

Brighton Central PTSA

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017

In attendance: Alissa Chilson, Heidi Kerwin, Cyndi Kerber Gowan, Stacia Rush, Leslie Seltzer, Christina Pearson, Linda Stanley, Ellie Rosenbloom, Manish Dixit, Tara Minor, Mark Kokanovich , Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Andrea Costanza, Emily Brown, Jen Allen, Wende Domm, Denise Kotalik, Deborah Pulley, Emily Minerva, Becky Picone

Meeting start time: 9:17 am

Deborah opened with a request that everyone arrive at 9am going forward so that we can start on time. Welcome everyone! Please note that a grant request is on Freedcamp. Please read it so that we can consider this grant. The TCMS librarian requesting the funds couldn't come here to present today but it is a worthwhile grant request to consider.

In the future, if you have info to share from your meetings with the principal, please bring it to the group/include it in your building reports.

Building reports:

FRES

October was a very exciting month at FRES! Here's what we were up to:

On October 11th PTSA and Dr Rioux held the first FRES Meet the Principal meeting of the year! The topic was meet and get to know Dr Rioux. Afterward there was a lively discussion about topics for future meet the principal meetings and questions from new district parents about PTSA and FRES. We look forward to our next Meet the Principal meeting in December!

October also saw the first grade-level roller skating activities of the year. A great time was had by all students who attended, and we are very grateful to the event chairs and volunteers who helped to make the activity a success – particularly the Helping Hands from BHS!

Red Ribbon week was fun for students and teachers who participated each day by dressing up and participating in activities to celebrate school spirit and FRES!

Halloween was fun for everyone at FRES! Kids, teachers and administrators made the holiday lively with costumes and class parties. There was also a parade of costumes for the third graders to add to the festive atmosphere.

Fun Food Friday kicked off another exciting year of introducing FRES students to new foods. The first food was dried cranberries, which the students enthusiastically (some of them anyway) ate.

In November we are looking forward to FRES Family Movie Night, FRES Book Fair, and the Thanksgiving recess.

SPED

Not a lot going on, but there is a joint meeting with CRPS on Dec 13th. Mike Bergen from Chariot Learning is going to present on ACT/SAT with a special ed focus. (Meeting will be at admin bldg, 7pm).

CRPS

Successful October 18th joint SPED MWTP/"Let's Chat, Council Rock" – speaker topic was Habits of Mind, with emphasis on an inclusive approach. Meeting format has fully transitioned to PTSA-led with reports from committee/event chairs and then principal or others as "guest speakers." Refer to circulated feedback forms to see what parents are saying/suggesting.

CRPS School Pictures were successful; teachers and volunteers commented on how smoothly everything was run and MCA Studios improved by using a simple whiteboard to label the class pictures. Chairs awaiting info regarding proceeds to date.

Community Service committee has lots of great ideas for a day of service event - looking to collaborate with Brighton Believes Committee for March 7 district-wide day of service

Hospitality committee is running smoothly.

Fun Food Friday continues to go well; always looking for more volunteers to help. They will use more smiley stickers over the ink stamps, as the stickers are easier for the kids to see and enjoy on every skin tone.

Currently exploring potential author visit plans for CRPS with principal and librarian

Wellness Committee at CRPS planned a successful Red Ribbon Week and is looking to improve clarity of message at elementary level even more for future years. Will be collaborating with Brighton Believes and Community Service committees in support of district-wide Day of Service on March 7

Family Support Center is in process of researching the best option for going forward for staffing and services. The volunteer/staff advisory board members will be reviewing several support centers in surrounding districts as part of the determination process.

Teacher/Staff engagement with PTSA

Educational Planning Team PTSA representative presented questions that were effectively answered by Deb Pulley (thank you!); great example of effective communication and information sharing between PTSA/faculty.

Online survey has been circulated to CRPS teachers to collect input about how best to support/engage them more in PTSA building level events and initiatives. Good feedback is already coming in and will share full results with central board once collected.

**Deborah Pulley asked Dr. McGowan for an update on the Brighton Believes day of volunteering. His response was that it is planned for March 7th.

BHS

Our last meeting with the principal on SAT vs. ACT was very well attended!

Fall musical, Legally Blonde was wonderful!

