

James Hubert Blake High School
PTSA General Meeting/Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2009

The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 7 pm at Blake's Media Center.

Introduction and Presentation

Robina Barlow welcomed all in attendance and had every one introduce themselves. Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Beth Blevins, Vice President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelmann, Secretary; Carole Goodman, Principal; Diane Bush, Maura McMullen, Dawn Dolan, Jack Goble, and Bill Halpin. Also attending were several PTSA committee chairs, general members and new Blake parents and students.

Business

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes from the June, July and August meetings be approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Robina Barlow called the meeting to order and distributed copies of the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the proposed budget to General Membership for adoption.

Question from the floor about the increase in the Arts Festival/Silent Auction budget – whether it is feasible. Dawn Dolan is the chair and expressed confidence that the goal would be met. Robina suggested adding a co-chair.

There was also a question from the floor regarding the decrease in the newsletter costs. Robina answered that it is anticipated that several families will opt to receive the newsletter on-line, so copying costs will be reduced.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the budget be accepted.

Brenda Pullen announced that the treasurer had the annual audit. Blake received a correct on July 11, 2009.

PTSA POSITIONS: COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

Membership - Robina Barlow noted that several chair and committee positions are open and need to be filled. Participation is encouraged. Notice given to parents that a vice president will be needed this year, who can be president next year. Also, a NEC Cluster Coordinator position is open. If anyone is interested in a position, see Robina.

Volunteer committee – Co-Chairs: Maura McMullen/ *Open*

Back to School Night Table/Staff Appreciation Dinner –

Back to School Night – Chair: Margie McNabb (mmcnabb47@verizon.net)

Encouraging parents to help at the table fair or simply to attend.

This event is very informative – a day in the life of your student. Attend class in 10 minute increments and meet all of their teachers.

Staff Appreciation Dinner - that same afternoon. Putting out a call for desserts – either homemade or store purchased. Student can bring the item in the morning.

Race for a Dream - October 18, 2009 11 am at Blake Chair: Janice Hilton Registration Fee: \$10 through Friday, October 16th and \$20 on Race Day. **Registration opens at 10:00 a.m. and the Race starts at 11:00 a.m.**

5K run/3k walk

I Drive Smart is a sponsor

Fundraiser for After Prom

The Race for a Dream promotes teen driver safety, which is an important focus for all high school students and parents, especially at homecoming time. This event is a great learning experience and a good reminder of safe driving tips for all ages.

After Prom – Chairs: Maura McMullen and Diane Bush

October 5 planning meeting at 7 pm in the Career Center.

This year's After Prom will be at Dave & Busters from 12:30 to 5 am. This provides a safe and alcohol-free environment for our children. There will be a discussion in the future regarding next year's venue. Jack Goble mentioned that the PTSA is selling pizza at Blake every Tuesday from 2-2:15. We are looking for volunteers to sell pizza. The proceeds also benefit After Prom.

Reflections – Chair: Mimi Browne and Jack Goble

Reflections is a PTSA-sponsored national arts competition to promote visibility of art programs. This year's theme is "Beauty is" Students will submit a work of art in the following mediums: digital, charcoal and pencil drawings, photography, music composition, video, etc.

Submission deadline will be late November. There will be cash prizes for some who reach finals. Blake will provide cash prizes for winners at Blake. Beth Blevins suggested Blake Beat cover the finals.

Silent Auction – Chair: Dawn Dolan

Work for a new database for on-line bidding and advertising will start this month.

Solicitations for donations needs to start now – should have started in the summer. Dawn encourages all parents for auction ideas in light of the decreased budget year.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction go to the school. The Principal advises the PTSA what is needed. In the past, proceeds purchased security cameras and contributed towards the electronic board at the entrance.

Staff Appreciation – This is a monthly event for Blake staff. The PTSA will look for donations of food items, gifts and gift cards.

Membership – Chairs: Edith Salazar and Robin Ford. There are currently 175 PTSA members, among which are 25 students. The goal is to have 700 members. Currently, the Direct Appeal has collected \$3,580, the goal is \$15,000.

PTSA Website – Chairs: 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. She would like to discuss forming an ad hoc committee at future meetings.

