

Central PTSA Meeting
January 9, 2019

BCSD Central Office Building

Attendance: Natalie Pincus, Katrina Robinson, Sangita Patel, Tara Minor, Maranne McDade Clay, Christina Pearson, Stacia Rush, Linda Wilcox, Heidi Kerwin, Miranda Peters, Heather Coyne, Manish Dixit, Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Stephanie Bush, Kathryn Kubiak-Rizzone, Emily Brown, Kelsey Rinella, Wende Domm, Deborah Pulley, Alissa Chilson, Emily Minerva

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

I. Officers Reports

Secretary's Report:

Approval of November and December 2018 Minutes

- November: Motion made by Alissa Chilson; Seconded by Maranne McDade Clay.
- December: Motion made by Kelsey Rinella; Seconded by Christina Pearson.
- Minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

January Budget Report

- Reminder to have event chairs fill out forms.
- We have still not received any proceeds from Qdoba fundraiser. Heidi will look into this.
- School Pictures raised \$7,612.72, per Linda Wilcox.

Line Item Concerns:

- It was brought to attention by Tara Minor that some yearly PTSA and Building obligations should be listed as yearly line-item allocations; in particular, Coco and Cram, Mr. Quinlisk's reading program, and Brighton Believes. Rather than using Nancy Beck grants, as CRPS and BHS are doing this year.

II. Building Reports

TCMS

- Principals had a meeting with all students by grade and discussed the state of the school.
- Student Risk Behavior Assessment Survey—will be going out to all students in 7th and 8th grade.
- Student Council sponsoring cookie dough sales to help defray Outdoor Education and Washington, DC. trip. Discussion regarding promoting the sale district-wide.

- Book Club-style Meeting with the Principal scheduled for February 13 at 7 p.m. The book is called “Untangled.”
- Ski and snowboarding club starts
- 2nd round of activity nights 7th grade (Pajama theme), 8th grade (Minute to Win It).

FRES

- Book Fair: Went very well. Proceeds not figured out, yet. Happy with Follett as a vendor. Next year, it will be scheduled for beginning of November. (Concerns expressed that Band could not attend Dr. Rioux’s reading, and that there should have been a charge for popcorn rather than free.)
- Upcoming:
 - Roller Skating for the next 3 weeks.
 - Meeting with the Principal on the 16th, Topic will be about Second Step program from Counseling office.
 - Summer Activities Fair, January 28 – Need to promote district wide.
 - Movie Night, January 31 – Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library. Short movie, but all the school is reading it. Tara says she and Dan will be working on survey for pizza on movie nights. Lemon-based snacks will be sold.

BHS

- Quiet December, except for 2018 Class Reunion.
- January: Co-co & Cram, College and Career Night; Midterms; 8th grade Parent Information Night
- Remind App starting from Dr. Hall. 8th Grade parents will sign up for Remind night of the Information Meeting.
- Next Meeting with the Principal is on January 29th, discussing course selection.
- 8th Grade Parent Night: If there are any specific questions from 8th grade parents, please get them to Sangita, Tara, and Maranne by email. Won’t be much time for questions from the audience, so having them in advance will be helpful. A board member reminded BHS building chairs to include a conversation about vaping at that meeting.

SPED

No report given. Representatives absent.

CRPS

- Toy and Book Drive happening now for Ronald MacDonald House and Hope House.
- Kindergarten Parent Info Night – geared towards first-time Kindergarten parents, but others are welcome.
- Next Let’s Chat Meeting is January 30th, 7-8 p.m. It will include an Extracurricular Fair, highlighting sports, music lessons, dance, swim, karate, Scouts, etc. in both cafeterias. While geared toward CRPS kids, the information applies to older kids, too.
- Souperbowl Monday Feb 4. Chairs are seeking soup donations for teachers’ lunch. 80 servings needed.

