

James Hubert Blake High School  
PTSA General Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 20, 2010

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

### **Introduction and Presentation**

Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelmann, Secretary; Beth Blevins, VP; Carole Goodman, Principal; several PTSA committee chairs and general members (Attachment 1).

Robina Barlow welcomed all and said that now that we are at the end of the school year, next month's meeting will be very important because we will be voting for new officers.

### **Business**

MINUTES: Catherine Kugelmann submitted the minutes for the March general meeting. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes be approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the Treasurer's report to General Membership. We are at 86.6% of membership goal, and at 76.2% of our Direct Appeal cash donation goal. The money market account is at \$21,170.36 and the Blake account is \$26,494.76.

Some concerns were discussed regarding the Silent Auction budget. The committee chair, Dawn Dolan, mentioned that giving away \$1,000 to another committee in September placed a strain on the budget. She cautions future committee chairs against this practice.

The future costs of the auction software were debated, it is estimated that database maintenance will cost \$600 each year. Dawn asked for the budget to be adjusted to allow for the cost of software. It is needed to have a successful auction. It was moved, seconded, voted on and carried to approve the proposed revised budget.

### **COMMITTEE'S REPORTS**

Nominating Committee – no one has stepped forward for next year – there is an open slate and during next month's meeting, nominations will be made from the floor. Ms. Goodman suggested that 10<sup>th</sup> grade parents be cultivated since they were more familiar with the school, and they would be around for 3 more years.

Bylaws Committee – The Bylaws Committee met to make changes to the current Bylaws. (Attachment 2.)

It was moved, seconded, and the vote carried unanimously that the proposed changes be adopted.

PTSA Scholarship – Chairs: Jack Goble and Mimi Browne

Special Education – Chair: Debbi Gartland could not attend, but asked Robina to say that there is a new state law for IEPs and to contact her for more information.

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias

Jonathan submitted a formal proposal for a 2-year Tutor-Mentor program (Attachment 3).

Dr. Daniels and Mr. Tyrell said that there has been success with the current tutoring program. Jonathan spoke to students to gauge their reactions. There were all enthusiastic and said that their grades have improved as a result of the program. The proposed Tutor-Mentor program will expand the current mentoring program by providing help students to navigate the rest of high school, i.e., acceptable social codes, study skills and habits, how to be an effective, not disruptive, student.

Eleventh or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have good grades and are good role models will be identified by teachers. These students will be screened for eligibility.

Joy Raffe runs a nonprofit task force for mentoring in Montgomery County. She will set up the program, provide the orientation for the students, and monitor the program.

The goal is to put this program in practice this fall. It will be run by the school. The PTSA will provide monetary incentives to students - \$200 for 4 months and snacks. This is a huge commitment for the students – it will require a lot of time, not only in school, but potentially out of school, too (i.e., Facebook, phone calls, e-mails).

Principal Goodman said that placing a letter in the student's record because of nonperformance is not possible.

National Honor Society students are excluded from monetary awards because they are already involved in a tutoring agreement. There are many other students that may not be straight A students, but relate well to other students.

This program does not overlap HS101, because HS101 is only 2 weeks – the relationships are not forged.

A motion was made and seconded to table the proposal today and vote on it in May. Jonathan said that the only problem with this is that it must be implemented this year. Students must be identified and plans must be made.

The Treasurer pointed out that it is not an authorized line item, and we can only vote now to place it in next year's budget.

The previous motion to table discussion was defeated and a new motion was made and seconded to put the cost of the program, \$4,400, in next year's budget.

Jonathan will research whether or not company grants can be attained. Dawn has other business connections. Jonathan pointed out again through, that grants could take months, and companies will require proven results before they donate. He will try in mid-year.

Jonathan is also willing to spearhead fundraising efforts.

Principal Goodman thinks that a good time to approach students is June for in August (timeline similar to the athletes). In May, they are too focused on exams.

It was moved, seconded and carried (unanimously) to accept the proposal (with Principal Goodman's changes).

Comedy Night – Chairs: Jack Goble, Beth Blevins, Orit Chicherio and Robina Barlow.

Comedy Night was held Friday, April 16 at 7:30.

The kids came through in the end and put on a great show. Outside entertainment was not necessary. 101 people attended, PTSA lost \$300.

It is proposed to turn it over to the kids next year, and only provide seed money.

Membership – Chairs: Edith Salazar and Robin Ford

We have 655 members and are at 86% of goal.

After Prom - Chairs: Diane Bush and Maura McMullen

Maura said that we are \$3,000 short of goal. The ConnectEd phone calls will be made on Friday. \$5,000 will be needed from money market fund.

There will be 2 more pizza sales.

After Prom 2011: There was a meeting with the current class sponsor and incoming class sponsor, Ms. Jimenez before spring break. People want to keep the After Prom at Dave & Busters. Other venues for the prom are cost prohibitive. Principal Goodman said that the University of Maryland is \$14,000 (easy to police and free parking), while other hotels are \$30,000+.

Ms Jimenez wants to meet one more time before school ends.

Blake will have 50% FARMS students next year. Springbrook is 2 or 3 points higher and Paint Branch one point lower. When Blake opened, we were at 15%.

Silent Auction (May 7) - Chair: Dawn Dolan

Dawn reported that the on-line auction is picking up – it closes May 3.

We are reaching the community, out of 118 e-mails, 56 were actually opened.

New items are still coming in.

Plans must be made for the 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a meeting on Monday at 7:00.

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

Sharon said she attended county NAACP meeting in Rockville this month. The theme was “Being Black”. It was well attended and interesting.

The committee met Monday (Apr. 19) and began plans for next year.

Reflections – Trophies area being distributed. Grace Plihal James (Film Production, Senior Excellence) won a merit award and Ulises Cordova-Chavez (Music Composition, Senior OIT) is moving forward to the National PTA competition.

MCCPTA Delegates – Delegate: Bill Halpin

Bill Halpin reported that the general membership needed to vote on whether or not to support the proposed resolution on Middle School advanced courses. It was moved and seconded.

All 38 middle schools will participate.

Arts programs are unrelated.

The teachers identify eligible students.

Too much emphasis by parents to push kids to take high level classes.

After discussion, the motion was put to a vote and defeated with the nays carrying.

NEC Cluster – LeeAnn Doerflinger said there will be a meeting on the choice process on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 at Burtonsville Elementary.

At last month’s meeting, the new grading system (1,2,3 as opposed to A,B,C) was discussed. It was decided that it is complicated but will work. It was not explained well to parents.

The new operating budget is available on [www.mccpta.com](http://www.mccpta.com)

Thirteen Educational Facilities Officers (E.F.O.s) positions will be taken away, and parents are requested to write letters to the county council. Principal Goodman pointed out what a huge loss it would be if Blake lost Officer Joe Lowery. She encourages parents to write letters.

A letter from Blake PTSA should be sent.

#### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

- Blake will be in semifinals of *It’s Academic*
- There will be a bus running from Blake to White Oak to University of Maryland for Maryland Day on Saturday, April 24.
- Teacher Allison Finn is the recipient of this year’s Agnes Meyer Award.
- The African American Symposium was a success.
- Blake gained 80 students, but lost 1.6 teacher positions.
- There are several key teachers leaving.
- Please attend performance of “Little Shop of Horrors.”

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary