalized, and that we want to help all of our students and community members to feel safe, supported, and included. This is becoming a weekly discussion and our focus is on serving all of our families and students.

Budget-The state is proposing a minuscule increase in funding which would require our taxes to increase by 3.14% This involves only operations, not the Capital Improvement. The Capital project requires a 2.6% increase.

-There are many cuts on the table of the budget is not met. (see slide for list).

-The letters, phone calls, and our board/superintendent presence has made our situation very prominent at the state level, but going forward we do not know what to expect.

Capital Project-We are proposing Full Day Kindergarten starting in 2021.

-The building improvements and updates are all included in the Capital Project proposal.

-All of the restructuring of CRPS, and other building updates will cost the taxpayer 1/2 of what the Brookside project would have cost, even though the total cost is the same. This is because of the state aid we will received for existing building work, which is not offered if building new.

**IMNARAI (I Am Not A Racist Am I?)**- The Mosaic Club and CURB is hosting a viewing of this documentary and a discussion around racism awareness on March 15th, at 6pm in the cafeteria at FRES.

The Brighton Believes Kickball game is tonight! Heidi Kerwin mentioned the Square 1 Art activity in the hall that starts at 5:30pm and will continue during the event.

Board Report, by Andrea Constanza

No one wants to cut programs, but in the event that there is a need, we are looking to the community to prioritize what to keep. Thursday is the next Community Forum for the Budget, held in the conference room at the Central Admin.

There will be talk about the budget and the effects of particular cuts at next Tuesday night's Board Meeting.

Ellie Rosenbloom - REMINDER- Joe Morelle will be here at BHS tomorrow night to talk and answer questions about the Fight for Brighton. It is important for us to represent Brighton strongly at this event so he can go back to Albany and share the large attendance numbers.

Building Reports :

### **FRES**

Jump Rope for Heart was very successful! Next year we are asking to have all kids names on labels for the envelopes so that the volunteers don't have to write all the information by hand.

This month's Meeting with the Principal featured the ELA Teacher/Literacy Coach. 6 people attended.

Fun Food Friday is coming up and the kids will be tasting *Dates*.

### **TCMS**

1. 6th Grade Activity Night - 160 participants - Sno Kone machine a hit!
2. Washington DC Parent/Child Mtg.-This year they switched format where kids needed to attend too. Next year we should update the calendar to say parent/child. Calendar only said Parent. There was a little confusion.
3. Talent show was moved to the 10th. The Hand Jam at BHS was a conflict (we need the tech. crew) and Jessica Padilla also had a conflict on March 3.
4. Science Girls: Medicine and Me through U of R. Four sessions in March on Wednesdays after school. 30 girls are participating and Mrs. Terwilliger supervises.
5. DC Trip is March 22 at 4am to March 24 at 11:00pm. Wording on calendar tricky.
6. Recycling is on mind of TCMS and hopefully there will be some cafeteria remodeling that will help.
7. District String Wide Concert. Fantastic.
8. There are about 18 people trying to get the 8th Grade Activity Night turned into a 8th Grade Crossover Night. Hopefully runs well and parents are kind with hiccups because everyone working hard.

Comment- Dr. McGowan mentioned that once a date is on the calendar it should NOT change. People plan way in advanced based on the calendar dates. Cyndi Kerber-Gowan responded that they have made calendar changes based on school requests, so there is an effort underway to have more of the responsibility for date assigning/changing/editing put on the schools themselves in an effort to prevent errors. Of course, mistakes will still occasionally happen.

Denise Kotalik reported that she finally secured a room for the Lego club. It will either be held at Brookside or on the 2nd floor of the admin building.

Aside - Stacia Rush asked how the last FRES movie night went. Tara Minor responded that it went great! It was well attended and they sold out of all the food. They prepared everything an hour early, which helped make things run smoothly. They are considering adding m&ms to the menu next time.

Sangita Patel asked if it was possible to consider a movie night for CRPS since the kids are younger and it might work out even better for families, schedule wise. It was proposed as a possible FRES “cross over night” for 2nd graders. Stacia Rush asked if it would be possibly for this year, and Ellie Rosenbloom said that there is enough time left in the year to make this a possibility.

## **BHS**

The PTSA Meeting with the Principal was about Flex Survey data, Dignity for All Students Act, Pause Before You Post, and Sexting. The survey showed that Flex is working! The kids love it and it is making a big difference.

Say Yes to the Dress - Donations of dresses, shoes, tuxes, ties, etc., continue to roll in. This is a wonderful, ‘feel good’ event that carries no stigma with it. Everyone goes, and it is a lot of fun for all. Dressing rooms are set up backstage. There is a seamstress there that can fix/tweak when possible.

Ham Jam - The HS talent show showcases the incredible talent of many of our high school students. A video can be found on YouTube. This year there were some technical difficulties, but overall the event was a huge success.

Flex Career Fridays have started. Students can go to the career center on Fridays during FLEX to hear different career presentations. BHS has had a presentation about the medical field and has finance/business administration this week.

Most Varsity and JV sports have started. Track and field, and mod A start next week.