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.

Ms. Sydelle volunteered to take over the Facebook page.

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

Blake is a member of the Northeast Consortium, along with Springbrook and Paint Branch.

First NEC meeting was in September with Montgomery County Public Schools personnel. The CIP budget was discussed.

Parent Workshops –

Blake provided Edline training classes for teachers on Monday Sept. 14.

On November 10, a Financial Aid seminar will be held by the Counseling Center in English and in the Career Counseling Center in Spanish.

College Goal Sunday – held at MC in January provides hands-on FAFSA training. Open to all parents of 11th and 12th graders.

NAACP – Chairs: Sharon Mosley-Ramsey and Bobette Banks.

A meet and greet will be held in the near future.

PALA – Parents and Students Latinas in Action – Chair: Ruben Escobar

First meeting will be on October 8.

Golf Tournament – October 8

This is a Booster club sponsored event held at Argyle Country Club. More information can be found on the website <http://www.blakeptsa.org/> or at the Blake school website.

Blake Blue Note – PTSA newsletter

There will be 6 issues this year because it is so expensive. Manpower is needed to remove labels (which the county provides). There was discussion on whether or not it is feasible to go all electronic. It was noted that there is an option for each member to indicate with a check mark that they would prefer to receive electronic copies, rather than a hard copy.

The purpose of the newsletter is to reach as many families as possible. Is lack of computers a problem? It was suggested that an exploratory committee be formed to explore the issue.

Carole Goodman, Principal added that it is a constant struggle to reach everyone. Some families do not have computer access, and they do need that hard copy.

Back to school night has a 90% participation rate. We must target that 10%. She wants feedback for next year.

OTHER REPORTS:

Used book sale – February 19 through 21 Chair: Orit Chicherio

Needs volunteers. There will be a meeting in the next 2 weeks. An idea was raised to have a drive-by book drop off. More discussion needed.

Nominating Committee – Chairs: Orit Chicherio and Melvin Moore. There is currently a search for nominees for school year 2010-2011. As it was noted earlier, a call was made to underclassmen's parents that a vice president is needed who will go on to be president next year.

Back to School Night is September 24.

PSAT testing will be held on October 14. Moriah Martin will e-mail the information

On September 10, a 55-student band/choral went to see a performance of NY Voices of US Airmen at Bolling Air Force base. This will be broadcast on the music department website. More information will be on Edline.

Magazine Fundraiser – Chair: Jack Goble/more information on website. It is a profitable fundraiser – Blake takes 36 to 40%.

October 4 concert "SUNSET JAZZ" featuring jazz band and Eubietones in courtyard. 400 people expected. No entrance fee, but there will be a "pass the hat" for donations.

SGA Attendance - The students are informally invited to every meeting. They can provide presentations and feedback to all students. Robina will extend an invitation to the SGA. After all, it is PTSA's purpose and intent to represent the student body, as well as parents and teachers.

Old Business

By laws committee needed

- PTSA structure
- position descriptions
- committee descriptions

New Business

Several resolutions from MCPTA on voting will be presented and are to be discussed at a later date.

Message from the Principal, Carole Goodman

- There is less in budget this year. For example, Xerox technicians reduced from 20 to 4. There is no money in budget for parking lot resurfacing. Money from vending machines drastically reduced.
- The school store, which was very successful, will be resurrected. Teacher sponsor, Scott Sussman, a former student, wants a satellite store.
- The Blake website is being retooled. It will be upgraded next month.
- PSAT test on October 14. The county will pay for 10th graders. 11th graders are encouraged to pay the fee, which is \$13, because the National Merit Society makes its judgment based on the scores.
- NEC Open House on October 8. All 8th grade parents will be “shopping” the Northeast Consortium schools. Motivated volunteers are needed. Blake must put its “best face forward.”
- H1N1 virus not yet severe, but all those who are sick are asked to stay at home. Wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available. Sneeze and cough into your elbow.
- Staff Appreciation. Please take the time to e-mail the teacher with an appreciative note for a job well done, and copy Ms. Goodman. This improves morale tremendously, more than a cookie or candy ever could.
- Mass vaccinations in elementary schools only.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm