

Central PTSA Meeting  
October 10, 2018

BCSD Central Office Building

Attendance: Natalie Pincus, Alissa Chilson, Deborah Pulley, Kathryn Kubiak-Rizzone, Stephanie Bush, Karen Hatch, Katie Lambert, Angela Nagel, Heather Coyne, Yavuz Gul, Jacqui Liebman, Denise Kotalik, Tara Minor, Sangita Patel, Leslie Seltzer, Manish Dixit, Jessica Massey, Dena Spence, Maranne McDade Clay, Katrina Robinson, Emily Minerva

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

**I. Officers Reports**

Secretary' Report:

- a) Approval of June and September 2018 Minutes
  - Leslie Seltzer moved to approve, Alissa Chilson seconded. Minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

- a) October Budget Report
  - Hardship Grants –
    - CRPS amount remained the same as last year; all others were apportioned based on student population. See Budget Report. (Attachment)
  - Author's Visit: Money sent to BEF
  - ACE Grant: \$500 sent to BHS for grant approved at last month's meeting.
  - Calendar Sales and Spirit Wear: still getting money in and awaiting invoices
  - Amazon Smile: Received a little over \$36 without promoting.
  - Art Sale: in process of choosing vendor.
  - Class of 2022: After review of Closure Party expenses, class ended up with over \$1200. Increased students' role, met with student council (had added expense of food suggestions from the kids – subs). Made a profit on their Homecoming shirts sale.

**II. Building Reports**

CRPS

This is a busy time of year for Council Rock!

- Our Let's Chat Meeting with the Principal on 9/7/18 was well attended and provided interesting introductory information about what's happening at CRPS this year.

- Child Watch at Curriculum Nights was an enormous success! We had two adult volunteers each night and 3-5 Helping Hands high school volunteers. We supervised 25-28 children each night and had to turn away a total of 29 children because we were at capacity for the number of volunteers. The most frequent response to our exit survey indicated that if Childwatch had not been available the parents would not have attended. Others said that one parent would have stayed home but this allowed both to attend, and some would have looked for a paid babysitter. Here are a few comments that parents wrote on the surveys:
  - “I think this is a wonderful program. As a single mom this is a great way to ensure that I can attend school events.”
  - “This was a fabulous option this year. Please continue to offer. My spouse works evenings and (on) school nights sitters aren’t usually available.”
  - We also received multiple comments from parents who expressed the desire that this service be offered at FRES (and TCMS for younger siblings)

We are planning to offer the program again next year and expand to both cafeterias to accommodate up to 50 children and plan to sign up volunteers in the spring since recruiting so early in the fall is a challenge.

- We sold additional calendars at Curriculum Nights for a total of 236 calendars sold at CRPS
- Our Winterwear drive is currently underway. It began 10/1/18 and will end this Friday, 10/12/18. Socktober, an initiative undertaken by CRPS’ Wellness Committee, where new socks are collected for homeless shelters, is happening concurrently and continuing through the end of the month. We will encourage more communication next year to hopefully eliminate overlapping drives. We are always looking for more ways to involve parents in school-driven events so might re-explore our community service drives for next year with the goal of alignment with classroom efforts.
- School pictures are in process—Wednesday and Thursday this week, 10/10 & 11. We hope to streamline the process for recording names in the class photos (e.g. proper spelling and order)
- Book fair is next week. Family night is Monday 10/15, 5-7:30pm and there will be three classroom days this year, Tues-Thurs 10/16-18. We are curious to see how the extra day and the change to Follett is received.
- Red Ribbon week is the following week 10/22-26 with special school-wide activities on each day, including an assembly where teachers will perform a Readers Theater and various themed dress days promoting healthy choices.
- Our library volunteer coordinator, Miranda Stefano, is hosting trainings for interested parents. She conducted one on 9/28 and another is coming up on 10/17.

- Our Halloween parade of students around the bus loop will occur at 9:45am and 1:30pm weather-permitting, with an eNews notification in the event of cancellation.
- Author/Illustrator Grace Lin visits CRPS on Friday, 11/2/18. Grace Lin is the author and illustrator of more than 20 books for kids (picture books, early readers, chapter books and young adult novels). Most are about the Asian-American experience. She believes that “books erase bias, they make the uncommon everyday, and the mundane exotic. A book makes all cultures universal.” Our librarian Adele Mockevicius is very excited that Grace Lin has agreed to sign books! A selection of her books will be available for purchase at the book fair.
- Our next Let’s Chat Meeting will be held in conjunction with SPED on Tuesday 11/6/18 at noon in the CRPS auditorium with the topic “Promoting Independence in Children”
- The Zero Waste initiative has expanded to CRPS this year, and though Impact Earth will provide assistance in the building for this entire school year, we have a need for parent volunteers to help students separate their refuse on Mondays and Fridays during lunchtime. We have a new Recycling Helpers committee to coordinate this and our chair, Madelyn Garcia, has lots of ideas to implement through this committee.
- We shared some great website resources with Mr. Tappon dealing with conscientious teaching of the Thanksgiving story, and Native Americans in general, and he will share them with all faculty members. The sites offer lesson plans, do’s and don’ts, crafts, and book lists. We would love to share them with other building reps to pass along to your principals. Please let us know if you are interested.

