

James Hubert Blake High School
PTSA General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2009, at 7 pm at Blake's Media Center.

Introduction and Presentation

Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Beth Blevins, Vice President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelmann, Secretary; Carole Goodman, Principal; Joe Du Boyce, Assistant Principal; and several PTSA committee chairs, general members and new Blake parents and students (sign in sheet is attached).

Robina Barlow welcomed all in attendance and had every one introduce themselves.

Business

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Robina Barlow called the meeting to order and distributed copies of the agenda. Robina thanked Margie McNabb for her contribution in the success of Back to School night. Robina also thanked Janice Hylton for her work on Race for a Dream, and those who volunteered at NEC open house.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes from the September meeting be approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the August 12, 2009 budget to General Membership for adoption. The budget indicates income of \$16,374.21. No questions were raised. Brenda excused herself from the meeting.

Robina introduced Mr. Du Boyce to present information about AP Testing at Blake. In 2008-2009, 1102 students took the AP test. Blake had a 75% pass rate goal, meaning students score a 3 or higher. Future challenges for Blake: English Lit and NSL. Mr. Du Boyce explained that not as many 10th graders were passing (receiving a 3 or higher on the AP NSL test), and methods to better prepare students were discussed.

The Spanish language AP test is a way to encourage Spanish-speaking students to take an AP class, and hopefully get them hooked.

Students increased scores in Calculus, Biology and Environmental Science.

Mr. Du Boyce asked the PTSA to contribute towards an AP picnic for AP students who complete 3 or more AP tests. Pizza is requested.

The test fee is \$84. The school keeps \$8 per test to pay for proctors, supplies....

The county contributes money for students not able to pay the AP test fee. Last year, 70 students received this aid.

Mrs. Goodman said that it is important to tell students and parents that good scores on the AP tests mean college credits. This is money in the bank. Students who take AP classes, even if they do not do well on the AP final test, tend to have better success in college.

There was some discussion on GPA and whether avoiding AP classes to increase the GPA is advisable. Mr. Du Boyce said that colleges take course load into consideration.

Ruben Escobar asked if there was an AP test chart by racial breakdown. Mr. Du Boyce said he does have those figures and will forward them to Robina to post on website.

Blake's AP scores are fairly equal to Paint Branch and Springbrook. County-wide, Blake's scores are somewhere in the middle.

Robina said that if anyone had any further questions, they are invited to e-mail Mr. Du Boyce. Mr. Du Boyce will give all information to Robina, and it will be posted on the PTSA website within the next few days.

PTSA POSITIONS: COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

Membership – Chairs: Edith Salazar and Robin Ford

Robin said that the PTSA has 385 members. The goal is 600. We are at 66% of financial goal. Robin encouraged all to join and to bring a friend. We are at 54% of our \$15,000 Direct Appeal goal.

Race for a Dream - Chair: Janice Hylton was not present, but Robina said that the race had 108 participants. The race promoted teen driver safety and the funds will go to After Prom.

Debbie Gartland said that the 11th grade parents' meeting was on September 30 and was well attended with 45 people. Two more meetings will be held in January and in March.

Special Education - Chair: Debbie Gartland

Accommodations is a hot issue this year. The county is stringent in allowing them.

A parent suggested that the school needs to do a better job in giving parents information on applying for accommodations. Mrs. Goodman said that all the information was in the summer packet.

Beth suggested creating a Special Ed category on the PTSA website.

Robina asked for a quick survey on whether or not parents thought they were receiving too many e-mails through Eubiemail. No one raised their hands. Francoise Dumas is the new moderator. She puts the subject matter in the subject line, so parents can know what is in the e-mail before they open it. She is also creating a weekly summary of events at the school.

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias said that the next Education Committee meeting is on Thursday, October 22, 2009. A proposed idea for development will be discussed. Please come.

Reflections – Reflections is a PTSA-sponsored national arts competition to promote visibility of art programs. Information went out to the teachers, and Robina asked that teachers inform the students. More information will be on the PTSA website

Silent Auction – Chair: Dawn (*not present*)

Robina said that the auction will be held on April 16. Many people are needed for the committee.

MCCPTA Delegates – Coordinators: Jack Goble (*not present*) and Bill Halpin

Bill said that 5 items which required action were discussed at last meeting at which Jack and Bill were both present.

1 – Proposed Amendments to MCCPTA Bylaws. One coordinator and one chair of a standing committee allowed to vote. Other cluster coordinators and chairs may participate in discussion, but will not be permitted to vote and will not count in the quorum. The quorums are very high.

