



**PTA MEETING: Tuesday, November 7, 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, Cathy Tran-Zwanetz, Julia Bialeski, Shari Roberts, Jennifer Shafer, Candice Gerstner, Neesha Manickam, Emmiline Auth, Beth Franks, Michelle Sexton, Neela Wilson, Barbara Smith, Abigail Kier

**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 and that Voula Augustin is unable to attend the meeting this evening.

**Principal's Report:** Julia Bialeski

**November Principal's Report**  
**November 7, 2023**

**Thank you - Principal's Month**

Thank you to the PTA for the kind gift card and beautiful orchid in honor of National Principal's Month in October! I would also like to thank Mr. Dewees for coordinating some really special

things involving our students to celebrate, including my favorite “Fancy Day” spirit day, the beautiful advice video from our students, and a special Cameo video from Olympic swimmer Summer Sanders!

### **Joe Corbi Fundraiser**

Our fall Joe Corbi fundraiser was a success, and we thank all of our families who placed orders! We raised \$3,931.50. These funds will be used for PBIS celebrations and incentives for students, staff appreciation initiatives, and instructional materials for our students.

### **Q1 Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Conferences**

11/8/2023 at 4pm, Q1 report cards will become available electronically for families in HCPSS Connect. As you may already be aware, this year, HCPSS has transitioned to a standards-based report card for prekindergarten through second grade.

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents and guardians during our annual fall parent-teacher conferences, which will be held on Monday, November 20 through Wednesday, November 22. There is currently a vendor issue causing difficulty for parents to access conference sign ups. Once that has been remedied, the school system will send out an email notifying you that you are able to sign up. When signing up for your conference with your child's homeroom teacher, please sign in to your HCPSS Connect account to select an appointment slot. All conferences on Monday, November 20 will be held in person, and all conferences on Tuesday, November 21 and Wednesday, November 22 will be held virtually. If you would like to schedule a conference with a special educator, related service provider, or related arts teacher, please email that staff member directly to set up an appointment during the conference window. Parents of 4th grade students in GT math will also have the opportunity to sign up for conferences with Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Murphy. All other parents will have an opportunity to meet with math teachers for a conference during our winter conference window in February.

### **American Education Week**

We look forward to celebrating American Education Week next week! From November 13-17, 2023, Americans nationwide will join the National Education Association (NEA) in celebrating public education. This year's theme is “Together for Safe, Just, and Equitable Schools”.

As part of the celebration, we welcome parents and guardians to visit their child's classroom during the week to see firsthand what a typical day of school looks like at BPES. In order to ensure adequate parking and minimize visitors' wait time when signing in and out of the front office, each grade level team has identified a focus day when parents are invited to join in and visit their child's classroom. If your schedule does not permit you to visit on the designated focus day for your child's grade, please know you are welcome any day during the week. If you would like to come on a day other than the focus days listed below, please email your child's teacher to let him or her know when you plan to come.

**Focus days:**

RECC - Tuesday, November 14  
Kindergarten - Monday, November 13  
Grade 1 - Monday, November 13  
Grade 2 - Wednesday, November 15  
Grade 3 - Tuesday, November 14  
Grade 4 - Wednesday, November 15  
Grade 5 - Tuesday, November 14

Prior to your visit, please review and sign the [Visitor Confidentiality Certificate](#). Please note that item 1, "Provide 24 hours advance notice prior to the visit/observation" does not apply during American Education Week. If you have already completed this form this school year, you do not need to complete it a second time.

**Visitor Reminders During American Education Week:**

- Please be prepared to sign-in using LobbyGuard and wear a visitor's sticker.
- Younger children are not permitted in the classrooms when parents visit.
- Visitors must refrain from using their phones or taking photographs or videos in the classroom.
- Please put your phone on silent or vibrate. If you need to use your phone or device for any reason, please go to the front lobby or exit the building.
- Visitors may not enter empty classrooms or offices.

