

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council
May 20, 2008

Call to Order: Peter Merchant called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Amy Agan, Linda Fieldhouse, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Kathy Lynch, Peter Merchant, Rocco Montesano, Lori Moore, Erin Pezzulo, Lauren Roecker, Ann Slocum, Rita Snively, Paula VanBuren, Lynnette Ziskin.

President's Report: Peter Merchant.

~Peter has received our current state-approved bylaws from Kim Vilardi. He distributed a copy of to all Council members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the bylaws; the vote followed, motion carried.

~Discussion ensued regarding storage of a copy of our bylaws in the high school library.

~After last month's meeting, there was confusion as to the correct order of the Council Vice-presidents as presented by the Nominating Committee. At our March meeting, the committee presented Erin Pezzulo for 1st vice-president, Laurie Kruppenbacher for 2nd vice-president and Lauren Roecker for 3rd vice-president. According to our bylaws, Article VIII, Section 2c "Officers...shall serve for a term of one year, or until a successor is elected." With Paula moving up, the Nominating Committee has chosen to nominate (again, according to our bylaws) "by designated order" rather than job title. The Nominating Committee has presented a slate within the parameters allowed under our bylaws. The Nominating Committee's recommendation will stand.

~A motion was made and seconded to accept the new slate of Council officers for 2008-2009:

- President – Paula VanBuren
- Secretary – Lynnette Ziskin
- 1st Vice-president – Erin Pezzulo
- 2nd Vice-president – Laurie Kruppenbacher
- 3rd Vice-president – Lauren Roecker
- Treasurer – Amy Agan

The vote followed; motion carried.

~Peter reported that Karen Smith was unable to attend tonight's meeting; a full report from the Audit Committee will take place at the September meeting.

~Peter thanked our teacher representative, Rocco Montessano, for coming to our meetings and speaking of substantive topics.

Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.

~The minutes of the March 17 Council meeting were approved electronically, and will be 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: \$10,320.86
 - Savings Account: \$8,706.86
 - Total Assets: \$19,027.72
2. The Profit & Loss Statement from July 2007 – June 2008.

3. The Income and Expense final report for the Theatre for Children which reflects a net income of \$5,686.56. Each elementary school will receive \$500.00 for their Arts & Enrichment programs and the PTA Council will receive \$300.00.

~Preparation of the 2008-2009 Council budget requires an investigation of the following:

-Reflections expense of \$50.00.

-Substance Abuse expense of \$100.00.

-Parent PTA Student Enrichment expense of \$125.00.

Amy suggested that these lines be closed; further discussion is needed.

~The PTA Council's Mail 'n More bill included a charge of \$41.65 to the Reflections account for color copies, signed for by Eileen Block. This is not an expense that belongs to our Council. If anyone has any information, please inform Amy.

School Board Liaison's Report: Mike Wolf.

~See Superintendent's report below.

Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.

~Mike Wolf and Jim are unable to attend the Council meeting tonight; they have a sub-committee meeting of the Board of Education. They sent a message for inclusion in our minutes which states, "We extend thanks for input and support on the budget. We are hoping it will be successful for the sake of our kids."

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

~Rocco's report was about a serious issue which is also being discussed by both the Teacher's Association and School Administration. There is great concern regarding inappropriate student attire in our high school, which is rapidly becoming an issue in our middle school as well. Our children are attending school inappropriately dressed, succumbing our staff members and teachers to vulnerable situations. Inappropriate styles worn by females are uncomfortable and almost impossible to address by a male staff member. Female administrators at both schools have spoken with all female students; unfortunately the result is minimal. Addressing this issue has become distracting and time consuming; it's taking time away from the academic day.

~Due to the nature of this sensitive issue, support and cooperation is sought from parents. Parents must understand the predicament our professional staff is being subjected to.

~PTA Council representatives are asked to discuss this topic with their school's PTA members, and ask parents to do their part in seeing that their children are appropriately dressed to attend school.

~A school dress code is in place but it's disregarded; mention was made regarding school uniforms.

~This delicate topic is putting our dedicated professionals in extremely difficult situations and a solution, popular or not, is inevitable.

~On behalf of the Teacher's Association, Rocco extended a thank you to all of the PTAs for providing luncheons for each school's staff on "Teacher Appreciation Day".

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Karen Smith.

~No report. (A complete report will take place at the September meeting.)

Eileen Briggs Award: Ann Slocum.

~The winner of this year's Eileen Briggs award was Andrew Slocum.

~Ann posed several questions about the Eileen Briggs award:

-Who was Eileen Briggs? [She was a former Charlton Heights employee.]

-Why was this award set up?

-Where does the money come from to support the scholarship?

~Little attention is paid to this award; there are very few nominations for it each year.

