PTA General Meeting

December 12, 2017 at 7:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Burnt Mills Elementary School PTA met on December 12, 2017 in the All Purpose Room. PTA President, Mike Miehl, thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

PTA Board members in attendance were Dr. Ashton, BMES Principal; Michael Miehl, PTA President; Patti Carey, PTA Secretary; Kim Hannum, PTA Fundraising Chair; SeyiBadmus, PTA Membership Chair; Ernest Wyatt; NAACP Delegate; and Dan Wallace, Burnt Mills community member.

Guests in attendance include William C. Smith Jr., State Senator (District 20).

Teachers/staff in attendance include: Deneen Gordon, Parent Community Coordinator; Bonny Dietrich, teacher; and Dr. Felicia Lively, music teacher.

Parent attendees totaled fifteen (excluding PTA board members) according to sign-in sheets.

Total attendance was twenty-five individuals.

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. PTA board members present were introduced with name and title.
3. Maryland State Senator, William C. Smith Jr., was introduced and will address attendees after PTA business.
4. PTA BUSINESS
5. Dr. Lively informed attendees of the Burnt Mills Family Night at Capital One Arena featuring the Washington Wizards versus Orlando Magic on January 12, 2018. It will be an exciting night and the BMES chorus will sing the National Anthem on court. Please spread the word about this exciting event. Tickets cost $29 and the deadline to order tickets is December 22, 2017.
6. Ernest Wyatt, NAACP delegate, informed attendees of an upcoming opportunity hosted by the NAACP Parents’ Council. They are hosting a conversation with MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jack Smith on equity in the classroom. This conversation will take place on December 14, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the MCPS Carver Education Services Center in Rockville.
7. Kim Hannum, PTA Fundraising Chair, reported to attendees on the recent PTA Hot Cocoa 1 Mile Fun Run event that took place on December 2, 2017. We had 16 classrooms represented with a total of 68 students participating in the Fun Run. The PTA is happy to announce that we raised our goal of $2,000 which will fund the PTA’s contribution to BMES for cultural arts programs this school year. Kim thanked all of the volunteers who helped to make the event a success, particularly our parent-owned and local businesses that contributed to our door prize raffle.Kim also reminded attendees of BMES/PTA everyday shopping fundraising opportunities with Giant, Harris Teeter, Amazon Smile, Certifikid, and Box Tops. Our Box Tops program, led by Kim Hannum and Rebecca Brunson, earned $210 for BMES with its first collection.
8. Mike Miehl, PTA President, provided a budget and membership update. The PTA budget is in good standing with payments covering our first cultural arts assembly (Blue Sky Puppets) and our membership dues. PTA membership has reached 100 members and is still growing.
9. The MCCPTA delegate position is open for nomination and voting. Dr. Vanita Penn nominated herself for the position, the motion was seconded and by verbal vote she was elected to the position of MCCPTA delegate. Welcome to the BMES PTA board Dr. Penn!
10. Michael Miehl, PTA President, thanked PTA members for volunteering at events this fall including Picture Day, Pumpkin Patch Day and the Hot Cocoa Fun Run. Mike called on Dr. Ashton to give an update on the Watch D.O.G.S. program. Dr. Ashton reported that 21 dads have signed up already to volunteer with the Watch D.O.G.S. program.
11. Michael Miehl, PTA President, introduced the advocacy issues that the PTA is focused on at the moment – changes to the immersion program and Capital Improvement Projects. He turned the discussion to Dr. Ashton to provide updates to the membership regarding the Spanish Immersion program. Dr. Ashton just received unofficial word from the Superintendent’s office that Rolling Terrace will keep their current 3rd& 4th grade students next year and they will not come to Burnt Mills as announced last week. Rolling Terrace’s current Kindergarten-2nd grade Spanish Immersion students will still be moved to William Page Elementary School. Dr. Ashton highlighted that this change came about because of parent voice and advocacy on behalf of Rolling Terrace families. Dr. Ashton is looking into the possibility of adding a second Kindergarten class in the Spanish Immersion program next year that would slowly grow the program over several years. Questions from the membership included class size concerns of the Spanish Immersion program and if intended bus transportation will still be offered now that Rolling Terrace is not sending students to Burnt Mills.
12. SENATOR WILLIAM SMITH REMARKS

Senator Smith gave a brief biography, including that he grew up in this area and currently resides in the Woodmoor neighborhood. He represents District 20 as a State Senator. Senator Smith gave a brief overview of the legislative session in Maryland and issues that they are working on including education and budget. He highlighted the major developments that will impact the Burnt Mills neighborhood including the redevelopment of the White Oak corridor, Washington Adventist Hospital construction, BRT, Purple Line, and Langley crossroads redevelopment. One of his objectives within the State Senate is to highlight the cultural and socioeconomic diversity of Montgomery County and to depict an accurate portrayal of the county versus the perception of Montgomery County within the state. After this overview of his work with State Senate, Sen. Smith opened the discussion to questions from the audience. His advice for BMES PTA members was to call and write your elected officials about issues that affect our school and community because calls and letters really do make a difference.

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Carey, PTA Secretary