**Calendar Reminders**

November 13-17 - American Education Week  
November 16, 4pm - Deadline to sign up for parent/teacher conferences  
November 17 - Spirit Day: Jersey Day  
November 20 - 3 hour early dismissal for students; Parent/teacher conferences  
November 21 - 3 hour early dismissal for students; Parent/teacher conferences  
November 22 - Schools closed for students; Parent/teacher conferences  
November 23-24 - Schools and offices closed

**Question from Christina Yingling – contract for assembly; Julia will follow up.**

**Thanks to Denise Meyer and Graeg Keogh for an amazing 2023 Bushy Bear Dash event.**

**Huge thanks to all parent and student volunteers that helped with both the Dash and Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat events.**

**PTA Events**

- **Past Events**
  - Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat
    - Trunk or Treat will be a shorter time period than Fall Fest event overall.
      - Will allow for more time to be spent with the Fall Fest activities
    - Disrespectful conversations were happening about the candy options during the Trunk or Treat.
      - Want to ensure this does not happen again

- Questions? Just ask
- 2023 Bushy Bear Dash Fun Run update
  - Occurred on Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 5:30 – 8:00 PM
  - PTA's largest fundraiser of the year – fundraising goal \$12,500
  - As of this evening, we are at 96% of our goal.
    - \$11,964 raised as of the PTA Meeting
  - Use of Glenwood Middle School Volunteers was wonderful for this event!
  - A combined effort of parent/student volunteers, parent and teacher involvement, community participation and donation efforts were key to our success.
  - If there is any feedback (positive and constructive) about this event, please email [Denise20077@gmail.com](mailto:Denise20077@gmail.com).
  - Michele – comment on the middle school volunteers, asked if we wanted to consider providing a thank you or snack of some sort for our GMS Volunteers who were such a big help with both Fall Fest and Bushy Bear Dash this year.
- BPES Staff Dinner | Monday, November 20, 2023 | 5:00 PM | Media Center
  - Italian style theme
  - PTA to provide main dishes from local restaurant.
  - Posted sign up for donations which were fulfilled within a few hours of posting.
- Reflections
  - Information will go out in Bushy Bear Tales Newsletter, open until December 1, 2023
- Science Fair – Neesha Manickam
  - Flyers sent out with incorrect date – corrected date shared on FB site and new flyers.
  - Science Guys of Baltimore (1/2 price for us)
  - Recruiting for judges
  - Volunteer Sign-up
- International Night – January 18, 2024
  - Chair for this event needed
  - Will be posted on Facebook
- Restaurant Fundraisers – Michelle Sexton
  - Waiting for EWBecks check; waiting to hear back from management
  - Chic Filet November 6, 2023 – will send funds electronically
  - Tony Locos – January 16, 2024
  - Reached out to a few other businesses
    - Cilantros
    - Ten Oaks Tavern

- Texas Roadhouse
- Sponsorships – Christina Yingling
  - Mt. Airy Dental current sponsor (check received)
  - 30 additional letters to go out this week (Glenwood, Mt. Airy & Woodbine)
  - If you know any businesses locally that are interested in sponsoring BPES PTA please email [bpesptapres@gmail.com](mailto:bpesptapres@gmail.com)
- Scholastic Bookfair – Cathy Tran-Zwanetz - Beatrice couldn't make it but had updates to share
  - Link for volunteers went out today and need multiple volunteers for this year's Bookfair
    - Set up, check out, etc. and during event
    - Waiting on vendor to get back about details and supplies
- Bingo in January – Michelle Sexton
  - Need to work on logistics; concerns about access to cafeteria due to after school program
  - Hoping to host two sessions - 6-7 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM
  - Julia wants to touch base with Michelle about this to confirm various logistics and further discuss with Rec & Parks
- Restaurant Night Out – Christina Yingling
  - Chic Fil A - Monday, November 6, 2023
    - Successful?
  - Tony Locos – January 16, 2024
  - Planning a location for December
  - Increase marketing for these events
- Sponsorships – Drew Wilson
  - Has template letter and 30 letters will be sent out before end of month

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade end of the year event
    - Voula advised she has someone possibly interested
    - Perhaps reach out to Room Parents for 5<sup>th</sup> 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: \$
  - Walkers Night out - \$125 (check received)
  - Tony Locos - upcoming
    - Asks that 3-weeks in advance start advertising for this (Bushy Bear Tales, social media, etc. and send an all-school email one week out from these dates)
  - Chipotle Fundraiser
  - Harris Teeter
  - Spirit Wear