~She reported that it is not an award students are knowledgeable about; they do not apply for this award, it is an award of nomination by a staff member or community member.

~Ann is working with an antiquated folder of information that's over 8 years old.

~Should the Council consider changing this award? Further investigation is needed; discussion will continue at the September meeting.

~Rocco Montessano suggested perhaps changing it to an award given at the middle school level because teachers are often looking for ways to reward students. We'll also discuss this in the fall.

Arts & Enrichment: Rita Snively.

No report.

After-school Enrichment Clubs: Karen Smith.

No report.

Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.

~Kathy thanked everyone for supporting the Children's Theatre, and reported a very successful year. There were three performances of this year's play, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Sixty people worked on the production.

~Kathy again thanked the elementary representatives for coordinating the sale of tickets via backpack mail.

~The founder of the Children's Theatre, June Coffey, attended the play, and is interested in awarding an annual scholarship in the name of Theatre for Children.

~Charlton Heights principal, Tim Sinnenberg, set up a survey monkey with questions such as: "Did you go to the play?", "How did you hear about the play?", and "What other plays would you like to see?"

~A portion of the proceeds will be donated to each of the three elementary PTAs (\$500 each), the PTA Council (\$300), and some money will be donated toward either a new curtain or a new spotlight for the high school stage.

~Kathy thanked the PTAs and the PTA Council for supporting the Theatre.

Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.

No report.

Council Delegate Reports:

High School PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

~The last PTA meeting of the school year was held on May 5.

~John Blowers attended their meeting and spoke of the three open Board seats. He discussed the importance of voting and encouraged everyone to vote (today). He reported that modified sports did not get cut from the budget.

~Bob McGuire plans to diligently work on writing grants for the sports program.

~The nominating committee has filled almost all of the open positions; the vote will take place at the first PTA meeting in the fall.

- ~The Prom will be May 16. The After-Glow is expected to accommodate over 400 students.
- ~The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Crew team leaves tomorrow (May 21) for the National competition.
- ~The first high school newsletter (September issue) will be published and sent to homes; it will include volunteer sheets. The remainder of the school year, it will be sent home electronically.

Middle School PTA Council Rep: Lori Moore.

- ~The middle school Odyssey of the Mind team traveled to Binghamton and placed fourth in state competition.
- ~The slate of officers is nearly complete and will be presented at the June meeting.
- ~Beginning over the summer, the new officers will focus on new volunteers and additional volunteer involvement. It is important that the committee information files be completed and passed on to the next chairperson.
- ~Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the newsletter in paper format and directly mailed to each home. Continued discussion on this topic will occur in the fall.
- ~The volunteer sheets will be included in the May newsletter which will be mailed home soon.
- ~The Monopoly fundraiser consisted of 23 teams, 11 fewer than last year, which reflected in the decline of fundraising efforts. Monopoly 2009 will be the 25th anniversary.
- ~The final Push Cart fair was held last week. The staff feels the book is not conducive to current learning standards; they are considering other books with which to replace “The Push Cart Wars” as an interdisciplinary activity.
- ~The 8th grade Class Night will be held on Friday June 20. The awards ceremony will start at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. It will be followed by the dance at the middle school from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Barb Becker.

No report.

Pashley PTA Council Rep: Paula VanBuren.

- ~The PTA recently purchased a movie projector; it will be installed on the ceiling in the cafeteria over the summer.
- ~The Pashley Scholarship will be given out this Thursday to two recipients.
- ~The PTA Executive Board for the 08-09 school year is complete.
- ~The Volunteer Sheets are complete; they will be distributed next week.

Stevens PTA Council Rep: Linda Fieldhouse.

- ~2nd grade teacher, Audrey Woliner, has begun a fundraising crusade for a new stage curtain. Estimates are being sought; an estimate received over 2 years ago for a curtain was \$25,000.
- ~Details regarding the Summer Reading Challenge will be given in June.
- ~Amy Agan has volunteered to perform the audit.
- ~Stevens Goes Green was very successful; children and adults enjoyed a wide array of “green” activities and exhibits.
- ~Kindergarten Orientation is running smoothly.

- ~The committee chair list for 08-09 school year is complete.
- ~The Stevens Volunteer Sheets came home via backpack mail today.

Vice-president: Erin Pezzulo.

No report.

2nd Vice-president: Paula VanBuren.

No report.

3rd Vice-president: Lauren Roecker.

~The Transportation Recognition is planned for June 4. Arrangements have been made for many volunteers to help with the breakfast.

~On Tuesday June 3, Lauren and Erin Pezullo will be in the cafeteria at Stevens Elementary School to set up for this event.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 p.m.

The next PTA Council meeting will be held on Monday September 15, 2008 in the Principal's Conference Room at the High School.
