PTA General Meeting

February 5, 2019 at 7:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Burnt Mills Elementary School PTA met on February 5, 2019 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 introduced. Attendees were made aware of the handouts available at the sign-in table which included: agenda/meeting notes, copies of the December minutes, and other handouts.

PTA Board members in attendance were: Dr. Ashton, BMES Principal; Michael Miehl, PTA President; Patti Carey, PTA Secretary; Keishana Myrie-Smith, PTA Treasurer; Kim Hannum, PTA Fundraising Chair; Seyi Badmus, PTA Membership Chair; Rebecca Taylor, NAACP Delegate; Rachel Tate, MCCPTA Delegate; and Deneen Gordon, Parent Community Coordinator.

Parent attendees totaled twenty-three (excluding PTA board members) according to sign-in sheets. A quorum was present.

1. MCCPTA

Mike Miehl, welcomed Rachel Tate, MCCPTA Delegate, to the floor to discuss issues from MCCPTA.

* Climate & Safety Committee – Are there any areas of improvement regarding transportation for our students at BMES (to include walkers, kiss & ride, and bus riders)? Suggestions made include: water/ice from overhang onto sidewalk heading to 3rd grade portables; path/sidewalk to Prelude St. needs repaving; and sidewalks are needed on Childs St. for walkers.
* MCPS Announcements of Delays/Early Dismissals – Is there any feedback on how MCPS announces two-hour delays or early dismissals? Members commented that Fox5 news alerts reports the closures/delays earlier than MCPS alerts; members also go directly to MCPS website; some use the MCPS alerts; and members felt that MCPS waits longer to decide/announce than other counties.
* Parent Participation – MCCPTA is interested in hosting parent development workshops and is seeking feedback. Members suggested utilizing the PEP program, discussing mindfulness/meditation, and having a webinar option.
* Zones of Regulation/Restorative Justice – MCPS will implement these tools in all schools county-wide next year. Burnt Mills is already using the Zones of Regulation and Mindfulness (“mindful moment” each morning). The question was asked of members whether they were interested in having a seminar to further their knowledge. Approximately fifteen members indicated interest. Dr. Ashton commented that more information would be forthcoming in the Principal’s Newsletter. In addition, PTA is looking into having a mindfulness speaker at their March PTA meeting.
* New school building – BMES was included in the CIP for a feasibility study, but with a large budget deficit in the county it is now more important to keep advocating for a new school building for Burnt Mills. Dan Wallace, BMES PTA Community board member, is testifying to the County Council tonight on behalf of Burnt Mills.

1. MINUTES

Mike Miehl, PTA President, asked if there were any questions or revisions to be made to the December 2018 meeting minutes (posted online and available in hard copy at this meeting). No questions or revisions were noted and would be able to be approved. Kim Hannum made the motion to approve the December 2018 meeting minutes. Rebecca Taylor seconded that motion. Quorum voted to approve the minutes.

1. PTA BUSINESS

Due to the time remaining in the meeting, Mike Miehl made attendees aware that all important PTA news concerning membership, budget, fundraising, and advocacy could be found in the PTA meeting notes handout (see addendum 1). Below are the highlights mentioned in the meeting:

* Budget – National PTA has proposed a membership dues increase. This would increase the amount that each local PTA pays to the MD PTA. BMES may need to consider increasing membership dues this summer if National PTA approves this increase.
* Fundraising – February and March will be busy months for the PTA with dining fundraisers at Sweet Frog and Chipotle. Our spring Read-a-thon will take place March 7-28th. Please contribute as you are able as money raised goes directly back to students in terms of programming and support.
* Advocacy – There will be a February 7th planning meeting with AIM to continue advocating for a new school building. We are seeking 5-8 individuals from Burnt Mills to attend. In addition, there will be an AIM Action March on March 14th (more details to come).
* There are no updates from Dr. Ashton at this time.

1. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

* Portia Scott, Director of White Oak Community Center, was welcomed to the floor to discuss summer camps offered through Montgomery County Recreation. She highlighted two camps offered at White Oak including: Summer Fun Center for ages 6-12 and Food, Fitness, Fun for ages 8-14. She reminded attendees that camps often fill (remember to register early) and payment plans are available.
* Dr. Ayize Sabater, was welcomed to the floor to discuss his research study on parental involvement. Parent involvement is complex, but it matters and needs a more multidimensional view. His research found that parents who were more involved with collaborating with the community are more likely to feel that their efforts are improving their student’s performance. In addition, third party community-based organizations can help to significantly improve local schools (i.e. AIM). Finally, when parents are helping to improve a school it isn’t necessarily a function of quantity of parents, but may more so be a function of sense of agency of the involved parents.

1. RAFFLE

Three BMES Spirit Wear t-shirts were raffled to attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Carey, PTA Secretary

Addendum 1 – February PTA Meeting Agenda flyer

Addendum 2 – CDC Parent Engagement handout