

Central PTSA Meeting

Minutes

2/14/18

In attendance: Alissa Chilson, Linda Wilcox, Cynthia Kerber Gowan, Heidi Kerwin, Stacia Rush, Ellie Rosenbloom, Katie Orem, Monican Alenj, Julie Alweis, Tara Minor, Martha Sciremammano, Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Mark Kokanovich, Jen Allen, Emily Brown, Kathryn Ku biak-Rizzone, Denise Kotalik, Wende Domm, Emily Minerva, Deborah Pulley, Heather Coyne, Mab Fitzgerald, Sarah Terres, Katrina Robinson, Christina Pearson, Leslie Seltzer, Becky Picone

Meeting began: 9:16am

Opening

Deborah started the meeting with a welcome to everyone, and a thank you to the board members for joining us today. Thank you to BHS for today's snack, and thank you to Zion Yerman for the Valentine's Day cookies. The agenda for the May evening meeting is being created. This evening meeting will continue our focus Keeping Brighton Healthy.

Building Reports

BHS

- College & Career Night was a success
- Recognized by to bodies for our quality school
- Say Yes for the Dress is 2/15
- Our meeting with the Principal on 1/17 (both at noon & 7) was successful (Topic was on course selection and new courses)
- Co-Co & Cram was successful – around 100 participants, PTSA provided snacks
- Snowball Dance – successful, PTSA provided snacks, Students changed event back to be more formal with excellent feedback

- BHS musical – Crazy for You was a success
- BHS 2nd semester began on Jan 26
- Therapy Dogs at BHS, PTSA was consulted on messaging for this program
- Brighton Believes Day – the high school has a very ambitious goal for the day and has been consulting with us regarding supporting the activities. We will be reaching out for up to 60 volunteers (20 the day before, 40 the day of) to support our BHS students in serving our community
- Sign-up for V & JV sports
- Meeting with principal (with Chief Mark Henderson) in March 21

*Deborah mentioned that the executive committee has increased funding for BHS because of their intense winter programing needs. She encouraged them to ask for donations, but we will assist in meeting the remainder of the financial needs.

TCMS

Activity nights have been popular - 221 students attended the 6th grade one, 187 attended the 7th grade (theme was 1980s). 8th grade activity was cancelled due to a "cold" day. It has been rescheduled to end of March. That theme will be Minute to Win It.

Winter Sports are winding down... 161 athletes; 18 are playing at the JV/Varsity level. Breakdown is - 80 7th graders, 81 8th graders; 66 girls, 95 boys (discrepancy is due to wrestling which has only boys).

Brighton Believes Day is 3/7. TCMS will be gathering items for the Crisis Nursery and Owen's House. There will be an assembly with Owen's mother before each lunch period. 10 period will consist of hands on service activities for the 6th graders; small assemblies for the 7th & 8th graders. Leaders from different organizations have been invited to lead the assembly. There will be a small reception before and TCMS Strong students will escort them around.

There was a visit from Mimi Peer, a middle school principal from Modi'in Israel. In addition to that, six teachers from nearby towns visited TCMS for Learning Walks on 2/6. TCMS Strong kids escorted them.

Zero Waste has started at TCMS in January. They are having a friendly competition with FRES to see who can have the least waste go to the landfill.

2/1 was World Hijab Day and both students and teachers participated. This event was initiated by a student.

The Chinese Club will celebrate Chinese New Year with different events during the week of 2/12 - 2/16, including a red/gold day, school clean-up, game day, find your Chinese Birth Year event. They will wrap up with a party with traditional Chinese food.

Also on 2/16, TCMS will pair with Al Sigl for the "just one" challenge. Students will give \$1 to their home room teachers and will be able to wear a hat for the day.

A scheduling committee is working with Elliot Merenbloom. Their goal is to improve TCMS schedules, create more flexibility and reduce study halls.