Teacher Judy Shomper won a Golden Apple award

3 Science teachers chosen as NYS Master teachers – Lou Carusone, Adam Eck, Suzanne Wade

Student Felipe Haunch made sports center top 10 for his bicycle kick on the soccer field that resulted in a goal

Flu clinic on 10/25

Fall sports are winding down; several teams did quite well girls swimming and diving were section V champs!!; winter sports are gearing up – we have heard some difficulty with the new online sports verification forms (registration) – these seem to be getting better

Technology meeting was held at BHS on Nov. 1 – well attended, seems to be two groups of people – a group who wants more information & a group who wants to express their feelings about the use of tech in the district – there is some overlap between the two groups, but both seem to want more opportunities;

Winter musical auditions have begun

BHS & SOTA had their combined concert; Vocal, band, and orchestra concerts are coming up over the next few weeks

First marking period is ending this week, next semester is beginning; report cards out on 11/21

Staff appreciation luncheon is on 12/8

TCMS

Activity Nights have been popular.

Attendance:

6th grade - 213

7th grade - 206 (Halloween theme)

8th grade - 126 (Zombie theme)

Administration is looking for a E3 advisor since Last years technology teacher retired.

Administration is also looking for someone to run the TCMS play/musical. May be looking outside the school now. Dr Lieberman is final decision maker.

December's MWTP theme will be Tech at TCMS, including school tool/parent portal, schoology, 8th grade devices & how is technology leveraged across all grades at TCMS.

Schools to Watch committee will be interviewing parents at a lunch on 12/5. 8-10 parents will be invited.

Rob Thomas will be speaking about his trip to China on Friday 11/17 2:40 at the TCMS Auditorium. Parents & students welcome.

**There was a brief explanation of what Schoology is –where teachers can put info and students/parents can access info and communicate. It was suggested that parents get involved with using parent portal before reaching the middle school years so they will be familiar with it since it's used so often. Dr. McGowan mentioned that schoology doesn't take the place of parent portal, info will be in both. Schoology is more for exchange of info/assignments... parent portal is more for grades.

**Deborah welcomed parents in attendance, and asked if anyone has questions.

**A parent attendee asked if there are plans in the works of looking for someone to do theater who is of equal caliber as the person leaving. The quality of the productions has been so high, there is a concern that there will be a hire with less expertise/experience. Dr. McGowan explained that there isn't a formal search now as the job won't be posted until the spring. He assured everyone that there are people around who have great experience and will bring a lot to the table.

**A concern was brought up that although the JV volleyball team did well, the uniforms are embarrassing. If it's not in the budget for the district to get nicer uniforms, could the PTSA help out? Dr. McGowan explained that there is a regular replacement cycle for uniforms, and offered to pass along contact information to the parent so that she can get more information about when that will happen.

He further explained that there are many teams who choose to buy new uniforms themselves. He doesn't know exactly how that comes to be, seems to be dependent on individual teams and coaches. We are now contracted (5year) with one vendor, DSM sports. Most uniforms will be upgraded within the next several years. Again, it depends on the sport and people involved as far as who chooses to purchase new ones on their own. A conversation was had about different teams' situations and the expenses involved when some teams choose to have players purchase their own uniform. A comment was made that the coaches for many of the teams set up a booster sale for the team in the hopes that parents will purchase items that can serve as 'uniforms'. This is a tough process when it comes to affordability and expectations. It was suggested by a parent that it be well publicized that there is help for kids who can't afford to purchase team 'uniforms' if that is the direction a team goes. Perhaps parents can be given the option to help other parents.

Nancy Beck Grant Update, by Emily Minerva

A December meeting is coming up with Dave Beck, a rep from each building, and a few others selected by Dave. They will meet one evening to discuss all the grants and decide who will be awarded funds.

The Building reps are as follows:

SPED -Ellie

CRPs:-Leslie

FRES-Wende Domm

BHS-Linda Wilcox

TCMS –Jen Allen

Emily will get dates to the committee. Two grant applications have come in.

Treasurer Report, by Alissa Chilson

Alissa circulated copies of the budget.

Everything has gone to the accountant, hopefully we are done for this year.

The first membership dues payment for this year was made to NYS PTSA -\$832.

There is a tax form for this year in dropbox for everyone to access when making purchases.

Emily and Alissa are working on new money handling forms. There will be a separate form for startup cash going forward. This will make it easier for people to understand process, as well as easier for book keeping. Reminder-if you need startup cash, you need to give your chairs a money handling form and have them tell Alissa exactly what they need. It HAS to be signed by a building chair or an event chair before Alissa will withdraw money. She will be more strict this year. She recently did a webinar training for PTSA treasurers. There will be an audit in June. Three people (not including Alissa) will need to volunteer for the audit. Alissa cannot be with the group auditing. The process will help keep PTSA and everyone safe in regards to finances and legality. Alissa can also email people forms if they can't get them from dropbox.

