PTA General Meeting

October 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM

The Burnt Mills Elementary School PTA met on October 10, 2017 in the All Purpose Room. PTA President, Mike Miehl, thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

PTA Board members in attendance were Dr. Ashton, BMES Principal; Doris Chavez, PTA Vice President; Patti Carey, PTA Secretary; Margaret Holt, PTA Treasurer; Kim Hannum, PTA Fundraising Chair; Theresa Chin, PTA Cultural Arts Chair and BMES teacher; Seyi Badmus, PTA Membership Chair; Ernest Wyatt; NAACP Delegate; and Dan Wallace, Burnt Mills community member.

Guests in attendance include Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council member (District 5); Ayize Sabater, AIM; Vincent Van, AIM.

Teachers/staff in attendance include: Troy Clarke, BMES Assistant Principal; Deneen Gordon, Parent Community Coordinator; Pat Bucknoor, teacher; Crystal Parker, teacher; Marymac Hoffman, teacher; Bonny Dietrich, teacher; and ReAnne Shields, teacher.

Parent attendees totaled thirty-three according to sign-in sheets.

INTRODUCTIONS – PTA board members present were introduced with name and title. Montgomery County Council member (District 5), Tom Hucker was introduced and welcomed to the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER HUCKER’S REMARKS – Mr. Hucker gave a brief biography, including that his son is in Kindergarten at Rolling Terrace’s Spanish Immersion program. Mr. Hucker was elected to the Montgomery County Council in November 2014 representing the Council’s 5th District. Mr. Hucker serves on the Council’s Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, as well as on the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Hucker gave a brief overview of the County Council. The County Council fully funded the Board of Education’s budget requests in May 2017.This funding will support two main initiatives – reducing class sizes (due to increasing enrollment) and closing the achievement gap. They are looking into expanding quality after school programs, such as Dream Academy/Excel Beyond the Bell and increased funding to the Head Start program. Mr. Hucker has also worked to secure funding to improve the quality of school playing fields. He also highlighted his work in securing paid sick leave for employees in Montgomery County. In addition, he is working on the Montgomery County Student Loan Refinancing Authority (bill MC 27-16) which would provide student loan refinancing for residents to reduce their financial burden. After this thorough overview of his work on the Montgomery County Council, Mr. Hucker opened the discussion to questions from the audience. Dan Wallace, Burnt Mills community member, expressed his concerns about the overcrowding at Burnt Mills Elementary School and the need for a new school building. He provided historical perspective of Burnt Mill’s position in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and is concerned that Burnt Mills ES is being forgotten in this process. Mr. Wallace asked Mr. Hucker what needs to be done to further Burnt Mills’ position in the CIP and for our community to receive a new school building. Dr. Ashton, BMES Principal, echoed Mr. Wallace’s concerns for Burnt Mills’ facility and overcrowding issues. Mr. Tucker suggested that we arrange a meeting between Montgomery County Council members, Board of Education members, BMES staff and parents (PTA), and Burnt Mills community members to further discuss Burnt Mills’ concerns. PTA President Michael Miehl, will work on coordinating this meeting.

PTA BUSINESS  
I. Ayize Sabater presented his study examining the effects of parental involvement on school age student’s academic performance. If you would like to participate in the study, please click on the links below. Any questions regarding the survey can be sent to [shsab1@morgan.edu](http://burntmillses.digitalpto.com/our-community/shsab1@morgan.edu).

II. FY 2017-18 Budget Review and Approval

Margaret Holt, PTA Treasurer and Michael Miehl, PTA President presented the proposed FY 17-18 budget. The PTA hopes to increase membership this year, as well as increase fundraiser participation. Membership had no questions about the proposed budget. Margaret Holt made a motion to pass the budget. The motion was seconded and budget was adopted.

III. PTA Website walk-through

Patti Carey, PTA Secretary, provided a walk-through of the PTA website which can be found via the Burnt Mills Elementary School website or directly at <http://burntmillses.digitalpto.com/> . The website has been recently upgraded and will be updated frequently. It will contain information regarding PTA committees, links to fundraising opportunities, volunteering opportunities, areas of advocacy (i.e. Spanish Immersion program busing to be discussed at October 26th meeting), and links to events in our local community (job fair). Be sure to check the website often for PTA updates.

IV. Fundraising

Links to on-going fundraisers can be found on our PTA website (<http://burntmillses.digitalpto.com/pta-community/fundraising/>). Just click on the links and start raising money for Burnt Mills. Fundraisers include Giant A+ school rewards, Certifikid, Benefit Mobile, Harris Teeter, and Amazon Smile. The PTA will also host a fall and spring fundraiser.

V. Volunteer Opportunities

While discussing the PTA website Patti Carey, PTA Secretary, discussed the upcoming volunteer opportunities – Picture Day (October 17th) and Pumpkin Day (October 23rd). Sign-ups for volunteer opportunities will be posted to the PTA website. Watch D.O.G.S. will be introduced and promoted at the “Donuts with Dads” celebration on October 12th.

VI. Advocacy Opportunities

Michael Miehl, PTA President, briefly mentioned upcoming advocacy opportunities. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) meetings are coming up on November 6 and 7th in Rockville. More information will be forthcoming on needs for parent involvement. Spanish Immersion busing was discussed briefly by Patti Carey during website walk through. Upcoming East County job fair was mentioned and will be posted to PTA website.

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Carey, PTA Secretary