TCMS is also has a grading committee, with one teacher per subject, that read "On Your Mark" by Thomas Guskey. They are looking to use grading to motivate and improve. They also want to separate behavior and performance.

TCMS had its first ever cookie dough fundraiser with 110 students participating. They raised approx \$6000 for the TCMS Field Trip Assistance Fund.

In February, TCMS hosted a Meeting with the Principal. The topic was "Surviving Middle School Part 2" and Lance Mitchell, social worker at TCMS/BHS, presented.

*Deborah commented that the Cookie Dough fundraiser was not a PTSA event, so the profit could stay with TCMS

FRES

*Building report from co-chairs, updates on recent and upcoming events

*Denise suggested that we entertain the idea of having a district wide directory, as this is successful in other districts. Dr. McGowan replied that there are some legal issues related to that, but we can look into an opt-in option further. A suggestion was also made that we have an opt-in electronic directory.

SPED

Meeting tomorrow about graduation requirements, lead by a woman from BOCES. This will cover a large variety of topics. This will be recorded and posted on our website. This presentation will provide information for many different levels of student needs.

Jennie Schaff will present on assistive tech in March. (check with Ellie about Jenny's last name spelling and the additional kudos she reported).

CRPS

- Building Co-Chairs presented briefly at January 22 faculty meeting and encouraged feedback from teachers regarding opportunities for collaboration; Co-Chairs also attended the New Family Reception to help welcome families.
- The generosity of families during the January Toy and Book Drive was overwhelming! A full car load of new toys was delivered to the Ronald McDonald house. An extra-full car load of gently used toys and books was delivered to RCSD School #2, Clara Barton School. Additionally, CRPS families were able to donate many toys and books to the Hope House in Rochester.
- SouperBowl Monday was again a great success and much appreciated by the faculty and staff (see photos).
- Fun Food Friday reps had a table at indoor farmers' market Wellness Fair on February 11 – complete information and with samples of beet chips (see photo).
- Miranda Stefano, Library Volunteer Coordinator, continues to work with library staff to try to set up a few volunteer opportunities after school for working parents. Art teacher Lisa Jordan continues to seek art room volunteers.
- The new "PTSA Corner" weekly update in the Tappon Times continues to go well and offers a timely way to communicate information to CRPS families.
- For February 15 "Let's Chat, Council Rock"/Meeting with the Principal, Mrs. Cooper (PE) and the Brighton Police Department will highlight biking/walking safety education. Continuing to include interactive/discussion component to each gathering, including prior to the budget presentation at our March "Let's Chat."
- New Student Registration coming up in March – we'd be so grateful for fellow board members to again attend and assist us (especially since we will be down one building chair at that time, due to her sweet little one on the way soon ☺).
- Ice Cream Social and Book Fair planning is underway for March – any help from central board members for ICS would be greatly appreciate (we are down an event leader). Thank you!
- Planning is underway to support an author visit in collaboration with BHS for next year.

*A discussion about the PTSA presence at the Health Fair at the market this weekend. It was a good, worthwhile experience and the future we need to work to pull people in more actively.

*A question was asked about the attendance for the budget meetings. Since the attendance doesn't tend to be high, it was suggested that we have a joint presentation with the PTSA and all four buildings. This joint venture might be good to have twice a year, one for budget and one for another topic that the greater district population could benefit from. *Dan and Kevin both addressed marketing of the events and said they are open to suggestions moving forward.

*Kathryn Kubiak-Rizzone mentioned that CRPS will be down one building co-chair come March, so the remaining chairs could use a bit of support for the incoming Kindergarten registration events (Thurs, March 8th and Saturday, March 10th), and the upcoming Ice Cream Socials.

*Denise Kotalik mentioned that FRES will be using waffle bowls for the ice cream social to avoid waste, and there will be Gluten Free options.

*TCMS, 12 people came to the Meeting With the Principal last week, which was great. There was a recent presentation on the dangers of vaping. They need volunteers for distributing the cookie dough orders. Deborah encouraged TCMS to announce the sale to other buildings in the future because many people outside of TCMS would be willing to support the cause.