**A question was asked about what are we doing about zero waste initiative in regards to our events (particularly staff appreciation coming up) since for the luncheon our budget will not easily allow for the expensive materials. Dr. McGowan mentioned that the district is encouraging it but not requiring it.

Secretary Report, by Becky Picone

Becky Picone presented the October Central PTSA Meeting minutes for approval. Heidi Kerwin motioned to pass. Leslie Seltzer seconded. All hands passed. So approved.

Spiritwear, Update, by Cyndi Kerber Gowan

Current sale ends Friday. We are at 210 orders, \$2000 profit right now. There is typically a big bump right before the deadline, so there is an expected increase. Hoodies and T's are bulk of the sale. PJ pants are doing well, as are scarfs. A committee is being formed for the next sale. **There was a discussion about the FRES design changing. Cyndi was under the impression that it is not changing, Denise said that she was under the impression that it is, so they need to communicate with the school. The high school is having students work on a possible new design. All the buildings now have a rep.

**Leslie Seltzer mentioned that parents have until the end of school (June) to order school pictures. All kids get a new code on the envelope with their student pictures or proof, and they can order until June.

Superintendent Report/ KEVtalks, by Dr. McGowan

See Dr. McGowan's Superintendent report and KEVtalks posted on the PTSA webpage

School start time-the current focus is on implementation plan- what would it look like if we decide to move forward. Then we would project a timeline.

Capital project-working with staff for design

Diversity-coming up with a plan to get input from folds throughout the district

Still working on traffic safety with chief Henderson after the discussion her last month. Chief presented at the middle school, and will be visiting other schools as well. He'd also like to meet with parents and come to one of these meetings.

KEV talk for this month-Who's Who in the Leadership Zoo?

Formal leadership team-who reports to who and what are their responsibilities.

*A question was asked about school physician – what that role would look like. McGowan said that every time there is a change in medical protocol for an need (concussion, epipen, etc) the physician would work with the school nurses to keep them up to date. Also they would work with us on workplace injury/compensation claims, etc. as well as other needs throughout the district.

*Mark Kokanovich said that our structure gives flexibility to the positions that has all of the movement working toward getting all of the efforts as close to the classroom as possible. It also helps to allow us to recognize the talent and efforts that will benefit the students and the district and capitalize on that. The leadership is really streamlined compared to other districts. *A question was asked about who it is that evaluates the STEM teachers? Dr. McGowan's response was that it is still the principals that do that for all teachers. There is no one recommended for tenure that hasn't been looked at and evaluated by the principals, in addition to other people evaluating them. The director of innovative student learning and another director also do some evaluations of teachers related to their disciplines.

*a few questions were asked for clarification of the organizational roles and responsibilities chart

*Dr.McGowan lead a 'Jeopardy' game with questions about individual people and their roles within the administration—all buildings competed for points.

*Mark Kokonovich was asked about his plan to talk to the art teachers about art work recognition. He was invited to the Nov teacher's meeting. The board wants a vehicle to display and recognize student artwork on a rotating basis.

Denise Marie Santiago led a discussion on how we can help people who are moving here from Puerto Rico. There are over 200 students here already, they expect the number to climb to 1000. There are also students from Texas and Florida who have been affected by the extreme weather. The number one need is close toed shoes, as many kids are coming with sandals. Coats, hats, winter clothes are a big need right now. A donation center is in the process of being set up. Denise would be happy to help take collections there, or to the social workers helping the families. They also need book bags. We do not yet have families settling here in Brighton. *A suggestion was made to contact Brighton Your Wardrobe. Denise said that she has already contact BYW, but that they are light on the need items right now. It is a

desperate need right now. There is a set up on Scottsville road for donations, but those items are actually being sent to Puerto Rico. We are trying now to get items for the people here. Deborah said they are working on having a link on Amazon Smile so that people can make donations and have them sent directly to the folks that need them. Denise said that the need is so desperate right now, that maybe it would be easier to pick an item or two to collect. Cyndi suggested that we open up the donation list so that people can give whatever they want since the need is so broad right now. Denise said that they have given a list of needed items for past drives, and people were really good about purchasing things right off the list. Denise cautioned that if we allow for some 'gently used' items, it may open up the donations to undesirable/dirty and unuseable items. We may want to be careful how we word it. Deborah said we will get an enews out for all buildings ASAP to get the ball rolling. It will be an ongoing drive, as it is an intense need. It will only include a start date.

Meeting ended at 11am.

Tonight is FRES Family Movie night.

FRES has snack next month.

*Heidi commented that she's looking for an article that explained the history of the Brighton "Baron", so that we can build on the original intent of the mascot.

Next meeting is December 13th at 9:15am.