Course selections for next year are being made and will be sent home in mid-March for final review.

Upcoming:

-Choir trip

-PTSA Meeting with the Principal -Budget Presentation

## **SPED**

Because of the CURB documentary viewing on March 15th, the next Meeting with the Principal was moved to Wednesday, March 22nd, at 7pm in the admin building. The topic will be Transition Between Buildings. The Best Buddies fashion show was a great success.

## **CRPS**

The Spiritwear and Recycled Sports equipment drive is currently going on. They are trying to find a place to house all of the sports equipment that has been collected. Beth McDermott suggested that Brighton Lacrosse maybe able to help with hooking people up with equipment. Due to flyer issues, and timing the drive after February break, they are looking to change the dates for next year’s drive. A comment was made that there are some issues with finding homes for some of the donations, such as safety equipment.

\*A discussion started about future community service options, such as more hands-on activities rather than only collections/drives. Having kids write cards for nursing home residents was one suggestion. Dr. McGowan offered that a K-12 community service day is a possibility. There was a positive response from everyone in attendance, and many ideas were thrown around for rewarding activities that the kids could participate in. It is possible that this “Brighton Believes” Day could be held next year at this time.

CRPS, cont’d...

Kindergarten registration is on the 9th from 6-7:30pm, and it conflicts with the Morelle event. There is another K registration on Saturday (3/11/17), 9-10:30am, and they are in need of volunteers.

Judy Wegman is leading a drive for ‘seed packets’. This is not a PTSA event. There has been confusion as to whether this was a PTSA event, and if the community service volunteers needed to be involved.

The Yoga initiative with the faculty and staff has been successful.

Spiritwear, by Cyndi Kerber-Gowan

We had \$18,000 in sales. Taking into account the cost for the items (\$12,000), and the cost for replacing/exchanging some items (\$250), we made \$4,400 in profit.

A small, online Spring sale is being considered. Items would ship directly to homes.

This company has been very difficult to work with. New potential vendors are being considered.

\*Ellie Rosenbloom thanked Cyndi for her great, tireless work with Spiritwear this year.

\*Cyndi mentioned that there are some random items left over and she is looking for something to do with them.

It was suggested that they be sold at events. They would likely go very quickly.

Fight for Brighton, by Leslie Seltzer and Cyndi Kerber-Gowan

The banners are up! FFB has funds in its account right now and they do not want to ask the PTSA for any funds at this time. Please show up to hear Joe Morelle tomorrow night!

Nominating Committee, by Beth McDermott

The completed slate is as follows:

Vice President: Emily Minerva

President: Deborah Pulley

Treasurer: Alissa Chilson

Secretary: Becky Picone

\*There is always a space for a ‘write in’. There will be a vote at the next PTSA meeting, so please attend. The vote will be early in the meeting. Beth McDermott will count the votes and announce the results later in the meeting.

President's Report, by Ellie Rosenbloom

We cannot solicit building co-chairs until after the vote at the next meeting. Once the vote happens, everyone should start thinking about potential event co-chairs as well.

Look over the volunteer forms to see if there is anything that should be changed/added for next year. The volunteer forms will be 'flipped' soon so that all new volunteers will be applied to the 2017/2018 school year.

We are recommending that Alissa Chilson continue on for a 3rd term as Treasurer.

\*Deborah Pulley commented that she would like to have three evening PTSA meetings next year, in addition to the daytime meetings. The first one may not be well attended, but this is important so we need to 'build' it. The evening meeting would be limited to 1 1/2 hrs. It is a good idea to mention this as people solicit building co-chairs.

March 4th was Festival of Ideas- thank you to all who signed up for treats. This was the largest crowd ever. Martha Sciremammano will update us on the festival next month. The event was accidentally left off of the calendar this year, so we did well marketing it! There were around 730 kids there.

March 16th, 7pm is the Meeting with the Superintendent, please join us. We can try a new format by having it a similar style to our regular meetings.

May 2nd, 7-8:30pm will be Meet the Candidates Night for introducing BOE candidates before the vote.

Lifetime Membership is May 3rd. We will need bakers for both of these events.

\*Reminder- use Amazon Smile!

Class of 2018 funds - Ellie met with Rose Muir, BHS Student Activities, and Sarah Jacobs, class advisor, regarding the lack of funds for this class. Although the class does have more funds for prom than originally thought, they have not raised as much as other classes. There was an error in the amount of funds deposited into their account, so we will be investigating further to determine how much money we should give them to rectify the situation. They only received \$890 from the PTSA holding account when they were freshman, which is the same amount of money they had at the end of their 6th grade year.

Dr. Debby Baker will be on next month's agenda. She is looking into parent feedback and suggestions for the district website. Please bring ideas to discuss next month.

Thank you to Barbara Johnson, FRES Building Chair. She has accepted a job and will not be able to continue as building chair next year. Thank you to Barbara for all the work she has done. We hope that she will continue to volunteer at PTSA events in the future. Good luck with your new endeavor!