*Deborah gave kudos to all the building co-chairs for doing such a great time this year. Numbers are up for event attendance, and overall everyone is doing a great job.

Treasurer's Report, by Alissa Chilson

Reminder, we do not reimburse for sales tax, so if your check comes back with a different amount than you expected, that may be the reason.

*Stacia and Tara mentioned that they are looking to rebrand the 'Closure Party' event. The name isn't too inspiring.

*We will be getting reimbursed \$200 for the picture directory that was paid for at FRES.

The budget was projected on the screen as Alissa discussed key areas of expense and revenue.

Curriculum Council Report, by PTSA representatives Katie Orem, Sara Teres, and Mab Fitz-Gerald

Last year there was a lot of time spent discussing rigor in the district. We aim to not only tell kids what they should know, but have them think about it, and understand it. They are also looking at coming up with tools for teachers to use in their teaching. This year they are focusing on responsive curriculum and considering everyone's culture when developing curriculum and lessons, not just catering to the majority. The most recent meeting had students from the Mosaic Club talk to the committee members about their experiences as students of color. Some stories shared were distressing, but having them come to the meeting was very positive. The focus on diversity is not only targeting skin color, but other forms of differences such as learning, development, etc. Additionally, although some stories were distressing, most negative experiences were not a result of malice or ill intent. Education and awareness is key. After this the committee worked with the students to develop suggestions about how to move forward and make change.

Critical literacy was also addressed. A presenter from St. John Fisher came to discuss literacy as a way to reflect or look outside yourself. Sometimes teachers don't realize what their biases are, it is important to be open to reading and providing diverse literature. There was some concern about budget when looking into expanding the library literature options, but Sarah offered that there are a lot of publishers willing to provide books for free. Overall, the teachers were very receptive to the idea of opening up literacy options.

*Deborah confirmed that the representatives felt that that PTSA presence on this committee is both valued and a worthwhile.

*A question was asked about how the information processed at the committee reaches other teachers. Dr. McGowan replied that conversations within teachers groups and here happen as a result of what is brought up at the meetings. Implicit bias is pervasive, so it is worth talking about and continuing to raise awareness. Mark Kokonovich mentioned that the teachers that volunteer for this committee do so ready to work hard. They take the information from the meetings and continue to work outside with others to effect change in the district.

Superintendent's Report, by Dr. McGowan

TCMS and BHS received an enews asking parents to partner with us to work with your kids. Know where your kids are and what they are doing. Unsupervised activities can be an issue, the schools can only do so much. We are hoping for more and more partnership around issues such as vaping, etc. We will continue to work with education around opioids and other dangers kids are faced with. Thank you to the PTSA for all the work they are doing to try and help raise awareness.

The Budget is underway for next year. There is a big tax gap, \$2.2 million. Last year's efforts helped bring us up to other district's levels, but it in no way solved our budget problems. We are trying to plan for the next 5 years, in an effort to make sure that there is no negative impact on kids. In March we will present our idea. Please fill out our survey so that we can see what thoughts are.

Dr. McGowan shared various district statistics related to student performance and graduation rates, so district board meeting minutes.

Building Committee Reports

Each co-chair gave an overview/update of their event.

*There was a discussion about acquiring volunteers for the TCMS book fair, many suggestions were made, one being taking advantage of the high schoolers next door who have free periods and need to complete volunteer hours.

*Senior parade is June 11th. Great participation is expected, 8 buses (\$1800). We will not need to provide pizzas. Last year we required fewer buses than expected, the cost was only \$400. The buses that were not needed were sent back and we were not charged for them. Alissa suggested that Dr. Hall write a grant for the funds required to hold the event.

*Deborah thanked everyone for volunteering and for reporting on all their great work.

*Martha Sciremammano reported on Festival of Ideas and asked Leslie to circulate the baked goods sign-up sheet.

