

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council
September 15, 2008

Call to Order: Paula Van Buren called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Amy Agan, Darcy Baumbach, Barb Becker, Nancy Della Pia, Linda Fieldhouse, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Kathy Lynch, Erin Pezzulo, Lauren Roecker, Jim Schultz, Karen Smith, Rita Snively, Paula VanBuren, Lynnette Ziskin.

President's Report: Paula Van Buren.

~Paula spoke of the upcoming Board of Education Appreciation week (October 20-24). A suggestion was made to honor each of the seven Board members with a gift basket which will include homemade/grown items, prepared and arranged by the children. The five PTA Council Board reps will coordinate with Paula to present the baskets to Board members at the October 21 Board meeting at Stevens School.

Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.

~The minutes of the May 20 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 report consisted of the following:

1. The Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008.
2. The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2007 – June 2008.
3. The Theatre for Children Income and Expenses final report 2007 – 2008.
4. The Profit & Loss Overview from July 2008 – June 2009; Amy explained the necessary changes.
5. The current Balance Sheet which reflects the Current Assets as follows:
 - Checking Account: \$19,356.91
 - Savings Account: \$8,709.62
 - Total Assets: \$28,066.53
6. The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2008 – June 2009.

~Final preparations were made to the 2008-2009 Council Budget. Amy amended the lines that were discussed at the last meeting (Reflections Expense, Substance Abuse Expense, and the interest line was lowered.) Linda Fieldhouse motioned to accept the budget with Amy's amendments, Laurie Kruppenbacher seconded the motion; the vote followed and the Budget was unanimously approved.

~School Board Liaison's Report: Nancy Della Pia.

~Nancy provided us with a copy of the Board of Education meeting dates and the location in which the meetings will be held. She reported when a Board member will attend building PTA meetings, that the Board President and Superintendent would attend PTA Council meetings, and encouraged PTA members to attend Board meetings within their buildings.

~The BOE will submit a form newsletter article to all PTA newsletters so that the content of BOE information is indistinguishable.

~The next BOE meeting will move the bond referendum closer to formation of a committee and a timetable.

Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.

~The district is moving forth with several important issues:

-They are focused on student results.

-The teachers are successfully working in teams. An example is the "Smart Goals" which recognizes that all students can achieve at a high level; this is reflected by the high school increase in diploma rate to 97% (comparably, other surrounding districts graduate 50% or lower.) BH-BL ranks #2 out of schools in the capital region and is one of only four high schools in the Greater Capital Region included in *Newsweek* magazine's ranking of the best high schools in the United States.

~Reminder: Middle & Elementary School pupils must attend sports events with an adult. Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake parents are advised that 8th grade and younger pupils who wish to attend evening varsity interscholastic sports contests must do so with an adult. This proactive policy change was made in the fall of 2006 due to the number of youngsters being left unsupervised at games and several incidents of fighting, belligerence and other inappropriate behavior.

~The Board is looking into a bond referendum this spring.

~The Board is developing a fee structure for use of facilities, especially the food service department because a new policy states that a Food Service employee is required if kitchen use is requested.

~Jim provided a brief summary of the problems associated with the bad batch of gym floor finish that was applied to the High School and Middle School gym floors. The batch number that was supplied to those buildings did not cure properly and those floors need to be stripped and refinished. The manufacturer and supplier have undertaken this process. The timeline for allowing athletic events in the gym is dependent on the curing process. Until the problem is resolved, there will be no activities allowed in the gym. Teams are being bused to Ballston Spa and Niskayuna for practices. Athletic Director Bob McGuire is rescheduling sports activities for as long as necessary. The associated costs incurred by this mishap are surmounting – rental of gym space, transportation, etc. Fortunately the weather has been conducive to having gym classes outside. Options for inclement weather days are swimming or bowling. Everyone has been working together in order to make the best of a bad situation.

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

~No report. (Rocco Montesano was unable to attend due to a family member's death.)

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Karen Smith.

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

Eileen Briggs Award: Ann Slocum.

~No report.

Arts & Enrichment: Rita Snively.

~Rita reported that the chair people for Arts & Enrichment in all schools are the same as last year.

~Pashley has substantially increased their Arts & Enrichment budget.

