

BMHS Parents' Club Minutes
October 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Karen Pace at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report - Minutes of the May 10, 2010 and September 13, 2010 PC meetings were emailed in advance and approved.

President's Report – Karen Pace and Lynn Massey

- We have added a PC web page to the BMHS website. Check back as we update it. It will include minutes.
- Dr. Marks, the new superintendent of schools will be speaking at the NAACP meeting scheduled for Oct 19.
- Board of Ed meeting is scheduled for Oct 19. All are encouraged to attend these meetings.
- Lynn Massey recommended to check out a website called I Civics to learn about an online game endorsed by Sandra Day O'Connor that teaches children about civics while engaged in a fun game.
- We are still looking for housing for a Thai student who has lost his exchange family.
- The Parents' Club has been asked to help fund the radio program. Before voting a brief history of the program was given:
 - There is space allocated in the building for a radio studio.
 - Funds were raised through a brick campaign years ago to fund the TV station. Currently over \$7,000 is in the account.
 - The radio station is closer to getting off the ground because of student interests and staff expertise in this area.
- Student involved in the Radio Station Program were invited to address the Parents' Club. The students, Geoff Saunders, JC Moritz and Anna Rae Newland, spoke about their plans and goals for the radio station.
 - They would use an online program (Radio 365)
 - They could tape programs for play when school is not in session
 - The group has already raised money with a video game event
 - The group of interested students is growing (approx. 20)
 - They have received publicity from The Hour
 - The programs could include sports as well as events and music
 - Money is needed for hosting and song library primarily
 - They currently have an advisor
 - The program could sell advertising to sustain itself
- The Parents voted to use \$5,381 from the TV account to fund the radio station. Discussion prior to the vote included:
 - Current status of TV station: no expertise and no equipment
 - Hope that the radio station will spur interest in TV
 - Concerns about sustainability of the radio station
 - Funds being distributed are only for start up and one year of fees
 - There will be broadcasts during the summer, not just the school year

- Principal Koroshetz supports the radio station and the PC funding

Guest Speaker – Housemaster Scott Hurwitz presented information about the BMHS attendance policy.

- “H”ing is losing academic credit in one or more classes due to absenteeism or tardiness.
- A student receives an H by being absent more than 8 times in a quarter.
- The 8 absences include “excused” absences.
- Tardies contribute to absences at a rate of 2 tardies equals 1 “cut”.
- “Cut” is an unexcused absence. 3 cuts (unexcused absences) results in a loss of credit (H). This means that 6 tardies results in an H.
- Attendance is taken in each class each day. A daily attendance is recorded during 2nd period. This is what is reported to the state for statistical purposes.
- Exceptions can be made for prolonged medical issues.
- The school does not endorse leaving early on Prom days.
- College visits with proper documentation (see your headmaster) do not count as one of the 8 absences.

Further information on the attendance policy can be found on the BMHS Website.

Principal’s Report – Suzanne Brown Koroshetz

- The garden is planted. Thanks to Pepperidge Farm. Some of the plants are coming up. 130 kids participated in the project. Pepperidge Farm employees were impressed with the kids and how helpful everyone was.
- The Homecoming Dance was cancelled due to lack of interest. Instead there was a Pep Rally held after school. It was very successful.
- Two big dates: Oct 23, PC Clothing Drive and Oct 30, BMHS Beautification Day.
- Big academic day: Nov 4, Raise the Bar Day. Kaplan will offer PSAT exams to freshmen. Sophomores will take 3 sections of CAPT. Juniors will take a real SAT which will be scored by Kaplan. Seniors will have opportunities to sign up for workshops for all different levels of students including college prep and AP.
- School Growth Plan is continuing with a focus on literacy which will impact math and science as well as literature and English classes.

Treasurer’s Report – Joe Lacovara

- Budget reports were available as handouts showing total income and expenses at approximately \$6,200.
- We received \$900 from the Ben & Jerry’s Carts at the Oyster Festival
- Cash Balance: \$4,244.33 including memberships (\$1,270)
- Matching funds: please check with your employer to see if your company matches donations. We can process these funds through NEF. Check with Joe regarding questions about this process.

PTO Council Rep Report – MJ Chironna

- The first meeting was in September with all new board members
- Dr. Marks spoke at the PTO Council Meeting
 - She wants to focus on making all students college ready

- She wants to build a high performing team in each school
- She has assembled work groups (see handout). If anyone is interested in participating they can sign up for any of the topics (district wide).
- Dr. Marks will be speaking at the Feb PC meeting

Fundraising

- Liza Montgomery spoke about the Stop & Shop program. Shoppers register their loyalty card and tie it to BMHS and the Parents' Club will earn a percentage of sales from each card. We are waiting for a number to give out in order to register the cards.
- Suzy Aubrey spoke about the Clothing Drive. There has been advertising in The Hour. There are enough volunteers for all shifts. There is a lot of buzz about the event which will take place Sat the 23rd.
- Julie Begos spoke about the Senior Fashion Show. Funds are used for PGP. The show is scheduled for March 4 (Snow day March 5). There will be a meeting for volunteers on Saturday, November 13 at 11 am at the Rowayton Community Center. Anyone who is interested can attend. Help is needed in all areas. Many retailers have already signed on.

New Business

- New signage at school. If there is anyone interested in taking on this project, please let us know.
- Hospitality Committee – we are looking for someone to head this committee.
- Red, White and Blue Night. Be sure to include freshmen so talk it up. There will be sign up sheets at the next meeting. The event is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving – November 23. It's a fun night followed by the Powder Puff game.
- Drama Club – Mark DiTaranto is the parent rep for the Drama Club. They have scheduled The Crucible for Dec 3 and 4. There are forms for ads for the program if anyone can help to secure ads. The spring production will be Hairspray (end of March).

The next Parents' Club meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 7 pm in the cafeteria. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Seiden