*Heidi Kerwin announced that the back to school rodeo will be the first day of school again, Sept. 5th.

Lifetime Award Committee, by Emily Minerva

Ellie Rosenbloom gave an overview of the Lifetime Award, the highest honor we have to give. Nominations are underway. *Heidi asked that we send the request for nominations out to the entire community so that parents will be aware and can nominate if they have someone in mind.

Buidling committee members:

CRPS-Jen Allen

FRES-Katrina Robinson

BHS-Linda Wilcox

TCMS-Christina Pearson

SPED-Ellie Rosenbloom

Nominating Committee, by Deborah Pulley

Deborah gave an overview of the bylaws required by the state. Some adjustments to our process will help to keep us in compliance. It was voted on last year that Alissa Chilson stay on as treasurer for a third year because of past accounting issues, despite the fact that this is usually a two year position.

There will be an election in April, so the nominating committee will need to meet very soon.

Deborah distributed ballots for everyone to vote on the committee members. The ballots included:

Heidi Kerwin

Christina Pearson

Katrina Robinson

EllieRosenbloom

Yvonne Villareale –non board member

Martha Sciremmamano counted the votes. All five above were voted in for the committee.

At this point, the committee will convene to elect a chair.

Cyndi Kerber Gowan moved to change the time restraint on the bylaws, for the committee to report within 28days, and to have the vote in 56 days, rather than the 30/60 day requirement in the bylaws.

Christina 2nd the motion, all hands approved. So moved.

President Report, by Deborah Pulley

At recent training I learned that we are not compliant will the guideline that one person can only fill one position at a time. The executive committee (Pres, VP, Secretary and Treasurer) voted to directly follow this guideline. Deborah communicated with all of the building co-chairs who are also chairing events, and sent an email to everyone explaining this.

Deborah gave an overview of bylaws and how we are or are not following them. The effort is to recruit and retain volunteers. Effective immediately, volunteers will be limited to one leadership position at a time. This will involve anyone who is chairing more than one committee, or any building co-chairs who are currently also event chairs. We will be looking to bring in new volunteers to fill the leadership roles.

*A comment was made that the executive board met without the knowledge of other board members to make some decisions that may negatively affect PTSA programs and processes going forward. Cyndi Kerber Gowan moved to convene an ad hoc committee to look at how we operate and how decisions are made. She has a concern about how this decision to take people off of the upcoming events will affect the events as finding new people and transferring knowledge last minute will be difficult. The GVPTA advised that we have the processes and policies in writing so that there will be no discrepancies or confusion going forward. It was suggested that we continue the discussion next month when more members will be present as many people who are impacted by this had to leave this meeting early.

*A comment was made that this vote was simply an effort to follow the bylaws. This was followed by a comment that there is flexibility with how we follow the laws (for example, we voted to have Alissa stay as treasurer for a third year even though the bylaws state that it is a two year term).

*Other concerns were voiced about lack of transparency and how this change will make the difficulty in finding volunteers in the first place even harder.

*Deborah acknowledged all concerns and agreed that we should have an ad hoc committee to look at our processes. The executive committee meeting was within the rules, and any decisions made are in the best interest of the future of our PTSA .

*There are leftover calendars if anyone would like one. Final count of 638 people recorded as members.

*Manish Dixit has offered to take over calendars. Deborah called for a motion to approve as there were enough members in attendance to cast votes .

Alissa Chilson moved to approve.

Emily Brown seconded.

Majority of hands approved, so moved.

Secretary's Report, by Becky Picone

*Thank you for reading minutes and making corrections

Becky Picone submitted the January meeting minutes for approval.

Christina Pearson moved to pass, Alissa Chilson seconded. Majority of hands approved. So passed.

*Website/volunteer form will be flipping to the 2018/2019 school year before the Kindergarten registration events. If you have anything to add, or corrections you'd like to see, please make notes and send to Becky Picone.

Next Meeting March 14th, TCMS will provide snack.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58am