

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council

March 15, 2010

Call to Order: In Paula Van Buren's absence, Barb Becker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Barb Becker, Rachel Engelhardt, Mary Beth Frewin, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Jason Lasky, Joe Pericone, Jim Schultz, Cathy Todd, Lynnette Ziskin.

President's Report: Paula Van Buren.

~The remaining Council meeting for the school year will be held on Tuesday May 18 (same day as the BH-BL Budget Vote).

~The Founders Day ceremony was held on February 4. There was a nice turnout to recognize outstanding volunteers and their years of service and their notable dedication "above and beyond" the usual to the needs of local students and families. Paula's report sent her thanks for being honored as the recipient of the award from Pashley Elementary, and includes a "thank you" to Barb Becker for her assistance in organizing the Founders Day event.

~Paula encouraged everyone to get informed and be involved in the BH-BL District's budget process during this difficult time in achieving the best for our schools with the projected loss of \$1.6 million in state aid, and particularly, she urged the unit PTAs to do their part.

~The Bus Transportation Recognition Breakfast will be held on June 2 at Stevens Elementary.

Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.

~The minutes of the January 11, 2010 Council meeting were distributed via e-mail and unanimously approved. They will be sent to Christy Multer for inclusion on the BH-BL website.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Van Buren for Barb Becker.

1. The Balance Sheet as of March 14, 2010 reflects the following:
 - Checking Account: \$9,348.64
 - Savings Account: \$8,740.47
 - Total Assets: \$18,089.11
2. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 1, 2009 – March 14, 2010.
3. The Theatre for Children Income and Expense Report reflected income of \$1,609.24 from the fall production.

School Board Liaison's Report: Joe Pericone.

~Joe Pericone extended congratulations to all Founders Day winners.

~Joe reported that two public forums to discuss the 2010-2011 budget were extremely well attended. Use of the web cam was successful; an estimated 300 people took part in each forum. The third forum will be held on March 25. The complete calendar and communications plan for the budget developing process is available on the website: www.bhbl.org.

~He reported that Jim Schultz's proposed budget will be discussed at length at tomorrow night's Board of Education meeting.

~Tim Kelliher is retiring from the BOE. Initially, Bob Speck announced he would also retire, but has decided to seek another term.

~ Joe stated that the budget is very difficult to balance without causing damage to our current programs.

~Joe announced that, once again, BH-BL has best graduation rate in Suburban Council. BH-BL has tied with Niskayuna for having the highest cohort graduation rate among all 13 Suburban Council High Schools.

Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.

~ Only 146 incoming pupils took part in the annual Kindergarten Registration drive held on March 8 & 9. Jim reported that the district estimated 215 incoming kindergarten pupils in the district for 2010-2011. An article will be placed in local newspapers notifying parents to register their child as soon as possible if they missed the registration day. Staffing changes could result due to low enrollment.

~A recent meeting was held with the Elementary Principals regarding the district's bussing policies to expand the kindergarten policies to include 1st graders. There are some children that regularly ride a (different) bus to different locations.

~This year's Budget has imposed some difficult challenges. Jim reiterated that this will be an extremely difficult year for the school budget. A downloadable (able to make changes to the letter) form letter for parents and staff appears on the district webpage – parents please show your support for our district's programs and staff by mailing a letter to state legislators. Jim will present his proposed budget to the BOE at tomorrow night's meeting. Much more information on this topic is available on the BH-BL website: www.bhbl.org.

~The final Budget Forum will be held on March 25; the location has changed to either the BH-BL High School or the Middle School.

Teacher Representative's Report: Jason Lasky.

~Jason reported on behalf of teachers and stated the concern regarding the educational impact of the impending budget. He encouraged people to ask questions, and to help lobby at both the local and state level on behalf of the district.

Committee Reports:

Arts & Enrichment: Jackie Ballinger.

No Report.

Audit Committee: Karen Smith.

No report.

Eileen Briggs Award: Ann Slocum.

No report.

Founders Day Report:

~The Founders Day celebration was held on February 4 at the Edison Club. Many thanks extended to the BH-BL Select Choir for an astounding performance at the event.

Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.

No report.

Nominating Committee: Laurie Kruppenbacher, Mary Beth Frewin, Jackie Ballinger.

~The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers as follows:

- President: Mary Carrier
- Secretary: Lynnette Ziskin
- Treasurer: Rachel Engelhardt

- 1st Vice-president: Chris Katz
- 3rd Vice-president: Mary Beth Frewin

Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.

