

## Central PTSA Meeting

### Minutes

March 14, 2018

In attendance: Alissa Chilson, Becky Picone, Heidi Kerwin, Cyndi Kerber Gowan, Linda Wilcox, Stacia Rush, Christina Pearson, Ellie Rosenbloom, Tara Minor, Natalie Pincus, Heather Coyne, Melanie Ryan, Andrea Costanza, Mark Kokanovich, Jen Allen, Emily Brown, Katrina Robinson, Denise Kotalik, Wende Domm, Manish Dixit, Deborah Pulley

Meeting began at 9:16am

#### **Opening Announcements**, by President Deborah Pulley

Deborah opened with a welcome and an announcement that there is a slight change to the original agenda due to the student walkout. The walkout will impact parking, so be aware in case you need to leave early.

Debbie Baker will be back on the agenda in May.

Emily Minerva is not here due to a family emergency/travel.

Congratulations to Katheryn Kubiak-Rizzone and family on their new addition, Violet.

#### **Building reports**

##### **TCMS**

A 7th grader, Lily Fitzpatrick, designed the Festival of Ideas shirt this year.

Book Fair has held over 3 days and raised approx \$900.

Brighton Believes/Day of Caring was 3/7. TCMS families brought in donations to help with Crisis Nursery and Owen's House. Cate Cerulli, Owen's mother, spoke to all three grades during assemblies. She was presented with a \$450 check that was raised from donations from the TCMS staff and faculty. 36 different organizations sent 48 representatives to speak with the kids during 10th period. There was a reception for the speakers in the cafeteria at 1:30pm where students were paired with the speakers and assigned to escort them to the different classrooms. Members of the TCMS orchestra played during the reception. There was cookies and coffee from Coffee Connection, one of the organizations participating.



Next week (3/16), a student led event "Start with a Hello" program is scheduled. This is a program developed by Sandy Hook Promise, which is an advocacy group begun by parents of Sandy Hook, CT to attempt to raise awareness of students to the growing epidemic of social isolation in schools. There will be activities for the kids to get them to reach out to one another and engage with different kids.



On 3/29, TCMS is having an Al Sigl fundraiser where the students give \$1 to wear a hat for the day.

TCMS was once again re-designated as a 2018 Essential Elements: School to Watch on February 28th! The school was first recognized in 2006 and every three years since (2009, 2012, and 2015). A celebratory school assembly will be held in the spring based on the the availability of the School to Watch organization. PTSA building co-chairs and a few other TCMS parents (along with TCMS students, faculty and staff) were part of the review process. PTSA has been asked to help plan the reception.

Mary Poppins Jr will be the TCMS Musical in May. Around 100 kids tried out for approx 65 parts. The winner of the TCMS Talent Show, which was Friday 3/9, has the leading part of Mary Poppins. The musical is scheduled for 5/11 and 5/12.



TCMS Service Club is going to CRPS to work & play games with the kids in the YMCA after school program.

Activity Nights need more volunteers as they grown in popularity! Mr. Thomas suggested 12 -15 parent volunteer are needed and he is also creating a helpful Activity Night map so parents know where to stand and it will also explain the the rules of the event. School rules apply (like no cell phones) and Mr. Thomas is going to make this more clear in an upcoming E-News. This will help the event go smoother! New 7th grade activity night is Friday April 13th to make up for snowstorm canceled one on 3/2. Friday March 16 is the last 6th grade activity night and Friday, March 23 is 8th grade activity night.

## **FRES**

Jump Rope for Heart in February was a great event as usual!

Brighton Believes Day went very smoothly at FRES. The projects were able to be completed using the donated items. Dr. Rioux is excited to hopefully do it again next year.

Our Summer Activity Fair is March 26 at 6pm. We'll have a PTSA table there to let people know what we do, and sign them up to volunteer.

Family Movie Night is coming up on March 27th. We are also collecting canned food at the event to be donated.

Our next Meeting with the Principal is April 18th at 7pm. Chief Mark Henderson will be there to discuss bike and pedestrian safety.

FRES is doing a yearbook this year! Sales will begin April 9th. The books will cost \$17. There will be a contest among the students to design the front cover.

