

## **Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council**

### **January 14, 2008**

**Call to Order:** Peter Merchant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Amy Agan, Barb Becker, Linda Fieldhouse, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Kathy Lynch, Peter Merchant, Rocco Montesano, Lori Moore, Erin Pezzulo, Lauren Roecker, Jim Schultz, Karen Smith, Rita Snively, Paula VanBuren, Lynnette Ziskin.

#### **President's Report: Peter Merchant.**

~Peter welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending tonight's meeting.

~Peter finally met with Kim Valardi the Northeastern Region By-Laws Chair to resolve the Council's By-Laws matter last Friday, January 11. Our By-Laws were not submitted to Regional PTA two years ago. The necessary changes were made and the By-Laws have been signed. Peter will return them to Kim for her approval; we hope to have them returned to us by March. Upon state approval, the Council By-Laws are good for 3 years.

~Peter informed us that a representative from Charlton Heights PTA will speak on behalf of PTA at the District Pre-K Parents meeting scheduled for Monday March 3 at Pashley Elementary School.

~Peter appointed members to the Nominating Committee. Lauren Roecker, Paula VanBuren and Barb Becker will search for candidates for the positions of president, secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. The Nominating Committee will present the candidates at the March Council meeting.

~Peter made mention of the \$4 billion financial crises of New York State and pointed out that programs such as music, art, and school library services (which are not mandated by the state) would be selected as the first to be eliminated.

#### **Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.**

~The minutes of the November 19 Council meeting are approved and were sent to Christy Multer for inclusion on the BH-BL website.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Amy Agan.**

~Amy's 3-page report consisted of the following:

1. The Balance Sheet which reflects the Current Assets as follows:

-Checking Account: \$3565.69

-Savings Account: \$8679.64

-Total Assets: \$12,245.33

2. The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual from July 1, 2007 through January 14, 2008.

3. An up-to-date Income and Expense report for the Theatre for Children.

~Amy announced that all five unit PTAs have paid their annual dues of \$75.00.

~Clarification is needed regarding the Substance Abuse Expense which is listed as a line item in our budget.

#### **School Board Liaison's Report: Mike Wolf.**

~No report.

#### **Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.**

~Jim announced that work to create the 2008-09 budget has started.

~He distributed a copy of the January 2008 *Bulletin* to all in attendance. He brought to our attention the centerfold of the Bulletin, which contains Strategic Planning Questions and Current Initiatives in regards to establishing policies, the annual budget, long range planning, and preparing for the district's future needs. The Bulletins are currently being addressed to BH-BL residents and will be mailed this week.

~The Custodial Excellence Award Winners article is on the back page of the Bulletin, which recognizes the outstanding BH-BL High School custodial team.

~There are two Budget Forums scheduled for February 28 and March 26, which are specifically intended for sharing information and collecting feedback from the public. The Public Budget Vote will be May 20, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the High School gym.

~The recycling program continues to be taken to a higher level throughout the district.

~Paula Van Buren inquired about the notification policy to residents regarding sex offenders living in the BH-BL district. Jim informed us that for a Level 1 offender, no notification is required by New York state law. The school district informs BH-BL residents of Level 2 and Level 3 offenders via the district's School News Notifier (SNN) as soon as the local police agencies notify the district. There is currently a Level 2 sex offender residing in the vicinity of Pashley School.

#### **Teacher Representative's Report: Andy Haluska, Rocco Montesano.**

~Rocco presented and then initiated an in-depth discussion regarding the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR). The APPR is founded on the conceptual principles of Charlotte Danielson. The four domains of professional practice are tightly integrated (planning, preparation, instruction, and professional responsibilities) and are articulated with the criteria for evaluation as required of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. By Board policy, non-tenured teachers are observed three times per year and tenured teachers every 3 years using the principles of the Charlotte Danielson's philosophy. Non tenured teachers create portfolios which must focus each domain. Tenured teachers develop a Professional Growth Plan based on one domain or one aspect from each domain. Basing the APPR on Charlotte Danielson's domains provides a straightforward common vocabulary with which to conduct an on-going professional conversation. The APPR Committee made recommendations to Jim Schultz after two years of work. The APPR includes a plan for teachers who need assistance, suggestions for how to help in the various areas, and are presented in a non-threatening manner. The APPR committee will reconvene monthly; the next meeting is planned for January 23.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Audit Committee: Karen Smith.**

~Karen announced that the audit committee has begun working and a full report will be presented at the March meeting.

##### **Eileen Briggs Award: Ann Slocum.**

No report.

##### **Arts & Enrichment: Rita Snively.**

~The acappella group, Buffalo Chips (from SUNY Buffalo), performed at the high school, middle school, and Charlton Heights in January.

~All 3 elementary schools received LBC (Local Building Capacity) grants for residency programs. Charlton Heights received \$1800 for their April residency program with Chris

Holder. The residency is for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and will focus on a study of Canada through the Arts.