## FRES

We had wonderful attendance at our curriculum nights for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades!

- Calendar sales were brisk at all of our events this Fall. If any parents still need a calendar, we have a few for sale in the Main Office.
- The first Meeting with the Principal for this school year was yesterday. FRES parents learned about Extended Studies and Accelerated Math services offered at French Road. We appreciate all the parents who attended the meeting.
- Upcoming events:
  - 5th grade roller skating 10/11 & 10/12
  - 4th grade roller skating 10/18 & 10/19
  - 3rd grade roller skating 10/25 & 10/26
  - All roller skating events go from 3:30 to 4:45.
- Extended studies Parent Information night October 16 at 6 PM
- FRES/Special Ed Meeting with the Principals: "When your child is struggling," October 24th, 7 PM, Main Office Conference Room

## TCMS

- Today was bike and walk day. 105 kids signed in. Raffle at lunch with popsicles.
- Activity Nights:
  - 183 kids at 6<sup>th</sup> grade activity night
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade is next week.
- Outdoor Ed: Largest group, so far, of parent volunteers – 60
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade team building
- School pictures
- Oct. 18 – Author Visit with Laurie Halse Anderson
- Superintendents Day, talked about the grading system

## BHS

- Homecoming
  - Homecoming Dance took place. Just 156 students attended. BHS PTSA thinks it may be time for a different or new activity instead of homecoming dance. BHS PTSA provided candy and water.
  - Pep Rally was very well-attended.
  - Winner of Homecoming Competition was Seniors!
  - Thanks to our volunteer judges (Dave Beck, Betsy Fultz, and Frank Sciremamanno (sp?) and Dawn Wisset.
- National Blue Ribbon Award
  - BHS has been selected for the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award!
  - This is the highest honor that a school can receive.
  - BHS was nominated in January 2018 and officially received word of the award on October 1<sup>st</sup>!
  - BHS and BCSD contingent will be traveling with a small delegation of school officials November 7 & 8th to receive the award from Betsy DeVos, Education Secretary in Washington, DC.
  - Dr. Hall is putting together a committee of parents, teachers, students, and admins to plan the celebration assembly day and activities each school day leading up to the assembly.
  - The celebration will include honored guests from our local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as student performances.
- Meeting with the Principal
  - Excellent turnout. Good amount of freshman parents. Dr. Hall presented an overview of the school population and reported on the following topics:
    - AP Courses: BHS' making progress in encouraging more students to enroll in AP courses, including students of color. The percentage of students graduating with 1 or more AP courses overall is 71%. (NYS average is 42%).
    - Percentage of African American seniors with 1 or more AP courses increased 22% since last academic year up to 44%.
    - Percentage of white seniors with 1 or more AP courses increased 5% to 73%.

- Percentage of Asian seniors with 1 or more AP courses fell slightly to 85% (from 83%).
  - AP Chem and AP Physics C had increased female enrollment, more females than males in these courses this academic year. Dr. Hall thinks BHS may be one of the only schools in the country with this stat.
  - AP stats, AP psych, AP computer science are good introductory AP courses, if a student or parent is concerned about the workload.
- College & Career Exploration:
  - Internships / job shadows & work placements = 64
  - Independent Study = 13
  - Future Friday career presentations offered during flex – 13
  - EMCC offers alternative to college. Kids leave 1/2 day and learn a trade.
- Transfer students: Dr. Hall discussed the identified need to support BHS transfer students through their transition to BHS through the Brighton Student Transfer program or "BST". All transfers placed with Brighton Support Center for 6 weeks. And, all have a staff mentor providing support all year. The impact of additional support for transfer students has resulted in improved graduation rates for this population.
- AIM program update: Program has returned to operating within BHS and is structured for double blocks of time for instruction - students in this program have an 80 percent graduation. 8/10 at risk students graduate
- Overall graduation rates:
  - Overall June 2018 graduation rate = 91.2% (2018)
  - Special Education graduation rate 64.4% (*12 students in 2018 were not eligible to graduate, otherwise rate would = 90%*). 2017 rate = 85%)
  - Overall June 2018 Hispanic student graduation rate = 100% (9 students)
  - Overall June 2018 African American student graduation rate = 83% (87.9% for August)
  - Dr. Hall credits a total team approach to improved graduation rates across all student populations.
- Student Leadership- Culture, Climate, Diversity, and Equity Student Leadership Team:
  - brings together a variety of student-led groups across gender, race, faith, and interests.
  - Diversity panel comprised of various student groups
  - Conducting staff professional development specific to diversity issues - this past Friday's Superintendent's Conference Day P.D.

