



BETSY ROSS ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

PTSO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

PTSO Officers in Attendance: Maureen Ulsamer, President, Victoria Gaughan, Vice President, Kattie Konno-Leonffu, Treasurer, Latisha Gayle, Secretary

Other Attendees: Cheryl Kerison, Tiffani Smith, Sarah Mik, Darlene Pacelli, Lisa Sadowski, Sue and Rich Carrozza, Lori Thompson, Shawn True, Kevin Creane, Eleanor Buchaner, Michelle Labrader, Lisa DeRiu, and Anna Naylor

A. **Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting was called to order by Maureen Ulsamer at 6:02 P.M.

B. Mr. True's Corner

- Thanked parents for coming out to meeting. It was a busy start to the school year.
- PowerSchool Update – Parents should have received a mailing with their log-in information. All teachers are on board. Professional development on Monday, October 7th, was to improve the school website and get on board with new technology.
- BRAMS new Assistant Principal is Sarah Rosner. She is new to BRAMS but has over 20 years experience in the New Haven School District.
- There is also a new administrative intern – Angela Brunson
- Parents may reach Mr. True via email at Shawn.True@new-haven.k12.ct.us with any questions or concerns.

C. **PBIS/RISE:** Ms. Baines had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend.

- Mr. True explained Positive Behavior Intervention System (P.B.I.S.) and Respect, Integrity, Safety, Excellence (R.I.S.E.) - a program that the students participate in and are recognized for appropriate behavior by the staff. Weekly shout-outs occur and students collect a certain amount of tickets to turn in for rewards.
- This year the students are creating the design of RISE certificates.
- Parents can volunteer for special events.

D. **Supporting Student Learning at Home:** Ms. Tanyu was out today, therefore, unable to attend.

- Ms. Tanyu provided an informational sheet consisting of best practices and helpful websites for parents.

E. Secretary Report:

- The minutes were read from the June 11, 2013, meeting and approved.

F. **Treasurer's Report:** Kattie Konno-Leonffu

- See attached treasurer's report
- Should hear status of our tax exempt organization approval no later than November 30, 2013

- Parent shared concerns about how the funds are allocated. Response from PTSO officers and Principal True was that all money is used for the student body for a variety of activities such as staff appreciation day, performances, purchase books for the library/grades, and agenda books.
- Treasurer's report accepted

G. Fundraising

1. **Free Cash/Merchandise Programs:** Ms. Adams was unable to attend. We collect Box Tops, Campbell labels, Shoprite for Education, Stop and Shop A+ Rewards, and Tyson Chicken Products. Ms. Adams needs help with mailing box tops and creating fliers. If any parent is interested, please email Maureen Ulsamer at Bramsptso@yahoo.com
2. **Fashion Republic:** Anna Naylor/Maureen Ulsamer – flyer was attached to agenda. Collection of used clothing and toys will take place on three days (October 17-19)
3. **Fall Fundraisers**
 - *Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough* fundraiser has ended. 65 participants ordered with units ranging from 1 to 36. Order was submitted. Waiting to hear from company in reference to delivery date.
 - *Taste Book* – All families should have received a free 2013 book. 2014 books can be ordered and are due by October 25th. There is a 50% profit for the PTSO.
 - *Book Fair* – Volunteers are needed for December 9 – 13. The book fair is held during school hours only. Set-up will be December 6th and clean-up will need to take place on December 13th. An email will be sent out on specific hours volunteers are needed. Also, in need of a Chairperson.
 - *Spirit Wear* – trying to submit order for October 19th. We have t-shirts, fleece jackets, pullover sweatshirts and sweat pants available.

H. New Business

1. Citywide Parent Leadership Team Meeting
 - Maureen Ulsamer attended
 - Parent University will take place on November 2, 2013 from 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. at Gateway Community College
 - An email was sent out to parents from PTSO regarding parent resource fair, Meet the Superintendent and other district events.
2. Open
 - a) Suggestions for future fundraisers
 - Walk-a-thon with mini field day
 - School dance
 - Bazaar
 - Plant sale
 - Optional set amount to donate or PTSO member fee
 - b) Recess Policy

-Effective January 2014, New Haven School District will implement the recess policy for grades 6-8. Mandatory for grades 5 and 6, voluntary for 7th and 8th graders

- Free play for 20 minutes of unimpeded time. The students will engage in active outside play and stay inside during inclement weather.

- A plan has to be submitted to central office by November 1st. Staff is trying to see how they can work out schedule as instructional time will be decreased.

- Mr. True stated that the plan will be well thought out for instructional time, safety, and the well-being of students and staff.

- Different ideas were discussed and reviewed.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 6:00 P.M. at BRAMS Library

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:39 P.M. and was passed unanimously.