~Stevens and Pashley are co-hosting a residency with Ellen Sinopli Dance Troupe in late spring. They were given \$1800 for this program.

**After-school Enrichment Clubs: Karen Smith.**

~The After-school Enrichment Clubs for Stevens and Charlton Heights elementary schools are currently in the second week (of four).

~Charlton Heights has 10 high school ROCK volunteers assisting in a club; Stevens has a lot, but Karen was uncertain of the exact number.

~There are middle school students participating in the field hockey club.

**Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.**

~This year's play will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. There will be a 7:00 p.m. performance on Friday March 28, and two performances on Saturday March 29, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. A flyer is being printed and will be sent to homes soon.

~There are a lot of new people involved in the Children's Theatre this year including director Tracy Blowers, professional lighting designer Margaret MacDowell; there's also a new choreographer.

~About 50 percent of the play's cast members are newcomers; there is a large cast for this play.

~There will be 5 Golden Tickets distributed somewhere in the BH-BL community.

~In an effort to increase ticket sales, the elementary school representatives offered to coordinate the purchases of tickets via backpack mail.

**Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.**

No report.

**Council Delegate Reports:**

**High School PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.**

~ Laurie reported that the high school PTA meeting is tomorrow (Tuesday, January 15).

~ Regents week begins this Friday, January 18.

**Middle School PTA Council Rep: Lori Moore.**

~Lori reported that the PTA membership drive totaled 265 members – 232 parent members and 33 staff members.

~The middle school production, "Once Upon a Mattress" will be held March 14 – 15.

**Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Barb Becker.**

~The membership drive totaled 252 members – 227 parent members and 25 staff members.

~The Holiday Shop went well.

~The After-school Enrichment Clubs are going well.

**Pashley PTA Council Rep: Paula VanBuren.**

~Pashley elementary is without a DARE program this year due to cutbacks in the town of Glenville police budget. Pashley parents and administrators are concerned that because of funding, the Glenville DARE officer is unable to provide lessons to their fifth graders. The town informed the school district in November 2007 that it would be unable to provide the program in 2008.

- ~The Boy Scouts have assumed the responsibility of the recycling program at Pashley and have set up bins throughout the school for the collections of recyclable materials.
- ~There are 60 students participating in Fitness Fridays – “Running to Beijing”; they are running laps around the perimeter of the gymnasium.
- ~The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast was successful. The money raised will purchase a computer projector intended for use at PTA movie nights and also for the staff to use.
- ~The nominating committee must find replacements for the entire Pashley PTA executive committee as their terms all expire this year.
- ~The annual “Read-In” will be held on March 7; the theme is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. .
- ~Curiosity Shop is scheduled for March 7, 14, and April 4. The movie night is planned for April 4, using the new computer projector.
- ~PJ Day will be January 23 (1/2 day of school).

**Stevens PTA Council Rep: Linda Fieldhouse.**

- ~Linda reported that the Stevens PTA membership drive totaled 456 members – 395 parent members and 61 staff members.
- ~The Nominating Committee has been formed to replace all current officers, with the exception being Linda who will remain for a second year as Council Rep.
- ~Family Fun Night will be this Friday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. featuring Dean Davis (Living World Ecology Center) with “Animals Nobody Loves”.
- ~An automated cash machine is now being used in the cafeteria in order to purchase school lunches.
- ~The recycling program will begin at Stevens in May.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president: Erin Pezzulo.**

No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president: Paula VanBuren.**

- ~The Founders Day winners are as follows:
  - Charlton Heights – Chris and Mark Katz
  - Pashley: volunteer award – Rachel Winters; staff award – Kim Ferrie
  - Stevens: Jackie Ballinger
  - O’Rourke Middle School – Robbie Paine
  - BH-BL High School: volunteer award – the Brewster family; staff award – Marta Roberts-Pekar.
  - PTA Council – Tim Sinnenberg
- ~The Founders Day dinner is Thursday February 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Edison Country Club in Rexford. The tickets and sign-up sheets are currently at all schools.
- ~Discussion entailed regarding the Founders Day awards continuing to be a surprise to the recipient. Currently all schools surprise their winner(s).
- ~The award application and instructions can be located at nyspta.org.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-president: Lauren Roecker.**

No report.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:39 p.m.

The next PTA Council meeting will be held on Monday March 17, 2008 in the Principal's Conference Room at the High School.

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**Addendums:**

~Peter Merchant received a letter from Kim Vilardi, Northeastern Region PTA By-Laws Chair, noting that as of 1/30/08, our Council is in good standing with the New York State PTA.

~At their meeting on January 22, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Board of Education members agreed to find \$2,000 in the district's budget to enable the 5th grade DARE program to go forward as usual later this spring at the Pashley Elementary School.