

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake PTA Council September 20, 2010

Call to Order: President Mary Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Present: Amy Agan, John Blowers, Mary Carrier, Rachel Engelhardt, Chris Katz, Laurie Kruppenbacher, Mike Mosall, Jim Schultz, Lynnette Ziskin.

President's Report: Mary Carrier.

~An important goal for PTA Council this year is an attempt to improve the process for Founders Day, which is scheduled for February 3, 2011. Initially, we must start the Nomination process earlier (September), all schools are asked to use the same Nomination Form, and increase the communication between Unit Reps and their school's PTA. A list of past Founders Day recipients is on the BH-BL website.

~Mary asked how we can improve the Transportation Breakfast which is held in June. Attendance to the breakfast has slowly declined over the years.

Secretary's Report: Lynnette Ziskin.

~The minutes of the May 18, 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: Rachel Engelhardt.

1. The Balance Sheet as of September 20, 2010 reflects the following:
 - Checking Account: \$11,421.65
 - Savings Account: \$8,764.23
 - Total Assets: \$20,185.88
2. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011
3. The Reconciliation Detail report reflected 4 uncleared transactions dated August 12, 2010. Amy Agan clarified that these transactions normally occur before June 30 (end of the fiscal year).
4. Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of QuickBooks software program for the treasurer. The program costs approximately \$199. Mary motioned, Lynnette seconded, unanimous vote carried. Rachel will purchase QuickBooks software for the treasurer's use.

School Board Liaison's Report: John Blowers.

~The search is on for a Middle School Principal. Parents and community members are meeting to provide input on the search process. A committee will be formed with reps from various constituents so we can practice shared decision making. Don Germain will be recognized at tomorrow's board meeting (September 21) for his service, which ends October 1. There will be an interim appointed until a successor can be announced, which is likely to occur in December. 60 candidates have applied for the position.

~The Hostetter building is for sale. As the Board develops its strategic long-term plans, it has become clear the Hostetter building no longer holds a place in our future. As a result, the district has engaged a realtor to start the process of the divesting of this structure. The Hostetter Building is listed at \$1,395,000. For more information on this topic, please visit the website, www.bhbl.org.

~The Board has established three goals for the coming year:

1. To market the Hostetter property and to decide on solutions to providing space for current administrative services and district storage.
2. By May 2011, to evaluate the instructional and infrastructure improvements that will be needed to successfully implement the BH-BL 21st Century Framework.
3. To expand the district's strategic partnerships with governmental agencies, political leaders, schools, businesses, and community resources to further our academic mission by June 2011.

Superintendent's Report: Jim Schultz.

~A reminder that BOE meetings take place at all schools on a rotating basis. Please check the calendar for the meeting date and place.

~Jim noted a change in the bus transportation policy, which will include 1st graders within the same rules for Kindergartners: visual contact of an adult at home must be made by the bus driver or the child(ren) will not be dropped off there.

~Due to staff reductions as a result of the budget cuts, class sizes, especially at the high school, are larger than typical.

~The county-wide Career Day held annually at SCCC was omitted due to budget cuts. The district is inviting parents and local business people to visit our high school to share their occupation experiences. For more information, please contact Mr. Schultz.

~A reminder to parents: Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake parents and students are advised that 8th grade and younger pupils may not attend evening varsity interscholastic sports contests without an adult. This policy means that older (high school) pupils may need to show identification to document that they may attend without an adult. This policy was created due to a growing number of youngsters being left unsupervised at games and more incidents of fighting, belligerence and other inappropriate behavior.

~On Friday, October 1, the community is invited to honor Bob Speck at an Open House in the middle school library media center to thank him for his record 36 years of volunteer service on the Board of Education. All PTAs and the PTA Council are invited to share in the celebration.

~Parents are invited to attend the Communications Council meeting on October 19. The agenda includes shared goals between schools.

~Teacher Representative's Report: Mike Mosall.

~Class sizes are larger this year due to budget cuts - most high school classes average 28 pupils; Learning Labs are slightly higher.

~The district is using new attendance software, which is a dramatic improvement from the previous program. This program includes a parent portal, an option which will be implemented in the future.

~Back to School Night for grades 9-12 will be this Thursday, September 23, beginning at 7 p.m.

~The High School Homecoming dance will be on Friday October 8 from 7 – 10 p.m.; the Homecoming football game will be held on Saturday October 9 at 2:30 p.m.

~One of the Teacher Association goals this year includes being more involved with PTA and showing an increased presence in the community.

~Mr. Mosall also reported that the Spartan Day held in May raised approximately \$400. Scheduling for this event was difficult due to many conflicts of various school and community events.

