



BETSY ROSS ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

PTSO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

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

Other Attendees: Tiffani Smith, Sue Carrozza, Lori Thompson, Shawn True, Tamika Baines and Jill Cipriano

A. **Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting was called to order by Maureen Ulsamer at 6:07 P.M.

B. **Mr. True's Corner** – Shawn True

- Report card night is Wednesday, November 13th from 6pm – 8pm. Parents should arrive early as the parking lot and hallways can become crowded. Report card night will follow the same schedule as previous years. Parents will report to the appropriate wing of their child's grade and report cards will be distributed at a designated area. Then, parents will have a brief time to discuss their students' progress. This night is not intended for parent-teacher conferences but parents may schedule an appointment for another date if further time is required. Parent link will be sent out via email and telephone message to inform parents of Report Card night and that school is closed on Monday, November 11th (Veteran's Day).
- There will be a cultural performance (Brazilian dancers) on Friday, November 8th. Mr. True thanked the PTSO for funding the assembly.

C. **PBIS/RISE:** Tamika Baines

- Ms Baines 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 within the classroom and then school-wide. Students earn RISE tickets, which any staff member can issue. Student of the Month, weekly shout-outs and pictures are taken and hung up outside of the cafeteria. Students collect a certain amount of tickets to turn in for rewards and events (for example, ice cream socials, field trips, etc.)
- New RISE tickets were created from one of the students and the tickets now have denominations on them.
- Raffles are held every report card night to support the various events and prizes for students.
- Third Annual Walk-a-thon will be held on November 27th. The return form and money is due December 2nd. Funds are raised for PBIS/RISE and an additional charity every other year to offset the cost of running a successful program.

D. **Secretary Report:** Latisha Gayle

- The minutes were read from the October 9, 2013, meeting with one correction and approved.

E. **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

- Treasurer's report accepted

F. Fundraising

1. **Free Cash/Merchandise Programs:** Stop and Shop and ShopRite forms will be available during Report Card Night.
2. **Fashion Republic:** Collection of 398 pounds earned \$52. The PTSO is unsure if we should continue or explore other options as it does not seem worth it to have volunteers waiting for items to be delivered and we are not meeting the minimum requirement of 100 bags.
3. **Fall Fundraisers**
 - *Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough* fundraiser has ended.
 - *Taste Book* – 2014 books can be ordered still. The date was extended to November 15th. There is a 50% profit for the PTSO (\$10 per book).
 - *Book Fair* – Volunteers are needed for December 9 – 13. The book fair is held during school hours only. Set-up will occur on December 6th and clean-up will need to take place on December 13th. An email will be sent out with specific hours volunteers are needed.
 - *Spirit Wear* – Maureen Ulsamer will pick up order and should obtain items by Monday, the latest. The following items are available and we will be selling in stock t-shirts, fleece jackets, crewneck sweatshirts and sweat pants on report card night in the lobby.

G. Old Business

1. Parent University/Citywide Parent Leadership Team Meeting
 - Jill Cipriano, Lou Tanyu and Lisa DeRiu attended Parent University on Saturday, November 2nd at Gateway Community College. Miss Cipriano reported that parents who attended enjoyed the day learning new information and attending interesting sessions such as financial aid options and common core standards.
 - Citywide Parent Leadership Team Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7th at Wilbur Cross High School from 5:00pm-7:00pm

H. Open

- Naviance Workshop with Ms. Olsen, Guidance Counselor took place on November 5th. Parents signed up in advance. Naviance is a college and career readiness software program that provides students with college planning and career assessment tools.
- Sciencetellers – Latisha Gayle reported information on another possible live assembly that could be presented to the students in two shows divided by 5th/6th and 7th/8th graders on a future date. An email will be sent to Mr. True to determine if it is a good fit for the school.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 6:00 P.M. at BRAMS Library

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 P.M. and was passed unanimously.