

## **PTA Meeting Minutes**

**December 1, 2016**

Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Review of Minutes from October 2016 Meeting

- Would like to clarify that Splash Math program is user-friendly. As of the previous meeting, it had not been fully implemented into all of the classrooms and was not being utilized to full potential.
- In reviewing the vote for the parent representative to the Principal's Cabinet meetings, the PTA members expressed to Principal Aguiar that we would like for the elected representative to attend a future meeting to introduce herself and her role in the meetings. Members also feel that this would be a way to provide our opinions to the parent representative on cabinet items for discussion and get insight on previous meetings.
- Minutes were approved as written by all members in attendance.

Financial Report

- Fall fundraiser money has not been paid to fundraiser company yet because of outstanding issues discussed later in meeting. PTA will owe about \$12,000.00 when it is paid.
- All cash prizes paid from PTA to student fundraiser participants have been paid (\$475.00).
- 13 teacher stipends have been paid so far this year. More stipend applications were received as of today's deadline and have to be reviewed and filled.
- Currently there are 152 paid members of the Brinson PTA. An award was received from the NCPTA for timely payment of dues by the members.
- Insurance has been paid for this year and will not need to be paid until October of next year.
- Non-profit tax-exempt status has been filed for this operating year and will not need to be filed until November of next year.

Membership Report

- As previously stated, PTA currently stands at 152 paid members for this school year.
- Marie stated that membership cards have arrived for some members and need to be distributed.
- It was clarified that in order to receive discounts as a PTA member, most companies use your membership number as the coupon code for discounts.

## HUG/Volunteering

- Stephanie expressed that volunteers need to be sure that they are signing out when finished volunteering for the day. Otherwise, the computer system will automatically sign you out at 4:30 PM.
- There are currently 125 people on the email list to receive volunteer notifications.
- There have been 54 different people who have volunteered in the school from the beginning of this school year until Nov. 1, 2016.
- Teacher appreciation week in May will be the next big event where volunteers are needed.

## Boxtops

- Expired Boxtops are not accepted by the program.
- The collection sheets that teachers are sending home with students can be used to paste on the Boxtops, but are not necessary to earn money.
- A box has been placed in the office with Boxtops that need sorted if anyone would like to help with that task.

## Spaghetti/BBQ Dinner

- The dinner was changed from spaghetti to BBQ because of multiple issues.
  - Hurricane Matthew affected the timing of the event.
  - The original spaghetti supplier, Pizza Hut, was unable to fulfill the request of 300 pasta dinners because they were unable to use the Brinson cafeteria kitchen to prepare the pasta. The Brinson kitchen is unavailable for use to outside parties due to sanitation regulations. Pizza Hut could not accommodate the amount of food needed for the event because the pasta is heated by microwave if it is cooked off-site and they would have needed all microwaves from their nearby stores to prepare the food.
  - A second option of using Gina's Pizza as a supplier was not available because they were closed in all locations due to Hurricane Matthew.
  - Moore's BBQ was ultimately decided upon as the provider because they were able to accommodate the needs of the event.
- Feedback on the switch to BBQ
  - The event produced a profit of \$69.00.
  - There was an interest expressed in having a non-pork option at the event to include those families that do not eat pork.
  - Some attendees stated that the pork was spicy and some children may have not eaten it as a result.
  - There was a lack of lids for the drink cups.

- Seemed as though attendance was down for both the bookfair and BBQ dinner this year compared to previous years. May need to consider the timing of the event, as it coincided with the fair being in town, which may result in less disposable income for families to spend on extra events.

