



PTA MEETING: Wednesday, October 11, 2023
TIME: 7:30 PM EST LOCATION: Virtual

MEETING CALLED BY: BPES PTA Board
TYPE OF MEETING: BPES PTA Meeting
PTA PRESIDENT: Voula Augustin
PTA RECORDING SECRETARY: Denise J. Meyer

In Attendance: Christina Yingling, Denise Meyer, Voula Augustin, Cathy Tran-Zwantez, Julia Bialeski, Thomas Dewees, Shari Roberts, Jennifer Shafer, Candice Gerstner, Drew Wilson, Courtney Henry, Neesha Manickam, Beatrice Rodriguez, Katie Maruc, Emmiline Auth, Beth Franks, Autum Shipley, Michelle Sexton

Quorum Status & Start of Meeting: Seeing that a quorum was present, Denise Meyer started the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Welcome & Introductions: Christina Yingling

Meeting Minutes: Christina Yingling reported that the previous Board Meeting minutes were approved prior to this evening's meeting.

Principal's Report: Julia Bialeski

October Principal's Report
10/11/23

Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinic

Students can receive free flu and Covid vaccines at Bushy Park on October 26 during school hours. Students must be pre-registered to receive the vaccines. Please register at this

link: <https://www.marylandvax.org/appointment/en/reg/3761207092>.

Mrs. Hering would love some parent volunteers to assist as runners during the clinic from approximately 9am-noon that day. Volunteers would escort students who are registered from the clinic to and from the location where the health department staff will be set up. If you are available, please email Mrs. Hering at melissa_hering@hcpss.org.

Individual Student Portraits - Makeups

Strawbridge visited Bushy Park yesterday to take individual student portraits. These are the pictures that will be included in the yearbook. If your child was absent yesterday, or if you would like a re-take once you see the pictures, Strawbridge will be back for re-takes and makeups on Monday, December 4.

PreK Accreditation

Our Pre-K program has recently completed their self-appraisal using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#). Participating in Maryland Accreditation is a way for our Pre-K program to demonstrate its commitment to providing high-quality learning environments and continually making improvements to benefit children, families, and staff. Our self-appraisal team consisted of teachers, administrators, family, and community members.

Later this winter, validators from the Maryland State Department of Education will be visiting our Pre-K classrooms to conduct our final Accreditation Appraisal. During the visit, accreditors will observe and assess our classrooms, playground, and instruction for best practices using the [Maryland Accreditation Standards](#).

Gaga Ball Pit

Thanks again to the PTA for donating funds to support the purchase of a gaga ball pit to permanently add to our blacktop for student use during recess. The donation for the funds to purchase the gaga ball pit has been approved by the HCPSS accountant. The final step in the approval process is for approval from the School Management and Instructional Leadership team and the Board of Education. Following that approval, we would love to partner with the PTA to solicit volunteers to assemble the pit after recess shifts one afternoon.

Calendar Reminders

October 20 - No School for Students

October 31 - 3 hour early dismissal, we dismiss at 12:55pm

Mr. Dewee's Updates

- PBIS: Positive behavior intervention system
 - Bushy Bear Bucks are earned every day by students
 - Goal was 20,000 by end of 1st quarter
 - Earned 22,000 turned in by the school
 - Will have celebration Friday, November 3rd – School-wide Bingo
 - Had music at recess on 10/13/2023
- Mystery Bus – incentivize children's behavior on the bus
 - Bust 287 was last week's mystery bus; all students riding that bus received a blue Bear Buck, which is worth '5'
- October is Principals Month – plan to celebrate Mrs. Bialeski
 - Dress Fancy Day – Monday, October 12, 2023

PTA Events

- **Upcoming Events**
 - Fall Fest & Trunk or Treat update – Friday, October 13, 2023 | 5-8 PM
 - Two food trucks at event
 - All Fired Up Pizza & Chic Fil A
 - Two dessert trucks at event
 - Always Ice Cream and Blondie's Donuts
 - Lots of fun
 - Games, Salon Suna (spray paint for hair), Photo ops & music
 - Trunk or Treat (17 vehicles participating this year!)
 - Music
 - Families do not need to pre-register for this year's event
 - There are no requirements for registration or waivers this year
 - Reminder for parents to monitor their kids and only take one pumpkin
 - Bushy Bear Dash update – Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 5:30 – 8:00 PM
 - PTA's largest fundraiser of the year – fundraising goal \$12,500
 - The actual dash will begin promptly at 5:30 PM due to the early sunset (6:03 PM).
 - Activities on the blacktop
 - DJ w/ music and glow party
 - Food trucks
 - Pie the Principal
 - Oriole Bird
 - Games
 - Question about why Bushy Bear Dash is not happening during the day, rather after school.

- Updated auditing and accounting processes in school system.
 - Separations of school fundraisers from PTA fundraisers.
 - Events that happen during school day in the school systems view are school events.
- Scholastic Bookfair – Week after Thanksgiving break
 - Need volunteers for this year’s Bookfair
 - Set up date will be shared when it is available
 - Flyers will go out in students’ folders in the coming weeks
 - Teachers can preload an account rather than have a wish box for book donations.
 - Still hosting in the evening 5:30-7:30PM Monday through Thursday
 - Will also have a Spring Bookfair that aligns with the school calendar
- Retail Rewards
 - Box Tops – doing well; have to scan receipts into the app within 14 days of grocery purchases.
 - Harris Teeter – great profits from this program, encourage all families that shop here to enroll.
 - Givebacks
 - When you become a PTA member you can opt into this
- Restaurant Night Out – Christina Yingling
 - Walkers Tap & Table Dinner Fundraiser – Monday, October 2, 2023
 - Chic Fil A - Monday, November 6, 2023
 - Tony Locos – January 16, 2024
 - Planning a location for December
- Sponsorships – Drew Wilson
 - Has template letter and 50 business to solicit on the list
 - Asks the group to let him know if there are any connections to the businesses on the list or if parents have a business or business connection they would recommend to the PTA.

Committee Reports

- **PTA Membership Committee**
 - Please join the BPES PTA, you can do so by clicking here:
 - [JOIN BPES PTA](#)
- **Volunteer Committee:** Cathy Tran-Zwantez
 - Need a chair for 5th grade end of the year event
 - Voula advised she has someone possibly interested
 - Perhaps reach out to Room Parents for 5th grade to seek interest
 - Need a chair for Counsel Delegate
 - Need two chairs for Cultural Arts

- Need a chair for School Supplies
- Walking Wednesday's is chaired, need a second co-chair
- Need volunteers for all events throughout the school year, these opportunities can be found on the [BPES PTA Website](#)

Financial Report: Jennifer Shafer

- **Revenue Items**
 - Incoming funds thus far: \$550 (this month)
 - Chipotle Fundraiser
 - Harris Teeter
 - Spirit Wear
- **Expenses**
 - Outgoing expenses
 - Fall Fest – at or under budget (2,200)
 - Actively helping with after school soccer
- **Future opportunities to raise funds for future events**
 - Bookfair proceed question about rewards – can talk offline for this
 - Certain amount needs to be used by November, this will expire
 - Possibly pick a certain book for incoming Kindergarten students

Open Items & Questions

- **Reflections – we did register**
 - Theme: I am hopeful because...
 - Flyers will be provided
- **Carson Reading Room**
 - Parents looking for guidance or updates about the Carson Reading Room
 - Still want volunteers, they will be needed
 - Structuring the program differently; it is grant funded
 - Hopeful this change will be up and running by second quarter
 - Bring back up in November meeting
- **Who funds Bushy Boutique? Candice**
 - Funds from school, staff, and parent donations (Amazon wish list)
 - Idea: Can the children have an option to turn Bear Bucks into a donation, i.e. 500 bucks equals \$5.00 to their favorite charity.
 - Love the idea (empathy/philanthropy)
 - Will take the idea to the PBIS committee to further discuss
 - Grades do have the option to donate toward a common goal
- **GT Teacher at Glenwood Middle School Inquiry**
 - Suggestions for honor students to do at Bushy Park Elementary
 - Ideas: dismissal help, reading to students, etc.

- Suggestions or ideas to go back
 - Contact: Ms. Storr
 - Someone from BPES will reach out and further discuss
- **Middle School Volunteer Questions:** Christina Yingling
 - Can we communicate volunteering in another way with Ms. Storr rather than having individual forms?
 - Have about 40 for Fall Fest
 - Ms. Bialeski - Think they do need a signed form
 - CY will email about this and seek clarification
 - Michele – never signed anything for previous Bingo
 - Breanne – could put a pumpkin sticker on their form. Consider using them for clerical tasks like bagging tickets, paper stuffing, etc. Supporting PTA and the school is what they want to do.
- **Yearbook cover contest:** Cathy
 - Contest coming to a close, October 23, 2023
- **Volunteers Fall Fest:** Candice
 - All families are welcome to Fall Fest
 - All filled except for six adult volunteers
 - Available on the Sign-up Genius

Having no other items of business or questions, this meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM by Denise J. Meyer.

Next meeting, Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 7:30 PM. Keep an eye on your email for the virtual meeting link.