Also coming up are the two Ice Cream Socials. They will be held on April 19 and 26.

An author visit is in the works for May 15. The author is Brian Yanesh, and we will have books for purchase prior to the event.

## **CRPS**

- Brighton Believes Day was a great success at Council Rock! Students and teachers enjoyed making projects for 8 different local non-profits. Many thanks to our hard-working Community Service Co-chairs Miranda Stefano and Heide Vorrasi for putting together a great program.

-4,300 Diapers wrapped

-80 Fleece blankets made for Mia Foundation

- 80 Dog toys made for Mia Foundation
- 164 Cat toys made for Lollipop farms
- 30 Centerpieces made for Friendly Home and Woodside Manor
- 62 Toys for ravens for Wild Wings
- 88 Washcloths made for the homeless
- 75 Cards made for Ryan's Smiles

- Kindergarten/New Student Registration went very well, thanks in large part to all the additional central PTSA volunteers from other buildings. Much appreciated!
- CRPS Educational Planning Team has finished its budget work for the year and is working with the school scheduling committee to work on teacher schedules for next year. The goal is to find a way to schedule teachers and special classes/lunches so that "families" of teachers can have common meeting time. In the transition from a looping model, hope is to form "families" of teachers from each grade level in order to maintain some of the benefits that looping provided.
- Book Fair is all set for next week. Event chairs are trying the Scholastic volunteer registration system for the first time and will report back on its effectiveness.
- Ice Cream Social planning continues for the events starting next week. BHS Helping Hands Club students will again volunteer alongside school board members and parents. Bruster's of Henrietta is the vendor at CRPS and FRES this year. Price will be kept the same as previously (\$2.50) and a larger portion of the proceeds will be given to PTSA than previous vendor.
- March 23 "Let's Chat, Council Rock"/Meeting with the Principal will include budget presentation, event/committee reports and parent discussion. Additional "Let's Chat" being added for April 25 and will highlight special area teachers.
- CRPS Teacher Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for May 25th. We are meeting in a couple of weeks to figure out our timeline (invites, volunteer/donation sign ups, etc.), solidify our menu and hash out details for the fun "be our guest" luncheon.

\*Alissa reminded CRPS that she will need a few days for any starting cash requests

## **SPED**

For February, they had a meeting about graduation requirements. It was apparent at this meeting that middle school and freshman parents, particularly from out of state, did not understand what the graduation requirements are.

The next SPED Meeting is about Executive Functioning and will be on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12pm, at the BHS, room 252S, and TCMS at 7pm in the library classroom.

Life Membership awards will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm, more details will be coming shortly. Officer installation will happen at this time- we will need help with setting up, and pictures of officers will be taken at that time.

## **BHS**

- Held our Spring Show auditions – Our Town
- Had a successful Brighton Believes Day
  
- Kick Cancer's butt bracelets
  
- Letters of support to veterans & Owen's House
  
- No-slip Sock's for kids in Rochester General hospital
  
- Sandwiches for Open Door Mission
  
- Toiletry Bags Owen's House & Open Door Mission
  
- Collected food, toiletries, & PBJ for places above plus Brighton Food Cupboard
  - Ham Jam
  - Festival of Ideas
  - Dodgeball game
  - Spread the Word to End the Word – Best Buddies
  - German Students are here
  - Vocal Prism Concert
  - High School Chorus Trip to NYC leaves tomorrow
  - Our next meeting is March 21, noon, Captain David Cotholdi
  - BHS Galaxy Soiree is on March 23
  - Spring Sports have started
  
- Spring show auditions for our town

- Successful Brighton Believes Day

\*Cyndi and Ellie Are nominating Dave Beck for the Brighton Citizen of the year (for Brighton Rotary) and are requesting any supporting letters be sent to them this week so that they can include them in their nomination submission package. \*Ellie and Cyndi gave a little background information about Dave Beck and his history here in Brighton.

Student Walkout and School Safety report, by Mark Kokanovich

Kevin's email yesterday represents the district well and the board is in agreement with what has been done so far. Everyone involved in working to support the student lead effort with the walkout. They are working with the police department to keep the event safe and protect the kids and their right to exercise their first amendment right.