- Gym classes have started a Mindfulness and Meditation unit. Relaxation corner in the corner of the gym to learn self-regulation.
- Rochester Nighthawks are coming at the end of month to do a healthy eating presentation.
- Breaking ground in a couple of weeks on building expansion. Will have to find a different way to deal with Field Days in June. Everyone will need a growth mindset for next year's construction. No auditorium for next year.

III. Superintendent's Report

Construction Phase:

- Bids came in better than expected, given prior concerns about labor shortage and tariffs and prior experience of other districts. Bids were in line with what was originally budgeted. The bidding process confirmed that we are getting what we need. Construction will start in a few weeks.
- Very hopeful that educational impact will be minimal. Work done away from classrooms or at different times. District determined the scheduling, based on what would create the least disruption and be most efficient.
- BHS auditorium – district is already working finding alternative sites for events that usually use the auditorium.
- Construction workers will be shuttled from Midtown Athletic to alleviate parking congestion in the Council Rock neighborhood.
- Please see the [Community Concerns page](#) on the [Brighton Facilities Improvement Project page](#) of the district website for any parent concerns regarding construction.
- Construction management is through Campus Construction, and SWBR is the architect for CRPS.

Diversity:

- Healing meeting: Good discussion. Hearing and listening, productive. Another one will be held in the spring.
- Restorative practices: disciplinary and academic. Would be great to have more discussion circles. NYC schools have had great success in this area. Dr. McGowan observed discussion circles while visiting NYC schools. The young boys talked about their emotions in ways that most adults can't do. How do we bring this into our discipline practices?
- Second Step Program: At our K-5 Level, counseling departments in the district are using Second Step program which teaches kids coping and social strategies they can use with their peers.
 - Ex: In Kindergarten circle: one boy says he's already bored and can't wait for school to end. The teacher relinquishes power and leadership in the

group, while different kids say something positive to make it better for that boy.

- NYC's Department of Education and CSD has hosted BCSD Board of Education for the past several years. During the Board's visit, members have seen the many innovative programs New York City schools implement to assist and educate a very diverse population.
 - Rigorous coursework: kids with tears told them about the first time a teacher believed in them to take an AP class.
 - Transfer Schools have kids who are homeless where there are washers and dryers for them to wash their clothes.
 - Middle schoolers visit college campuses.
 - Kids in at-risk situations are counseled about options.
- Question from Deborah Pulley re AP Test Expenses: How do we help students who aren't on assistance, but for whom the price is still prohibitive? Discussion about how district might be able pay for it. Something for the Board to discuss.
- District Committee:
 - Hiring: focused on diverse hiring,
 - Family Engagement: surveys of under-represented
 - Special Ed – honing practices
- Community Forum on Construction and Diversity and Equity – two circles of discussion. Board was listening, rather than involved in conversation. Balancing clarification versus listening.
- Budget process: more publicly underway in the next few weeks. Will use Thought Exchange on school spending with the hope that it will help with decisions.
- New Family Night – awesome event. Very exciting and positive event. Met people from 4 different continents. Thank you, PTSA, for support.
- Robotics won competition in Cornell this past weekend. And Brighton student made it into the top 300 students at STEM comp.

IV. New Business

- District Budget: Rescheduled PTSA District Budget Presentation to Tuesday, March 26 at 12:00 noon, in the Board Room at the District Office.
- Spirit Wear Flash Sale Report - \$4711 in sales.
- SPED Staff Appreciation Luncheon, January 11: Items still needed for this Friday.
- School Pictures Discussion – Linda Wilcox, involved for 14 years

- Meeting next week with picture day chairs for next year.
- Biggest complaint was the halo effect on lighter backgrounds. New lighting system this year, not sure if that's the issue, but 95% of the complaints had to do with lighting problems.
- Retake scheduling needs to be addressed for next year. She'll discuss with MCA and says they are very accommodating. She's already been assured that photographers will take time with older students to help pick out the photo they like best. At BHS, there was miscommunication regarding scheduling. Need to make sure the retake date gets included in the principal's newsletter.
- Linda thinks we should stay with MCA as they are very conscientious. Willing to improve and accommodate what we need as a district. If there is still a desire to change vendors, Linda recommends formation of a committee to discuss vendor changes in 2020. Dr. McGowan expressed concern that people of color had difficulty with the exposure/lighting of their kids. Manish Dixit suggested doing some test shots at each building when MCA sets up lighting.
- Board agreed to move forward with MCA for the next year.
- Lifetime membership: May 1, 7 pm at TCMS. Put the word out that this is happening. Set up a committee in February. Deadline for nominations is March 8. Need time to get pins from NYSPTA. Deborah Pulley is the Chair of the committee. In years past, nominations were set aside because there weren't the correct number of letters or the right number of different letters. This is a state award, not local award, so we must abide by their rules.
- Brighton Believes Award – Stacia Rush mentioned nominations are being taken by Rob Thomas.
- Systems/Procedures/Templates:
 - Examples from other PTSAs: Action Plan, Checklist, Evaluation, etc.
 - Emily Minerva gave out templates to building chairs as examples. In MemberHub, there's a book of all the possibilities. She will email these options.
 - For February Meeting, please write descriptions of:
 - Your Positions
 - Events
 - Committees
 - How many Hours
 - Stephanie Fuchs will be here in February, so it would be good to have all of this info.

- TCMS – talk about having some event tool kits (scissors, tape, etc.) and more storage space. Talk to custodial staff about more closet space at District Office. Do we need a different committee on supply and procedures? Spreadsheet of what supplies we have?

V. Old Business

- Fundraising: Still looking for a chairperson for next year. Discussion of whether we need to spend down funds. BASH needs more funds. BASH and Closure party the only two events we charge for and don't know how many kids will attend. Alyssa suggested that we start with line item for each event; estimate by average attendance. Discussion of sponsorship with BASH; \$7000 event in the past. Alyssa suggests there needs to be a change to the budget to create line items for these.
- Art Fundraiser: table to next year.
- Spirit Wear: possible run in March? Tax on spirit wear for online sales. No tax for things we already have in stock.
- Diversity Committee: concern that anything the PTSA does will be duplicative of current district and town efforts. Emily will email those people who have emailed her and see what they want. Discussion of best ways to reach out to diverse families. Thought Exchange, bulletin boards, hard copies, etc., word of mouth?
- Volunteers: Orientation at CRPS is best way to get people involved early.

Next Meeting: February 13, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:08 p.m.

Budget 2018-2019 - January 2019

Fundraising Projection

School Pictures: \$7,000

Calendar Sales: \$8,000 (\$7,929.46)

Spirit Wear: \$4,000 (\$6,811.50)

Art Sale: \$1,200

FRES Movie Night: \$800 (\$1,094.42)

Ice Cream Socials: \$1,500

Book Fairs: \$1,000 (CRPS \$335.47, FRES \$1045.21)

Community Fundraisers: \$1,500

 Food Truck Rodeo: (\$1,171.54)

 Amazon Smile: (\$58.24)

Total: \$25,200

Checking: \$24,009.30

Savings: \$22,256.92

Cass Accounts: '23: \$3,765.96 '24: \$2,865.68 '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 (1,957.00)

Building Funds: \$1,650 - BHS \$600 (\$85.83), TCMS \$300 (\$56.27), FRES \$300 (\$47.10), CRPS \$300 (\$52.00), 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 (\$63.30)

Staff Appreciation: \$1500 (\$2 per person) BHS: \$213.58

Scholarship: \$1000

Life Membership Awards & Ceremony: \$700

Retirement Gifts: \$550

Software: \$500

Postage: \$225

Printing: \$300

Bank Fees: \$250 (\$35)

Tax Prep: \$500 (\$500)

Insurance: \$900

Total: \$29,225