Committee Reports:

Arts & Enrichment: Jackie Ballinger.

~Via e-mail, the following report was submitted:

Charlton Heights:

~Last week, Motivational Productions Inc., performance for all students in grades K-5.

~The following are artists that are scheduled for the school year:

- Go Kennel Racing- a sled dog team
- Motoko- Japanese storyteller (residency)
- Ellen Sinopoli Dance Co.- (residency)
- Chris Holder- 5th grade residency
- City by Design- students will be creating a model city (The Children's Museum at Saratoga)
- Numerous programs, all grade levels, from the Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum
- Additionally, two more productions for K – 5 are still being decided upon

Stevens:

~Last week, Motivational Productions Inc., performance for all students in grades K-5.

~An A & E performer will be announced soon for the Summer Reading Challenge Assembly, which will be held in October.

~The following artists are being considered for the school year:

- Alyssa Satin Capucilli, author
- Peter Lourie, grades 3-5; writing workshop for grade 5
- Numerous programs, all grade levels, from the Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum

Pashley Elementary, O'Rourke Middle School, BH-BL High School:

No report at this time.

Eileen Briggs Award: Maureen MacNamara Marshall.

No report.

Odyssey of the Mind: Jean Smith.

No report.

Theatre for Children: Kathy Lynch.

No report.

Council Delegate Reports:

High School PTA Council Rep: Lynnette Ziskin.

~Freshman Orientation, Wed. Sept. 8th, went smoothly.

~On the first day of school, Fri. Sept. 10, all classes met for 34 minutes each. Overall, opening day went smoothly.

~The 9th grade orientation (parents and students) will be held on September 15 at 6:45 p.m. in the cafeteria.

~New student management system: Power School. Several complications are being worked out.

~Due to budget cuts/staff reductions there is also a reduction in the number of class sections; enrollment has increased – the 9th grade class is larger than the 2010 graduating class; Thus, class sizes have increased - most average 28 – 29 pupils. Learning Labs are larger yet.

~Leadership Training Program (LTP) met three times over the summer. Leadership Day is Friday September 17.

~The fall sports teams are doing well. Otis Ubriaco is on the front cover of ESPN Rise magazine; Keaton Flint named in HS Sports as a Top 50 football player in the country.
~Parents are encouraged to partake in corporate programs that benefit our high school. If you have previously signed up for one of these programs at another school (elementary or middle) and your child(ren), is no longer there, please take the time to go online to change the destination of your shopping dollars to the high school:

-Target's "Take Charge of Education" program – thank you to parents and faculty who are already enrolled – the HS recently received a check from Target Corp. for \$526.46.

-Price Chopper's "Tools for Schools" program; the HS code is 15716.

-Hannaford Helps Schools – please send "Hannaford Dollars" into school or deposit them in the designated tower at a local Hannaford. Every store will award an additional \$1,000 grant to the school that raises the most money.

~The volunteer list will be included inside the first newsletter and mailed to homes.

~Michele Koester reported that the pie fundraiser in May raised over \$1,700 which will be donated to the high school for auditorium improvements.

~PTSA membership dues are \$5/adult, \$4/student. Please join!

Middle School PTA Council Rep: Amy Agan.

~The Middle School PTA is off to a great start with a new slate of officers.

~O'Rourke Middle School PTA members have created their own website. Information regarding PTA activities can be easily accessed.

~The audit is in progress. A report will be given at the next monthly meeting.

Charlton Heights PTA Council Rep: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

~The year is off to a great start – the Home Room Parents meetings went well, as well as volunteer sign-up sheets and field trip chaperones.

~The Children's Garden will have a fall harvest on October 20 – 21. Stony Meadows Farm will partake. There will be many volunteers cooking and baking items from the harvest for all staff and students to taste.

~School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 6.

~The Monster Mash is scheduled for Friday, October 29.

Pashley PTA Council Rep:

~No report.

Stevens PTA Council Rep: Charlene Spetla.

In Charlene's absence, Amy Agan gave a brief report:

~The Stevens PTA has an entirely new slate of officers. The first meeting was held last week.

~The Home Room Parents meeting was held last week; a lot of new volunteers attended.

~Curiosity Shop begins on October 19 and continues for 3 successive weeks.

~School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 6.

1st Vice-president: Chris Katz

~No report.

2nd Vice-president: Laurie Kruppenbacher.

~No report.

3rd Vice-president: Mary Beth Frewin.

~No report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

**The next PTA Council meeting will be held on Monday November 15, 2010
in the Principal's Conference Room at the High School.**