



**PTA MEETING: Wednesday, August 16, 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 Meyer**

**In attendance:** Christina Yingling, Denise Meyer, Voula Augustin, Danielle Geier, Cathy Tran-Zwantez, Julia Bialeski, Thomas Dewees, Arti Sethi, Barbara Smith, Drew Wilson, Jenn Shafer, Candice Gerstner, Shari Roberts, Katie Mazue, Neta Wilson, Alison Jones, Douglas Paz, Alison Tomanele

**Meeting Minutes:**

**Quorum Status & Start of Meeting:** Christina Yingling, seeing that a quorum was present, started the meeting at 7:31 PM. Denise Meyer to start meetings moving forward.

- This was the first meeting of the 2023-2024 school year; previous meeting minutes were not read in the meeting.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Voula Augustin & Christina Yingling

- Introduction of 2023-2024 BPES PTA Board Members
  - Christina Yingling – Vice President 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a second grader
  - Voula Augustin – Interim President 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a fourth grader
  - Drew Wilson – Corresponding Secretary 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a kindergartner
  - Denise Meyer – Recording Secretary 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a second grader
  - Shari Roberts – Vice President 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a third grader
  - Jenn Shafer – Treasurer 2023-2024 PTA; continuing from treasurer last year
  - Candice Gerstner – Corresponding Secretary 2023-2024 PTA; parent of a second and a fourth grader

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Julia Bialeski

**• Open Houses & Orientations**

- Friday, August 25
  - 10:30 - AM Preschool, Full day Prekindergarten Open House, Kindergarten Orientation & Open House
  - 11:30 - PM Preschool, MINC EL Open House
  - 1:45 - New Student Orientation (1-5)
  - 2:30 - Open House (1-5)

- Families may bring school supplies to the Open House. We are not able to arrange alternative Open House opportunities for students who are not able to attend at their assigned time.

- **Family File & Homeroom Assignments**

- As of this morning, 31% of our students have updated Family File for 2023-2024
- Updated Family File is the “ticket” for viewing homeroom class assignments on August 23. We are not able to give out homeroom assignments over the telephone or via email.
- Our staff have worked very hard throughout the spring and summer to thoughtfully place students into classes. We do not accommodate requests for class changes.

- **Bus & Transportation Information: Mr. Dewees (Assistant Principal)**

- Mr. Thomas Dewees is the buses and transportation point of contact and can be reached the following ways:
  - Email Mr. Dewees at [thomas\\_dewees@hcpss.org](mailto:thomas_dewees@hcpss.org) or by calling the school at 410-313-5500
- BPES is a car or bus school, there are no walkers.
- There are 15 general and 4 specialized buses at BPES, getting the timing and routes down may not happen right away. Please allow for some grace regarding pick-up and drop-off with buses and at the school.
  - Color tags will be placed on children’s backpacks to indicate bus number. Please do not remove those for the first few weeks of school.
  - If buses are 20 minutes late dropping children off from school, please don’t hesitate calling the school to inquire. You may call 410-313-5500.
- If you have not already done so, please visit the [HCPSS Transportation website](#) and use the Bus Locator Tool to access your child’s bus number, bus stop location, and morning and afternoon pick-up/drop-off times. In addition to viewing the information on the Bus Locator Tool, please take a few moments to review the additional information on the transportation website.

- **First Day Tips**

- Be on time! Late bell rings at 9:15 AM. Students should be at their desks, ready to learn when that bell rings. If coming by car, students should be arriving at 9:05 AM so they have time to get to class and get unpacked before the bell.
- Send your child to school in the way they will typically arrive.
- For car riders: Kiss and ride - say goodbye in the car.
- Plan for a tired child that evening! Keep evenings low key for your child as they readjust to the new school year.

- **Car Loop Dismissal Procedures**

- We collected feedback in the spring on our car loop procedures. Overall, we received a lot of positive feedback about the safety and efficiency of our system! For those of you who don’t know, we made many changes in spring 2022 to our dismissal procedures in partnership with the HCPSS transportation office, the HCPD, and the HCFD to alleviate traffic congestion on Carrs Mill Road.
- If your child will be a regular or occasional car rider, it is important that you know our pickup system. Maps and visuals are available on our website detailing our procedures.
- We do not allow parents to park and walk on to the sidewalk to pick up students for safety reasons. All car riders must get into cars at their numbered spots. We thank you for your cooperation as we dismiss approximately 75-100 children by car each day in a 10-15 minute window!