~Everything is going well for “Wonderland”, an adaptation of Alice in Wonderland, and will be held the weekend of April 16 & 17. Kathy requested for the elementary school reps to coordinate tickets sales via backpack mail, as was done last year and very successful.

Council Delegate Reports:

High School PTA Council Rep: Lynnette Ziskin.

~On Saturday May 22, Mike Mosall and his Economics classes, the PTSA, and the Student Government Organization are planning “Spartan Day”. The proceeds of this all day fundraising event will benefit repairs to the BH-BL High School Auditorium. This event will include a pancake breakfast in the morning, athletic tournaments throughout the day, video game competitions in the afternoon, a BBQ and volleyball tournament in the early evening, and a modern rock concert at night.

~Mrs. Ostrom is in need of 10 – 12 parent chaperones to accompany the 10th grade class trip to Schenectady Community College. The trip is scheduled for March 16 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

~A thank you card was received from Dr. and Mrs. Farrell for supporting the 2010 Follies. The Follies income was \$1,500 over the budgeted amount.

~Congratulations to the BH-BL boys varsity basketball team! They won both the Sectional finals and Regional finals.

~Congratulations to 2 Odyssey of the Mind teams – 1st and 2nd place winners in the local competition.

~Congratulation to Mr. Watts and his Science team who placed 2nd at the Science Bowl!

~ Help us repair the BH-BL High School Auditorium curtain by purchasing some Smith's Orchard pies from the PTSA for your upcoming Memorial Day and summer festivities! For more information please visit the BH-BL website or contact PTA member Michele Koester at 384-3702 with your questions.

Middle School PTA Council Rep: Mary Beth Frewin.

~Beth McKone, middle school PTA President, is concerned with the lack of participation/volunteerism at the middle school, including attendance at PTA meetings.

~The tests at the middle school have been very rigorous.

~The Drama Club will present “Cinderella” on March 19 & 20.

~Better communication is needed to inform middle school staff of Founders Day. Next year it was suggested that a paper copy of the nomination form be placed in staff mailboxes.

~Invitations to the annual fall Craft Fair will be placed in the mail soon. The charge for a booth is \$75, and only \$60 for early registrants. Members of the middle school PTA had a discussion about changing the craft fair’s name to “Craft and Vendor Fair”.

~Please support our fundraisers: ongoing/upcoming:

- March 23, Five Guys dinner 5 – 8 p.m. in Clifton Park; 20% of sales.
- Variety Show in April.
- April 16, Staff vs. Students volleyball game.
- The Rock ‘n Bowl was held on March 5, raised approximately \$300.
- Box Tops, 10 cents each - send them in!
- Capri-Sun juice pouches, 2 cents for each pouch.

- ~The Movie Night had low attendance.
- ~The Monopoly Board is still for sale – price is negotiable.
- ~The theme for the Staff Appreciation luncheon is “The Wild, Wild West”.
- ~The theme for the upcoming 8th grade dance is “Midnight Masquerade”.
- ~Christina Porter is working on behalf of the Nominating Committee – if you know of any volunteer that would like to be involved, please let Christina know.

Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

- ~There are currently many positions on the Board that need to be filled for next year.
- ~13 students’ work advanced to the Regional Reflections competition.
- ~PARP is ongoing – there is a different event every day.
- ~The After-school Enrichment Clubs included a drama production which was very successful.
- ~This year’s PTA budget is down by \$1100. It was decided to host a spring bulb sale.
- ~The Scholastic BOGO Book Fair will be held on March 26th.
- ~The Career Awareness Jamboree will be held on March 31st.

Pashley PTA Council Rep: Darcy Baumbach.

No report.

Stevens PTA Council Rep: Cathy Todd.

- ~The Book Fair will begin on March 17. It concludes on Friday March 10 with the Pajama Party.
- ~Science Nights are scheduled for April 14 and April 21.
- ~An effort to improve communication with teachers/staff will be made with regards to Founders Day. This year, no staff members were nominated to receive the Founders Day award, and no staff attended the Founders Day ceremony.

Vice-president: Erin Pezzulo.

No report.

2nd Vice-president: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

No report.

3rd Vice-president: Lauren Roecker.

No report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

**The next PTA Council meeting will be held on Tuesday May 18, 2010
in the Principal’s Conference Room at the High School.**

**This is the final meeting of the school year and coincides with the SCHOOL BUDGET
VOTE at the BH-BL High School gym from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

PLEASE VOTE.

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.