for BHS involved BHS staff participating in a poverty simulation exercise.

- Police Foot Patrols: Dr. Hall will distribute a paper survey (reaches ALL students) to all students regarding the police foot patrols in the school. (April/May 2018)
- Areas BHS is focusing on for 2018-2019:
  - Reviewing homework philosophy in all departments - It's necessary but let's look at purpose, type, etc.
  - BHS is working with Genesee Valley Mental Health - they are on campus twice a week, providing direct counseling services from GVMH to BHS students referred by their BHS counselor. GVMH handles all the insurance paperwork, etc.
  - Delphi services is also on campus providing assistance for students dealing with substance abuse.
  - School Helpline 800-418-6423 x359 – an anonymous tipline. Dr. Hall pointed out this was the method with which the student in the Irondequoit school district was identified in relation to the threat against one of the Irondequoit schools.
- Brighton Believes Day March 6th, will need 5-6 parents to plan & up to 30 volunteers @ BHS the day of.
- Senior Bowling Nights are not a Brighton Central School District event.

### SPED

- This year, we will be hosting 4 joint SPED/PTSA meetings, 1 in each building, and a SPED parent panel and reception.
  - Our 1st 2 meetings are coming up:
    - \* On Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm at FRES, Christine Treasure will be presenting on the topic "What to do if your student is struggling?" You should see the flyer in the next couple of days.
    - \* On Tuesday, November 6 at noon at CRPS, Dr. Sraddha Prativadi, who is also a parent in the district, will be speaking about "Promoting independence in children."

### III. Committee Reports

- Fundraising
  - Spirit Wear Sales: almost \$7000 at homecoming. Online sale until 10/12 for sweatshirts. Sold some at TCMS curriculum night. Brought some to

reunion weekend but did not sell any. T-shirts and sweatshirts. 102 people have ordered.

- Calendar Sales Report: FRES 26; CRPS 110; Emily has 43 from BHS and TCMS. Give away to new families. 18 at front desk at central. Sold 9 at homecoming, approximately 12 sold at FRES at curriculum nights.
- New Calendar Design Needed – Leslie thinks we have someone. Mr. Gul offered to help from the audience. Deborah Pulley will meet with him.
- Qdoba fundraiser, Thursday, October 18, 4-8 pm.
  - The flyer will be distributed in force Friday. Please be sure to pass share it often.
- In Facebook, make sure to share spirit wear and Qdoba flyer.
- Membership – Heidi Kerwin
  - 483 members
  - 407 have not accessed memberhub
  - 5 members whose email addresses were illegible or incorrect: Cindy Garz; Sheila Lawrence; Jason Maffet; Cynthia Smith; Walerd Zoagan
    - Any help with their emails would be great.
  -

#### **IV. Old Business**

- Resolution to BEF/Author Visit Funds Questions
  - Katie Lambert here to discuss. \$3000 to BEF for author visits. She explains that historically they've taken turns. But they also want to know how much money they need to manage the money to know how much more they still need for author's visit. Wants it to be even among the librarians. Librarians want to meet with Emily and BEF. Karen Hatch spoke about setting up the author visit fund. The amount is a pittance. School can't hold the money for librarians as a carry over. That's why BEF holds it instead. Historically it was a fluid procedure. But things may have to change, may need to have more clarity with 4 separate accounts
  - Trying to work through the details.
  - Librarians coordinate with other districts or public libraries to get the same author to share expenses. Public library pays for most expenses and school only needs to pay the honorarium.
  - Book fair money: could it be used for something other than books. Could it be used for author visits? Could take the money from book fairs and put in allocated accounts. Usually get book value instead of cash.
  - This year, the \$900 shortfall for TCMS was covered by Rob Thomas. Who is keeping the accounts for these authors? Intent was that BEF is supposed to be keeping track of the money. They were not doing this part.
- Discussion of MemberHub:
  - Emily gave quick tutorial on MemberHub.
    - Who is using it; how it can be used (whether community communication or internal PTSA communication); use of Whiteboards for collaboration; volunteer opportunities.