Safety and security of students and staff is our #1 priority. We are constantly reevaluating our processes. Lou Alaimo is in charge of these efforts. We have had a great relationship with the police department for years and we work with them consistently to keep everyone safe. If anyone has a question/comment/concern, send an email to Lou Alaimo.

They are looking to add additional parent representation on the safety committee, to work along with the staff, police and admin.

There are multiple layers to the safety puzzle. There are many things occurring behind the scenes to ensure school safety that people are unaware of.

There are over 40 pieces of legislation that have been introduced in Albany for safety efforts in schools. We are working toward making sure that any safety measures that are suggested or mandated in the future are also supported financially.

We work hard at safety 24/7, everyone is a partner. If you see something, say something. Use the hotline if you feel something is off. We welcome any feedback from parents or anyone in the public.

\*Jen Allen mentioned that parents PTSA board members are often ask questions about safety and it is not something we can feel comfortable or confident about answering. Mark answered that that is one of the reasons that it will be important to have parent representatives on the safety committee.

\*Denise mentioned that she doesn't feel that corralling all of the students into the atrium before school every morning is a good idea in regards to safety. Mark responded that it is a good comment, and things are constantly being reevaluated and he will take this concern back to the committee.

\*A comment was made that having a printed magnet, or some other visual way to promote the help line would be a good idea. The response was that some things have gone out, but it is a great idea to have other materials out.

\*A comment was made about the openness and looseness of the BHS building. Mark responded that we will start noticing an increased safety presence at the High School front security desk. There will also be a police presence walking around BHS and TCMS. This is part of the partnership with the Brighton police department.

\*A comment was made that while in the High School, one parent said she was concerned about the focus of security when they are surrounded by and socializing with students.

\*A discussion was had about the speed of robo calls each morning, particularly at the high school where students can skip first period if they don't have class. Mark and Andrea Costanza replied that they are reviewing their policies and procedures in relation to the timing of those calls. Mark commented on the recent incident at RCSD, and reminded people that one thing they want to make sure is that people to know that if they change phone numbers, it is important to relay that to the school. \*A comment was made that not all teachers take attendance and she knows one particular student who had missed a full week of class and never had a notice or consequence. Mark and Andrea replied that that particular case would be appropriate to mention to Tom Hall.

\*\*10am-Deborah requested that we take a moment of silence to remember the 17 Parkland students and to think about our students who are walking out today.

Mark (Kokanovich) stated that we have a very low number of school suspensions. The district believes that students are better off under our eye when possible. Additionally, we want teachers teaching, and we want people to feel safe. At this time our schools do not practice active shooter drills.

### Board Business

Deborah Pulley welcomed Manish Dixit as our new calendar chair. Manish is looking for volunteers, let him or Deborah know if you are interested.

\*Ellie Rosenbloom announced that tip line magnets will be available at the next meeting.

Deborah Pulley announced that an ad hoc committee is being formed to look at our standing committees and process and how they fit into the framework of our bylaws. Becky Picone will set up a doodle poll to set up that meeting.

\*Cyndi Kerber Gowan gave a review of last month's meeting, restating that the Executive Committee met without the other members of the board and made decisions that she is concerned will negatively influence the future of the PTSA. She reiterated the need for an ad hoc committee to interpret the bylaws.

## **Vote**

\*Cyndi Kerber Gowan made a movement that we establish a special or ad hoc committee to identify our current structure and create or update explicitly those procedures around our positions, committees, and committee structure.

Heidi Kerwin seconded, and all hands approved.

Deborah asked for volunteers for the committee:

Leslie Seltzer

Ellie Rosenbloom

Linda Wilcox

Manish Dixit

Cyndi Kerber Gowan

Christina Pearson

Heidi Kerwin

Wende Domm

Natalie Pincus

PTSA President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer

Deborah requested help with recruiting volunteers. She will be starting occasional 'Coffee Talks' at a convenient location for an informal opportunity for people to chat and hopefully attract volunteers.

## Square One Art

All artwork has been submitted to Square One, 150 submissions were sent. Catalogues should be back before Spring Break.