~The middle school does not have a PTA chair person

After-school Enrichment Clubs: Karen Smith.

~Meeting dates for elementary school ASEC chairpersons will be set soon.

- ~Pashley currently has no chairperson. Pashley did not participate in ASEC last year.
- ~There will be more effort given at the middle school level for ASEC.

Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.

- ~In May Kathy announced that a donation from the theatre would be given toward either a new curtain or a new spotlight for the high school stage. Those responsible for the donation are still undecided, but the donation remains imminent.
- ~Kathy announced that 2009 will be the 50th anniversary of the Theatre for Children. A survey requesting suggestions for a possible play presentation was not well responded to. Those being considered are The Wizard of Oz, The Lion King, Charlotte's Web, and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Also being considered is Grease, or Grease Jr.
- ~Kathy thanked the PTAs and the PTA Council for supporting the Theatre for Children.

Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.

- ~Jean was not present but sent a report stating that there are two OM teams at the high school level; no others are known as of yet.

Council Delegate Reports:

High School PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

- ~The first PTA meeting of the school year was held on September 8.
- ~A lengthy explanation and discussion happened regarding the situation of the gym floor(s).
- ~The first newsletter will be sent to homes prior to the 9–12 Back-to-School night (September 25); information about PTA membership and their envelopes will be attached to the first newsletter.
- ~The next meeting is scheduled for November 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Principal's Conference room.

Middle School PTA Council Rep: Mary Beth Frewin.

- ~The 6th grade Back-to-School night is scheduled for September 18.
- ~The 6th grade Rec Night scheduled for September 26 is canceled due to the condition of the gym floors.
- ~The Magazine Drive begins October 1.
- ~The 7th & 8th grade Back-to-School night is scheduled for October 2.
- ~The Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday November 1.

Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Barb Becker.

- ~Charlton Heights will commemorate its 50th anniversary with a Sock Hop celebration on Monday September 29.
- ~Back-to-School night for grades 4 & 5 is scheduled for Tuesday September 16; Back-to-School night for grades 2 & 3 will be held on Wednesday September 17.
- ~School pictures will be taken on Tuesday October 7.
- ~A table was set up at the Open House on September 3 in order to start selling PTA membership cards; this proved to be very successful.

Pashley PTA Council Rep: Darcy Baumbach.

- ~The first PTA meeting of the school year was held on Thursday September 11.
- ~The Kathryn Beich fundraiser will begin soon.
- ~Arts & Enrichment has scheduled longer programs this year (multi day or week long).
- ~School pictures are scheduled for Wednesday October 15.

~The annual Fall Festival will take place on Saturday October 18 from noon – 4:00 p.m.

Stevens PTA Council Rep: Linda Fieldhouse.

~A bottle receipts drive is ongoing in order to collect money for a new stage curtain.

~The Stevens PTA has voted to defer its fall fundraiser, and join efforts with the school to facilitate raising money for the stage curtain project.

~Mary Ann Meade has replaced Donna Spring as Stevens' Administrative Assistant.

~The number of readers participating in the summer reading challenge continues to be determined. If they meet their goal of 375 readers, the students will be rewarded with a Carnival on Friday October 10.

~It is anticipated that by September 2009, all report cards will be completed electronically. (Jim Schultz added that one of our school buildings may be asked to pilot electronic report cards in the spring.)

~An Arts & Enrichment program, Attitude of Gratitude, focusing on character education was presented on Friday September 12.

~School pictures are scheduled for Thursday September 25.

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:

~An update was given regarding the DARE program at Pashley School. Charlton Heights School and Stevens School lie in Saratoga County; the DARE program is funded by the county. Pashley School lies in Schenectady County. Pashley's DARE program was typically funded through the Town of Glenville but was cut from their budget last year. After lobbying efforts of the PTA, the DARE program was equally funded (\$2,500) between the Town of Glenville and BH-BL School District. It has come to our attention that the Town of Glenville has not budgeted money for the DARE program at Pashley this year. A survey is being conducted with parents and faculty to gather input/advice to move the program to the 6th grade level where it would be taught in the middle school which lies in Saratoga County (therefore would be funded through Saratoga County).

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 p.m.

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

Subsequent meeting dates are: 1/12/09, 3/16/09, and 5/19/09.