- Discussion of overlapping or doubling efforts on PTSA website.
  - Discussion of linking MemberHub and volunteer form.
  - We need to have people actually joining the MemberHub. MemberHub link needs to be on the website.
  - Examples of uses: developing event processes and reports.
- Discussion on hosting a workshop on PTA Reflections Program
  - Discussion to create line item for BHS' ACE program

## **V. New Business**

- BCSD Wellness Committee
  - Fun Food Friday Table at Farmer's Market, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 12 pm
- BHS Blue Ribbon School Celebration
  - PTSA's Contribution? Dr. Hall submitted a grant for \$1250 Activities for flex for week leading up, souvenirs for all students and staff, blue bagels, etc. When FRES received the award, we gave \$500, but BHS is a bigger school. Alumni association is paying for t-shirts for all kids. Mugs for teachers from Crazy Dog Printers (donated). 1 of 313 as exemplary, high performing schools. Just one of 20 in NYS with that designation. Blue Ribbon website. Add a link to it on the PTSA website. [put a congratulations to BHS on website]
  - Alumni association putting in money for banners, etc. so grant would be for food and activities, speakers for them to come in (Governor, etc.). The amount is less than a dollar a person. The Board, administrators from other buildings are invited.
  - Motion to vote to approve grant to BHS for celebration. Leslie Slater moved. Second, Sangita Patel. Yea: 18. Nay: 0. Passed.
- Diversity, Inclusion & Equity and Advocacy Committee
  - Duplicating District and Town Efforts?
    - Feedback: form two committees (*Diversity and Advocacy*). Positive feedback.
      - District Committee – two parent reps from each school. So make PTSA's be a way to carry larger parent voice to get more voices involved. Be the liaison to the district admin. Both national and state PTAs are asking for units to have committees.
      - Ex: Greece schools advocated for equity in School supplies.
      - Heather talked about the National website – school start issue. Handed out Resolution to all board members. May be other good examples of how to approach advocacy.
      - Defining diversity and equity – including economic, age, adoptive parents with children of color. Emily meeting with RIT professor regarding LGBTQ family issues.
      - NYS and National have guidelines for these committees. WE can decide what's important after that for our

committees. Report when Kevin and other administrators come to meetings. Can first meeting be a meeting of minds and then the committee can decide who is best for chair? Before that, the President can be the moderator. Check the state site.

- Set a broad informational meeting.
- Audience Question: Are goals already in place by national and state or are we creating them. Deborah Pulley explained it's national, state and unit-level. Gave some history of how the committee discussion began as on-going discussion from CURB regarding Thanksgiving lessons.

#### **VI. Open Discussion and Questions**

- Smoking ban press conference next week some time.
- Marlowe Washington, diversity consultant to District will be speaking at November meeting. Met with BSU last week.
- New parent to district expressed interest in concerns of students/families of color.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm.

## Budget 2018-2019 - October 2018

### Fundraising Projection

School Pictures: \$7,000

Calendar Sales: \$8,000

Spirit Wear: \$4,000

Art Sale: \$1,200

FRES Movie Night: \$800

Ice Cream Socials: \$1,500

Book Fairs: \$1,000

Community Fundraisers: \$1,500

    Food Truck Rodeo: (\$1,121.54)

    Amazon Smile: (\$36.99)

Total: \$25,200

Checking: \$20,768.75

Savings: \$22,254.94

Class Accounts:

'23: \$3,462.41

'24: \$2834.81

'25: \$1,098.53

### Obligations & Allocations

Hardship Grants: \$10,000  
(CRPS: \$2000, FRES: \$2248, TCMS: \$2552, BHS: \$3200)

Author Visits: \$3,000 (\$3,000)

Membership Dues: \$3,200

Building Funds: \$1,650  
BHS \$600 (\$85.83), TCMS \$300, FRES \$300, CRPS \$300,  
SPED \$150

Grants: \$4,000 (\$500 to ACE at BHS)

Central PTSA: \$400

- Donations/Sunshine
- BOE Appreciation Night (\$200 to Brighton Food Cupboard)
- Miscellaneous

Fun Food Friday/Tasty Tuesday: \$550

- FRES: \$300
- CRPS: \$250

Staff Appreciation: \$1500

Scholarship: \$1000

Life Membership Awards & Ceremony: \$700

Retirement Gifts: \$550

Software: \$500

Postage: \$225

Printing: \$300

Bank Fees: \$250

Tax Prep: \$500

Insurance: \$900

Total: \$29,225