#### Fall Fundraiser

- The fundraiser company has yet to complete their portion of the agreement to deliver all of the products and prizes for the students. Some products that were ordered have not been received yet. Two shipments of prizes have come thus far, and there may still be some missing. Jennifer asked for help after the meeting to sort through the prizes that have been sent in order to determine if we have received all of them.
- Some families still have not picked up their product orders, despite multiple reminders and opportunities to do so.
- PTA is going to ask the fundraiser company that we get to keep a higher percentage of the funds generated through the sales due to the lack of timeliness on delivery of products and prizes by the company.
- It has already been decided that if a fundraiser is done next school year, PTA will not use this company because of delivery issues. Also, many felt that the product quality of items ordered from the catalog was lacking.

#### Skate Night

- The event produced a profit of \$538.00.
- Event was well received by the Brinson families and attendance seemed high.
- Children enjoyed being able to purchase glow sticks and hair glitter. May need to consider other items that can be sold to generate more profit.
- We may also need to decide and/or clarify that older siblings can attend the event if they are not at the elementary grade level.
- PTA should consider having a second skate night in the spring because of the popularity and ease of planning the event.
- Next time the event is planned, we need to ensure that the owner of Rollerland has the exact start time of the event.

#### Project Playground

- Christine has applied for grants through Lowe's and Andy's Highway 55 Charitable Foundation.
- A letter was received by Jennifer and opened by Christine during the meeting stating that PTA has received a \$5000.00 grant from Andy's Highway 55 Charitable Foundation for playground improvements. Amy stated that this brings the current budget for Project Playground to \$5780.00.

- Carrie has already applied for a grant to the Military Officer Spouses Club but the decision on that grant has been pushed to the spring.
- Kindergarten playground
  - The bench was supposed to have been previously ordered, but Carrie's contact did not submit the paperwork. It is now officially submitted with an additional \$20.00 taken off the price for the delay. The bench will cost about \$400.00
  - Carrie has also removed the sunshade on the kindergarten playground so that it can be replaced in the spring with a better hook system that is less noisy and will not blow off in high winds.
- Marie has also applied for a grant through the CarolinaEast Foundation.

#### New Business/Input

- Fundraising
  - New approaches to fundraising are needed to accommodate the changing economics of our school family. Some ideas included additional grant writing to focus on supplies for inside learning, increased support of school-sponsored events rather than PTA-sponsored events, and more events like the walk-a-thon to get the children involved in an activity that is not selling products.
  - Principal Aguiar stated that the money that is generated by the school-sponsored fundraising events is spent with a focus on manipulatives and technology within the classrooms.
  - It was proposed that we discontinue stipends to save money since they are not being utilized by all teachers. Principal Aguiar stated that the teachers have voted to keep the stipends and were disappointed in the reduction in funds for stipends this school year. Some teachers have stated that they choose not to use their stipends as a way to give back to the school.
  - Many expressed that there needs to be more clarity and specifics as to what the fundraising money is going towards. It was discussed that this may be why the walk-a-thon for Project Playground had been successful because of a tangible goal that parents and students can see.
  - An idea was presented that perhaps bowling night in the spring should be geared towards funding BrainPop with accompanying flyers demonstrating what the technology includes and how children are using it in the classroom.
- Classroom Topics
  - The process of using technology in the classroom was discussed. Concerns were that perhaps some teachers are depending upon the technology too much to teach concepts that have not been thoroughly explained to the students before they interact with a computer program. Principal Aguiar stated that concepts should be taught to the class as a whole before they enter into small group work that includes technology use.

- Some parents feel that there has been little feedback from teachers as to how their children are doing in the classroom, especially if there are no obvious academic or behavior issues to address. Ms. Aguiar stated that parents have the option to ask for a parent-teacher conference at any time throughout the school year.
- A mid-year open house was discussed as a way for families to come interact with their children in school and to open lines of communication to teachers. This cannot be done after school because of a conflict of timing with the work of the custodial staff.
- There has also been discussion of having a Bring Your Parent to School Day to involve more parents in the school community. This idea was well-received among PTA members
- There will be another Coffee and Conversation with the PTA board scheduled for a date in January to be determined.

The meeting was ended at 7:09 PM.