Two thirds vote may remove member who doesn't show – this puts pressure on members to make all of the meetings.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the proposal be accepted as stated.

2- Proposed Resolution on FY 2011 Operating Budget Priorities. MCCPTA members visit high schools for feedback on their priorities. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the proposal be accepted as stated.

3 – Proposed Resolution on FY 2011 Operating Budget Compact. This focused on operational priorities. It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the proposal be accepted as stated.

4 – Proposed Resolution on Restroom Renovation Project in FY 2011-2016 CIP. This outlines the goals and maintenance requirements of school restrooms. ADA accessible issues also fall under this resolution.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the proposal be accepted as stated.

5 – Proposed Resolution on FY 2011 CIP Budget and FY 2011-2016 CIP. The Board of Education is asking our PTSA to comment. MCCPTA wants county and state to provide funding. This resolution is identical to last year's language.

It was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously that the proposal be accepted as stated.

NEC Cluster - Coordinators: Dawn Dolan (for Paint Branch)(*not present*) and Lee Ann Doerflinger (for Blake)

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30, Galway Center, NEC Cluster meeting. Jeannie Franklin, in the county NEC office, will be heading. Next month's meeting will be at Briggs Chaney.

Lee Ann Doerflinger met with the school board and made connections. She thanked the PTSA for supporting CIP budgets. Cluster Coordinators: Lee Ann, middle school; Patti Twigg, high school; and Dawn Dolan, elementary school.

PTSA Website – Chair: Beth Blevins, Communications VP

The PTSA has a new website, <http://www.blakeptsa.org/>

There is a lot of information accessible on the website. Beth asks for advice from members. The vice president's e-mail address is vp@blakeptsa.org. Ad hoc committee was held at her house. Only meet once/year.

Business cards were introduced to advertise website.

The Facebook page was renamed to "Blake PTSA events"

Those who wish to volunteer can contact the PTSA by e-mail at volunteer@blakeptsa.org.

Information for student SSL hours, H1N1 virus and other useful information for parents/families can be found on website.

NAACP – Chairs: Sharon Mosley-Ramsey and Bobette Banks (*not present*)

Sharon said they had a successful meeting on October 19 – 25 people. Jerry Weast attended.

Jeannie Franklin will be present at next meeting – October 23 at 9:00.

PALA – Parent and Student Latinos in Action – Chair: Ruben Escobar

First meeting was held on October 8 and was successful. Edline tutorials were well received. Study circles encouraged. Parents encouraged to join PTSA.

In an aside, Rubin mentioned that the Jazz ensemble show at the Strathmore was great.

Blake Blue Note PTSA newsletter - Editors: Sara Watson and Michele Setton (*not present*)

Robina said latest issue just went out and is also available on website.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Carole Goodman

- Back to School night was successful.
- NEC Open House also successful – more than 1,000 attended.
- PSAT day went well. Student participation was 95%.
- There will be a coat check at Homecoming this year. No shoes – students are encouraged to take a change of shoes to wear at dance.
- Scott Sussman complete the Blake alumni website. Important networking tool. The Foundation link will be on website. 1,000 alumni have checked in.
- Blake's Media Center was nominated best in State, and Susie Treat accepted award at ceremony on October 17.
- There will be a county council meeting to discuss electronic signs in front of high school. In Damascus, a firehouse wants to use an electronic sign, was told they couldn't -- they are petitioning. Fortunately, no accidents have been attributed to Blake's sign, but preemptively, Blake will slow down messages.
- More cases of H1N1, but not many.
- Homecoming game on Friday, October 23. Dance on Saturday the 24th.

New Business

- * Next PTSA meeting will be on November 17. The National Alliance on Mental Illness will give presentation. Edith Salazar will facilitate. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 - please bring snack.
 - No date for December as yet.
 - In January, Officer Lowrey will discuss internet security issues and Mr. Harper will discuss security issues.
 - In February, Tom Pecoraro from I Drive Smart will be at the meeting to discuss teen driver safety.
- * MCCPTA Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting on November 9 in the Blake Career Center.
- * PTA convention on November 13-14 in Frederick. If interested in attending, contact Robina.
- * An exploratory Foundation meeting will be held on November 30 at 7:00 pm
- * The Education Committee's math survey was distributed, and everyone is asked to fill one out. It was suggested that it be posted on the PTSA website. Beth said it would be posted both in .pdf and word.
- * International Night successful, but more parent involvement necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary