

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council September 21, 2009

Call to Order: Paula Van Buren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Jackie Ballinger, Darcy Baumbach, Barb Becker, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Jason Lasky, Kathy Lynch, Joe Pericone, Lauren Roecker, Jim Schultz, Cathy Todd, Paula Van Buren, Lynnette Ziskin.

President's Report: Paula Van Buren.

~Paula welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and welcomed the new Council members.

~Paula spoke of the upcoming bond proposition. BH-BL Board of Education members discussed recommendations from a renovations advisory committee and indicated they plan to hold a public vote on renovations in December. School board members are particularly interested in projects that will reduce energy costs, improve student safety and maintain the community's investment in school facilities. The total dollar amount of the referendum is \$29.5 million; the total cost to BH-BL taxpayers will be \$507,000. The projects that board members favor to be included are energy conservation projects: replacing the Stevens elementary school boiler and heating system (\$3.6 million), replacing boilers and heating controls at Charlton Heights elementary (\$1.5) million, and replacing deteriorating roofing, exterior doors, and single-pane windows throughout the district. Safety projects include redesigning the traffic pattern at both the O'Rourke middle school and Stevens elementary school. Each project would cost over \$1 million, would separate car and bus traffic, and would reduce congestion on Lakehill Road at certain times of the day. Other projects that the board was told were particularly urgent include upgrading aging movable gym walls at various schools, replacing the Stevens gym floor (the Stevens gym floor is so old and worn down that custodians can no longer refinish it every August as they usually do), and resurfacing the high school track. Resurfacing can only be done while the track's underlying structure is sound, otherwise the whole structure must be replaced; resurfacing the high school's aging track in the next couple years would actually save the district money. A report on specific needs in school septic systems is being prepared. The board is considering relocation of the district offices from the Hostetter Building to within an existing school; this decision cannot be finalized until a settlement is reached with the district's insurance company regarding payment for damages to the Hostetter Building in last November's water main break and subsequent major flood.

Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.

~The minutes of the May 19, 2009 Council meeting were distributed via e-mail, but had not yet been approved. A vote ensued; the May minutes were unanimously approved. They will be sent to Christy Multer for inclusion on the BH-BL website.

Treasurer's Report: Barb Becker

1. Barb met with Amy recently; the transition went smoothly. Signatures on the Council accounts have been finalized.
2. The Balance Sheet as of September 21, 2009 which reflects the following:
 - Checking Account: \$10,484.85
 - Savings Account: \$8,740.47
 - Total Assets: \$19,225.32

3. The Profit & Loss Budget Overview, July 2009 – June 2010.
4. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 1, 2009 – September 21, 2009.

~School Board Liaison's Report: Joe Pericone.

No report.

Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.

~Jim spoke about the district's policy regarding the H1N1 virus; BH-BL will follow the same guidelines as the county health department whose plans are consistent with the NY State Health Department. A letter was sent to homes summarizing things parents should know and be prepared to do if their children get sick.

~Jim also spoke about the CDC and their information advising what to do if you get sick. He reminded people if they are suffering from flu-like symptoms that they should stay home and not spread illness whether their illness has been diagnosed as a specific type of flu or not.

~Much more information on this topic is available on the BH-BL website: www.bhbl.org.

~The Strategic Framework Committee's goal is to seek answers to questions and then develop a strategic plan regarding how BH-BL can improve our instructional program to best prepare our students for success in school, college, the workforce, and society to meet the needs of the 21st century. More information is available on this topic on the BH-BL website: www.bhbl.org.

Teacher Representative's Report: Jason Lasky.

~Jason has graciously agreed to act as the teacher's representative, but had no report.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Karen Smith.

No report. (Amy Agan and Karen Smith are finishing up the audit.)

Eileen Briggs Award: Ann Slocum.

No report.

Arts & Enrichment: Jackie Ballinger.

No report.

Founders Day: Erin Pezzulo.

No report.

Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.

~This fall, the BH-BL Theatre for Children will pilot a fall production. This smaller scale, short production will cost much less than the spring production. The play will be Rapunzel, a comedy which will include children in grades 2 through 8.

~A show has not yet been chosen for the spring production which will be held on April 16 – 17.

Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.

No report.

Council Delegate Reports:

High School PTA Council Rep: Lynnette Ziskin.

~Mrs. Symer reported that the opening of the school year was smooth.

~They are feeling the effects of the staff that was lost due to budget cuts: hall monitor, lunch monitor, and major changes in the GED staff.

- ~A letter was sent home regarding the H1N1 virus; see details above in Jim Schultz's report and more information on-line at www.bhbl.org.
- ~A workshop will be held on October 6 at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall featuring a presentation by Rachel Simmons. The content of the program is for middle and high school parents and their daughter(s) regarding bullying among girls.
- ~German students will be at BH-BL from September 26 – October 15.
- ~Sadly, there is no foreign exchange student this year at BH-BL, although we have sent a (female) student to Brazil.
- ~The 9th grade orientation went well. 48 junior and senior mentors of the Leadership Training Program were extremely beneficial in executing this program.
- ~A parent volunteer is still needed to sit on the Planning Council. Meetings will be on Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- ~A united effort is being taken to enforce the rules of cell phone used during the instructional day. Cell phones are to be turned off during classes.
 - 1st violation – the cell phone will be taken to main office.
 - 2nd violation – student will be placed on the “cell phone plan” for one week – must relinquish phone at main office in morning and will have it returned at the end of day.
 - 3rd violation – will be handled by Mr. Brunson.
- However, cell phones can be used in hallways between classes and in the lunchroom.
- ~Yearbook pictures will be September 23 – 24 in the Blue Room.
- ~The Prom will be held on May 7, 2010, which is one week earlier than last year.

Middle School PTA Council Rep: Mary Beth Frewin.

No report.

Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

- ~The first PTA meeting was the budget meeting.
- ~All committee chairs have been filled.
- ~A Children's Garden committee was added; received donations.
- ~Many Arts & Enrichment programs have an increased cost this year.
- ~The next meeting will be October 6, 2009.

Pashley PTA Council Rep: Darcy Baumbach.

- ~The first meeting was last Thursday, September 17.
- ~School-wide Character Education presentation, “How Full is your Bucket?”
- ~The Fall Festival will include pony rides and a petting zoo.
- ~School pictures will be this Wednesday, September 23.
- ~The PTA meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month; the next meeting will be on October 8.

Stevens PTA Council Rep: Cathy Todd.

- ~School pictures will be next week on Wednesday, September 30.
- ~Curiosity Shop will begin on Wednesday October 7; fewer classes this year.
- ~Discussion at the PTA meeting included PTAs to subsidize the cost of the students' agendas; Stevens' agendas cost \$3,000.
- ~Overall PTA volunteerism is down this year; several committees are still in need of a chairperson.

~Jackie Ballinger reported that Valerie Simpson is the new Arts & Enrichment representative for Stevens. The A & E budget was reduced from \$8,000 to \$5,000.

Vice-president: Erin Pezzulo.

~No report.

2nd Vice-president: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

No report.

3rd Vice-president: Lauren Roecker.

~The Transportation Breakfast held in June was successful and very much appreciated.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 p.m.

**The next PTA Council meeting will be held on Monday January 11, 2010
in the Principal's Conference Room at the High School.**

NAME	E-MAIL	TITLE
2009-2010		
Ballinger, Jackie	jballin1@nycap.rr.com	Arts & Enrichment Rep.
Baumbach, Darcy	darcy@nycap.rr.com	Pashley Council Rep.
Becker, Barb	Keysmom1@hotmail.com	PTA Council Treasurer
Frewin, Mary Beth	mbfrewin@nycap.rr.com	O'Rourke PTA Council Rep.
Kruppenbacher, Laurie	t.kruppenbacher@att.net	2 nd Vice-president Charlton Heights Council Rep.
Lasky, Jason	jlasky@bhbl.org	Teacher Rep.
Lynch, Kathy	flower145@aol.com	Theatre for Children Rep.
Pericone, Joe	Joseph.Pericone@ge.com	School Board Liaison
Pezzulo, Erin	eep@nycap.rr.com	1 st Vice-president
Roecker, Lauren	lroecker@nycap.rr.com	3 rd Vice-president
Schultz, Jim	jschultz@bhbl.org	Superintendent
Slocum, Ann	slocann@nycap.rr.com	Eileen Briggs Scholarship Rep.
Smith, Jean		Odyssey of the Mind Rep.
Todd, Cathy	Ctodd00@msn.com	Stevens PTA Council Rep.
VanBuren, Paula	pvanburen@nycap.rr.com	PTA Council President
Ziskin, Lynnette	lynnettez@earthlink.net	PTA Council Secretary High School PTA Council Rep.