BHS has submitted a grant request for two microwaves, \$273.72. \*There was a discussion about where the funding for the microwaves should come from, is it the school's responsibility? Should it come from building use funds? Ellie mentioned that the high school houses four grade levels, which is more demanding on the building use funds than the other buildings that house three. Additionally, the High School is getting a great deal of grant money because of the Senior Parade. Many meeting attendees agree that the Senior Parade was suggested to Tom Hall by the PTSA. It was our idea/request, so that should not be considered the same as a grant that originated with Tom Hall.

If this grant is approved, the microwaves should have a sign that says "Donated by the PTSA" on them. It was suggested that TCMS could also use microwaves, and that the staff have actually inquired about them for the students. Denise Kotalik also asked if we should be considering commercial grade microwaves since residential ones aren't meant for such frequent use.

Although there is still a question of whether microwaves should be provided by the school/dining services, Alissa (treasurer) reports that we do have the money. This could be a visible gift from the PTSA, and the students would definitely benefit. Both gifts would be given with the understanding that this is a one-time purchase and the PTSA will not be replacing the equipment when needed.

Ellie put the High School Grant for two microwaves (\$273) to a vote:

All hands approved.

Ellie put the two microwaves (\$273) for TCMS to a vote:

All hands approved.

We are currently over the \$3,000 grant amount we chose. We voted last month to go over that amount. The \$3,000 was an arbitrary amount that we thought we'd start with. We wanted to see what people asked for. So far, we have approved the following:

- \$2320 for the Senior graduating parade
- Popcorn machine
- \$360 for Friends of Rachel buttons
- \$500 for after school snacks
- \$150 in gift cards for early release day at BHS
- \$273.72 for two microwaves for BHS.

The Fundraising Committee - Square 1 Art update- the event during break (2/23) was very well attended. An additional evening is tonight during the Brighton Believes kickball game. Please join us!

Reed's Ice Cream will be served at the Council Rock and FRES socials again this year. The cost at this point is \$2.50 per serving. They are an upgrade from ice cream options in the past, and they provided workers, which is nice. There is an interest in making these events **Zero Waste. Impact Earth** provides compostable paper products and a zero waste system. The additional cost to us would be \$0.12 cents per serving. Our profits are currently \$0.62.5 cents per serving. Reed's will not decrease the amount they charge us even if we provide the paper goods. The district has agreed to pay for the waste disposal services. Going to a zero waste system would be a great message, especially taking into account the progress that has been made at FRES.

-We like that Impact Earth is a Brighton family owned, local company.

-Based on last year's numbers, we would need to plan on 2,700 servings.

-Someone looked up napkins and found that all are biodegradable, so we will have Reed supply the napkins.

-We will ask for extra spoons .

-Reed's would need some of the cups ahead of time because they pre-scoop the italian ice.

-This would cost us \$240 in profits. Last year we made \$1,700 in profit. We only budget for \$1,000 in profit.

\*Stacia Rush commented that if we go with this plan, we need to PUBLICIZE it!

Ellie Rosenbloom put the Zero Waste plan purchasing products from Impact Earth to a vote:

All hands vote yes.

Secretary's Report, by Becky Picone

Becky Picone submitted the March Minutes for a vote. Heidi Kerwin voted to approve. Leslie Seltzer seconded. All hands voted in favor. So approved.

Treasurer's Report, by Alissa Chilson

A question came up as to whether the Amazon Smile fundraising is really adding up. Alissa reports that profits are paid quarterly. PTSA has received \$44.93 in the past year, with no effort on our part:

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 8/15/16 | \$13.66 |
| 11/7/16 | \$10.34 |
| 2/6/17  | \$2.93  |

Alissa circulated the financial report, and stated that we are in very good shape with revenue.

Staff Appreciation- in the past we have sent a mailing soliciting donations for the Staff Appreciation events. Historically, we paid more for the mailing than we received in donations, so we decided to simply donate those funds for the luncheon instead of having the mailing. This year we donated \$600 for the luncheons. In addition, some funds have carried over from last year:

BHS - The BHS luncheon is over. They had mostly donated items for the luncheon, so they have \$178.67 left to roll over for next year.

TCMS- There is \$220 left in the account

FRES- \$23 left in account

CRPS- \$2.41 in account

\*Ellie asked to have \$100 put into an account for the SPED luncheon. It was put to a vote and all hands in favor.

Principals need to be asked how many staff are housed in each building, including the SPED luncheon participants (grounds, transportation, central office, AIM).

\*A question was asked about whether we could switch the system and celebrate with smaller tokens of appreciation throughout 'Teacher Appreciation' Week. The response was that such a change would eliminate the rest of the staff, and everyone looks forward to this annual event. Besides, many small tokens would take more time and more volunteers than having one big event. Another comment was made that the events are often scheduled at inconvenient times, but that is a principals' scheduling issue.

2016 Ice Cream Social Profits:

FRES - \$740.34

CRPS - \$967.29

Class Financials:

2021 - \$3,141.14

2022 - \$1,899.33

2023 - \$1,776.58

Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm

The next PTSA meeting is Wednesday, April 12th, 2017 at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Picone, PTSA Secretary