- **Expenses**

- Outgoing expenses:
  - Fall fest - \$1,877 – waiting for one more reimbursement for this event
  - Bushy Bear Dash – in progress but doing great
    - Denise Meyer will submit expenses for reimbursement
  - Teacher Conferences/Staff Dinner expenses - TBD
  - Science Fair Expenses – TBD
  - October Treasurer todos
    - Howard County PTA dues paid
    - Memberhub dues paid
    - Financial Audit has been uploaded to Memberhub has been completed
- Questions
  - What is the budget for Bingo this year?
    - Jenn advised \$850
  - Parent Night Out Fundraiser
    - Budget - \$2,500 | Revenue is a guess because it's the first year of this fundraiser (\$3,000)
    - Consider a joint Bingo event with Glenwood Middle School
      - TBD and discussed by PTA Board

- **Future opportunities to raise funds for future events**

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### Open Items & Questions

- Christina Yingling - Several issues with fundraising through Memberhub will likely be changed, the fees are too high.
  - Will likely still manage BPES PTA Membership and dues through Memberhub

- Christina Yingling - Spoke with Julia about Giving Tree Program
  - Will be posting flyers and boxes for donations
  - Christina Yingling is going to facilitate
- Beth Franks feedback - When looking for other services for donations/fundraising consider the impacts of a site posting the names and amounts of donations for each student/family
  - Think we should consider the impact of the posting of names and dollar amounts donated. Must consider equity and mindful of not publicly sharing that information. Can we keep this information more private and less specific to the student/family.
  - Christina Yingling – when we were looking at other fundraiser sites/options; saw that Dayton Oaks was displaying donations to a teacher not a student. Appreciate the feedback and ask for change.
    - Do have a meter at school for the amount of funds raised as an entire school.
- Michelle Sexton – We aren't sharing this at school are we?
  - No it is not being shared at that level in school. The concern is that when someone donates it shows a name and amount donated on the Memberhub page for BPES PTA. Consider keeping that information anonymous or less specific in some way.
- Shari Roberts – Public information per family, wanted clarification. Agree with Beth, this feels uncomfortable.
  - Christina Yingling - This is the first time using this new platform for any fundraising aspect. Want to change platforms and looking for feedback.
    - Dash may be run by the PTA Board moving forward. This is the biggest fundraiser for the school, and it needs to be handled differently moving forward.
  - Other platforms being discussed?
    - Christing Yingling - 99 Pledges is being looked at and considered for future use. Would like to consider other options if anyone knows of any
      - Comparison to Memberhub explained
        - Memberhub charges 2.9 % fee for all credit card transactions, 1.3% plus \$0.50 on donations.
          - Tip was an option to help cover these fees, some didn't see this option and some didn't like the option. It caused confusion.
        - 99 Pledges only charges 2.9% credit card fee
  - Shari Roberts - I think we should put a statement out there that explains thanks for the support, and we are hearing the concerns and feedback about the collection of donations.

- Christina Yingling – once fundraiser closes the PTA will send one full email out about these concerns.
- Candice Gerstner – when I was walking around with the donation bucket people offered feedback that they didn't want their donation to be public or posted. She heard the same feedback being discussed here tonight.
- Candice Gerstner – Asked about Dash incentives (breakfast and class reward)
  - Waiting for final fundraising numbers
  - Denise Meyer confirmed that the grade who raises most funds will have their choice of a grade-level Spirit Day.
  - Glow sticks were a HUGE hit, parents loved being able to see their kids, however more cat ears/headbands are needed if we have an evening event in the future.
- Candice Gerstner – Are we allowed to have a donation bucket at all our events throughout the year? Nothing in your face but an option to have there
  - Christina Yingling – will have to look at fundraising rules to see if this is feasible; personally (not speaking for all), we don't want to over burden and ask for donations all the time.
- Cathy Tran-Zwanetz – Do we coordinate restaurant fundraisers with middle school or other schools? Denise explained that GMS and BPES had restaurant fundraisers on same nights
  - Michelle Sexton advised that she sets up for both school and tries to avoid this but sometimes it does happen

**Having no other items of business or questions, this meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM by Denise J. Meyer.**

**Next meeting, Wednesday, December 6th, 2023, at 7:30 PM. Keep an eye on your email for the virtual meeting link.**