

Minutes of  
The Brinson Memorial Elementary School PTA  
General Membership Meeting

May 2017

PTA President Jennifer Bertling called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. 33 PTA members signed in for attendance. 19 additional people signed in and approximately 90 people were counted in a cursory headcount attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

Secretary Anne Morini reviewed April's meeting minutes. Principal Aguiar noted a correction for April; No money is linked to the Advanced Ed review. Karrie Hanford made the motion to approve the minutes. Tina Martin-Nims seconded the motion. Minutes stand approved with the Advanced Ed correction.

Treasurer Amy Miller gave the current financial report. Budget items will be discussed in June's meeting.

Karrie Hanford reviewed the Project Playground Committee efforts. The forecast for tomorrow is 100% chance of rain. The walk-a-thon will move into the Gym if it's raining. The dedication is rescheduled. This year the walk-a-thon has a goal of \$5K which would give enough funds to complete project playground. The GaGa Pit was explained and plans to be installed date weather permitting.

Jennifer Bertling talked about Advocacy. The Senate passed HB 13 and as a result 61 teachers are no longer needed for Craven County. She encouraged everyone to look at Brinson's School Improvement Plan: On Brinson's Website, go to "More" and click on the drop down labeled "School Improvement Plan".

The elections for the 2017-2018 PTA officers took place. The slate was presented and there were no nominations from the floor. A verbal vote was taken and the nominating committee chair declared the slate elected.

President: Ed Reno

Vice President: Danielle Morgan

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Freddie Mercer

Communications Secretary: Heather Atkinson

Recording Secretary: Karen Boyd

Treasurer: Sabrina Smith

Applause and congratulations! We know 2017-2018 will be a great year for Brinson with 6 members on the Executive Board going into it offering 2 additional officer positions for more support along with all of the support from the current members.

President Bertling welcomed School Board members David Hale, Kim Smith, Beatrice Smith as well as Superintendent Dr. Meghan Doyle. Before we begin the panel discussion President Bertling reminded us that PTA is an association that is open to the public. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with bylaws, board of directors and accountability. We have not nor will not distribute any communication to the community without putting our name on it. We are a voice for children, and resource for families and communities and an advocate for the wellbeing and education of all children. We are stronger together as a group than individually.

Ground Rules and courtesy for the panel discussion were stated. We will not get all answers to our questions tonight, now is the time to speak so that the board members can take information back to make decisions that affect Brinson and Craven County.

The Teachers of Brinson gave a presentation titled "What I wish my teacher knew" putting together statements given by a collective voice of Brinson staff covering all grade levels and departments. Mr. Hayle and Dr. Doyle and the board assured that the voices were heard. They are committed to action.

Qualities wanted of Brinson's next Principal were discussed. Discussion was open to the floor. Dr. Doyle will recommend a principal but the board does the hiring. She is committed to finding the right person, not necessarily the quickest person to fill the job.

Discipline concerns were discussed. Many people gave input from the floor. The panel gave feedback for what was stated and they will also take and read every note that was written down and collected for them tonight. Teacher/school resource support was discussed as well as the topic of the effect of redistricting. School test scores, budget changes and the performing arts center were all topics of the panel discussion.

Not one person will be the solution, Dr. Doyle assured us the Board will be feverishly working on it and these topics will be part of their Board retreat.

President Bertling thanked all for coming. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Prepared by Anne Morini  
Recording Secretary