TCMS Book Fair Report, by Heather Coyne

Thank you to all who volunteered.

The Book Fair raised \$900. She and her co-chair will be discussing their recommendations for future fairs.

Follett (Publishing Company) is piloting book fairs across the county. The TCMS librarian is interested as the quality of Scholastic books is an issue. \*Deborah mentioned that she is involved in those discussions.

### BHS Grant Request for Senior March

Discussions have been ongoing through email about how last year was a pilot program for the senior march. It is an expensive program that will be difficult to sustain with PTSA funds. A discussion continues about how to decrease costs. At this time it appears that decreasing the number of buses will not have a huge effect on the overall cost of the event.

The majority of comments were in support of this event and the desire of most to figure out a way to continue this new tradition.

A question was asked about possible funding for this senior march. Why not have another fundraiser for this. \*\*Heidi mentioned that the food truck rodeo was a success, and it is expected to be even bigger and raise more money this year.

There is a Chipotle fundraiser coming up.

\*Ellie commented that we cannot target fundraisers for specific events, but we can possibly add it to the annual budget line so that it can benefit from planned fundraisers.

The cost is around \$1.28 per kid if you consider all district students. The cost is close to \$5 senior.

Deborah put the BHS senior march grant up for a vote.

Linda Wilcox Moved to approve

Heidi Kerwin seconded.

All hands approved.

So passed. Deborah will let Tom and the Board of Education know.

\*Jen Allen asked Deborah to also let them know that we will be looking for ways that we can continue to support (if not fund) this event in the future.

\*Andrea Costanza suggested that we might downgrade Bash a little and use the funds to support this, which is also benefitting the same students.

## **BASH**

A Bash flyer was circulated for everyone to look at.

Heidi Kerwin - Bash-sales are a little slow. They have a t-shirt table set up at BHS for sizing and ordering. They need 30 volunteers for the night of the event. Denise Johnson is the contact. BASH will be held on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 9pm-12am.

Treasurer Report, by Alissa Chilson – not a lot changed this month. We can hold inventory with no tax implications, if we'd like to hold items for Homecoming.

\*Deborah found a list of 113 members who had signed up when they purchased calendars, so our membership numbers are not down as was initially thought. Total membership to date is 813.

\*reminder to everyone, if you are requesting reimbursement for two different events, they need to be submitted on two different forms. If expenses are for one event they

Secretary Report, by Becky Picone

Becky submitted the Central PTSA February 2018 meeting minutes for approval.

Alissa Chilson motioned to pass.

Linda Wilcox seconded.

All hands passed, so moved.

Nominating Committee Report, by Heidi Kerwin and Ellie Rosenbloom

The Nominating Committee, Heidi Kerwin (Chairperson), Yvonne Villareale, Ellie Rosenbloom, Katrina Robinson, Christina Pearson, met on two separate occasions to select nominees for the available positions on the Executive Board. After thorough and thoughtful consideration, soul searching, and with an attempt at envisioning the future for the PTSA that we all have dedicated so much time and effort in, we excitedly nominate:

Alissa Chilson as VP for the school year 2018-2019, followed by the position of President for the school year 2019-2020.

Katrina Robinson as Treasure to be trained by Alissa over the summer.

Natalie Pincus as Secretary for the school year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

We are thrilled that all three nominees have accepted, and we await election.

Slate submitted by Heidi Kerwin, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

### Spirit Wear

Flyers and info will be sent out very soon.

\*A lengthy discussion was had about the change in the Spirit Wear committee, mainly in an effort to clarify why the change was made and how that impacts us going forward. There is still a concern that the executive board made a decision behind closed doors without the rest of the board, and several members voiced their opinions about this. There was a request for clarification about the new Spirit Wear committee, why there is no chair and why the most recent spirit wear chair was not involved, particularly since she had done a great deal of work up to this point. Ultimately this discussion was tabled due to time and failure to reach a resolution. It is agreed that an ad hoc committee will assist in determining how the bylaws can and should be applied to this issue.

Deborah closed the meeting at 11:23am, and reminded everyone that today is Pi day at Pi-craft pizza, so \$3.14 pies all day.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. FRES is providing snacks.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Becky Picone.