- **New meal payment system - LINQ**

- Funds leftover from last year in My School Bucks have been automatically transferred to LINQ.

- If you want a refund (do not want your funds in LINQ), there is a form that you can complete for Food Services. This form was linked in the school system email you received earlier today.

#### **Committee reports:**

- PTA Membership Committee
  - Please join the BPES PTA, you can do so by clicking here:
    - [JOIN BPES PTA](#)
- Back to School Picnic | Friday, September 8, 2023
  - Combining with Ice Cream Social event this year.
    - Kona Ice will be present, and each student will receive one free Kona Ice at the event. Parents can purchase Kona Ice for themselves or children who are not students.
  - A pizza option will be available at this event.
- Events
  - A calendar of events for the 2023-2024 is being finalized.
    - Dates are being confirmed.
- PTA Volunteers – Cathy Tran-Zwantez
  - Looking for volunteers for many events; we have a lot of returning volunteers.
  - Have a lot of Chairs for many events already.
  - Spreadsheet has been created and shared with President and VPs
    - Spreadsheet will be attached to meeting minutes.

#### **Financial Report:** Jenn Shafer

- Finalizing budget
  - Budget was displayed during meeting; Christina Yingling shared her screen.
  - Quick overview
    - Net income of \$0.00; making no profit, break even this year.
    - Very much the same as last year's budget.
  - Revenue Items
    - Added some *Night Out Events* which will occur once a month.
    - Adding a new event *Parent's Night Out Bingo*.
    - Bushy Bear Dash
    - Box Tops
  - Expenses
    - Agreed to purchase GaGa Ball Pit for recess.
    - A new Buddy Bear costume has been purchased.
    - Off set Parent Night Out Bingo purchases
    - Feedback 5<sup>th</sup> grade budget
      - Split to Staff Directed and PTA Directed
  - Motion made by Christina Yingling; 14 in favor of approving the 2023-2024 budget.
    - Approved 2023-2024 Budget Overview attached to meeting minutes.

#### **Open Items & Questions**

- Upcoming Events
  - Our next event is the [Annual Back to School Picnic and Ice Cream Social](#) on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00 PM. Pizza will be available for purchase and each student will receive one Kona Ice. PTA board members will also be there to meet everyone and answer any questions.
- Bushy Bear Dash – Tentative Date November 2, 2023, w/ rain date November 3, 2023
  - Must occur evening or weekend.
  - If events that raise money occur during the school day it is considered a school

fundraiser and not funds for the PTA, rather for the school.

- **Please join the BPES PTA, you can do so by clicking here:**
  - [JOIN BPES PTA](#)
- Question about income for Amazon Smiles and Box Tops & Harris Teeter
  - How do we as parents engage in these programs?
    - Christina Yingling – Box Tops is an online app where the money goes directly to the PTA.
    - Alison Jones – Box Tops submissions are all digital; Harris Teeter submissions require parents to link their VIC Card to the Bushy Park number. All this information will be shared in flyers to go home with students.
  - How is the PTA advertising these programs?
    - Alison Jones reported that a flyer for Box Tops, Harris Teeter and GiveBacks through MemberHub will go home with all students.
  - Amazon Smiles program no longer exists.
    - Jenn Shafer will replace Amazon Smiles line with Give Backs through MemberHub on the approved budget.
  - It would be helpful if this type of PTA information was pushed out at the beginning of the year but also pushed out throughout the year as a reminder and for new students/families.
    - Christina Yingling mentioned that extra flyers will be provided to front office staff to include in new student folders throughout the year and as parents have questions, they can share a flyer or the information on the flyer with them.
- Question about MemberHub link having issues:
  - Christina Yingling will provide an updated link to join BPES PTA
  - Ms. Bileski will add the link to emails for parents and teachers
- Question: Is there a Chairperson for the BPES PTA website?
  - Christina Yingling advised that this responsibility would fall within the purview of one of the Corresponding Secretaries.
- Having no other items of business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

**Next meeting, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 7:30 PM**