

James Hubert Blake High School
PTSA General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2010

The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, March 16, 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; Christopher Berry, Assistant Principal; several PTSA committee chairs and general members (sign in sheet is attached).

Robina Barlow welcomed all in attendance and introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Ben Sellers, Science Resource Teacher. Mr. Sellers has been involved in writing the science curriculum county-wide.

Mr. Sellers moved the meeting to a classroom across the hall from the Media Center. He presented an overview of Blake's science curriculum and gave a demonstration of a Promethean board.

The AP schedule is driven by what students elect to take. For classes like AP Physics, it is usually an every-other-year cycle.

Some classes are now available on-line. The price is approximately \$300, and is taken as an 8th class.

Blake is participating in a pilot program entitled "Critical Thinking Consortium". This program is tasked with teaching students by applying multiple intelligences. By using the Promethean board, kids are pulled in more than in a traditional setting – it fosters more participation.

Business

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Beth Blevins is updating the calendar. Please note that personal Google calendars can integrate with the calendar on the PTSA website. An asterisk* denotes a non-sponsored PTSA event.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the Treasurer's report to General Membership. We are at 86% of membership goal, and at 75% of our Direct Appeal cash donation goal. Brenda asked that all reimbursements be submitted.

COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

Special Education – Chair: Debi Gartland

Approximately 100 area parents attended an informative program presented by Eliot Applestein.

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias

Jonathan Arias could not attend, but Robina presented a handout describing the Tutor-Mentor program. Jonathan would like the membership to read it over and come back next month with any questions. At that time, it will be discussed and voted upon. The Treasurer stressed that any monetary reimbursement to mentors must be added as a budget line item.

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

Comedy Night will be Friday, April 16 at 7:30. One half of the program will be presented by students and will feature Open Mic and Blake Last Comic Standing stand-up competition. Auditions will be held on Friday, March 19. The other half will feature the Jason Linett Comedy Hypnosis Show. You can pay for this event on the PTSA website using PayPal.

Bylaws Committee – Meeting on April 8.

After Prom - Chairs: Diane Bush and Maura McMullen

Maura said that fundraising is at 50% of goal. Sixty-three families have contributed. Pizza sales during school are still going on.

There will be a Silpata jewelry fundraiser at the Norbergs on April 24.

Book Sale – Chair: Orit Chicherio

The Book Sale was successful, with good community support and sales reaching \$3,599.14.

Several students earned SSL hours by volunteering.

It was proposed that the PTSA formally thank Kramer Enterprises and Heysers.

Nominating Committee – Robina stressed that it is critical to fill these positions to enlist PTSA volunteers for next year.

SGA REPORT: Jennifer Lien, Student Government Association president and liaison to the PTSA reported that on March 24th at lunch there will be a general assembly about SGA. Mr. Blake is March 23. The Montgomery County Regionals election was held and 2 Blake students are on the Board.

Silent Auction (May 7) - Chair: Dawn Dolan

Dawn reported that committee volunteers are still needed. After e-mail requests, there were no parent volunteers. Eight hundred letters went out to businesses in February -- she already has 76 confirmed donations. Parent letters were mailed.

The PTSA website will be updated to include all forms.

The Digital Arts class will make a poster.

Volunteers are needed to plan and help at the dinner service, arts, pick-up donations and to log information into computer.

PALA – Robina attended a celebratory meeting last week highlighting good GPAs and good works. Many parents learned more about Edline.

Debi Garland mentioned that the 11th grade parent meeting will be April 28 at 7 pm.

Reflections – Jack Goble reported that of 24 students in Montgomery County who moved up to the state competition, 6 were from Blake. Two students, Grace Plihal James (Film Production, Senior Excellence) and Ulises Cordova-Chavez (Music Composition, Senior OIT) are moving forward to the National PTA competition.

MCCPTA Delegates – Delegates: Jack Goble and Bill Halpin

Bill Halpin reported that two resolutions were approved. First, confirming the amendment defining who on the Board can vote and second, a proposed resolution requiring changes to the definition of ‘serious incidents.’

NEC Cluster – LeeAnn Doerflinger said the next NEC meeting will be March 17 at Page Elementary School.

Grading system will be reviewed (Cloverly is in pilot).

The operating budget is before of the County Council. There will be dramatic cuts in personnel, material, HVAC, etc.

Tim Hwang, student member of the Board of Education, said that no teachers will be let go. Classroom size is increasing because there are more students, and no more teachers are being hired.

LeeAnn said that MCCPTA prefers not to increase class size. Parents are encouraged to attend the County Council meeting on April 5 – 100 Maryland Avenue.

Jonathan Arias and Deborah King have volunteered to be next year’s NEC Cluster representatives.

Staff Liaison – Roberta Katz

- ACE Tutoring Program is offered everyday at lunch to all students in b2223. National Honor Society members are available to tutor students on the following days.
 - Monday: Social Studies
 - Tuesday: Science
 - Wednesday: English
 - Thursday; Math
 - Friday: Math and French.
 - Additional: Spanish
- March 25 – MANDATORY Senior parent meeting
- March 24 (Wednesday) in Amphitheater – College Daze program

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Ms. Goodman could not attend. Mr. Christopher Berry, Assistant Principal presented the report.

- Seniors need to be on track because there is very little leeway between final exams and graduation.
- *It’s Academic* team won the quarterfinals on Saturday. They will advance to the semifinals at WRC studios on Saturday, March 20 at 10:30 a.m. All are encouraged to attend.
- Both the boys and girls had successful seasons. Wrestling also did well.

- The music program did well in Florida. The band was 3rd overall, and vocals had several awards.
- Students will have "Hats for Haiti" fundraiser. Students can pay \$1 for the privilege of wearing a hat that day.
- Pennies for Patients made between \$6,000 to \$7,000.
- The African-American Symposium will be held this month. This will include a performance, a guest speaker and an interactive experience. There will be 4 30-minute sessions.
- Administration is still talking about the impact of the budget. Effects will be felt in the classroom, hopefully no staff will be cut. Materials fees may increase.
- Blake is asking the PTSA for \$4,500 to support HS 101. This is a vital program to the community which reaches out to those students who need encouragement.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Robina asked members to donate \$1 to support the students' Haitian Relief fund.

The student directory is now available through Edline.

On March 22, Blake will host the first of four public science lectures with a noble laureate in science, John Mather. Mr. Mather will discuss the future of Physics "From the Big Bang to Life and the end of the Universe."

Robina is interested in getting more information on "College Tracks" from Walter Johnson. This is a grant-funded program that gives students information on applying for college and financial information for college.

Because we put information on our website, it casts a wide net. For example, in response to the "Donations requested" posts on the website, art work for the Silent Auction and camera equipment for the school was donated from as far away as Washington State.

Check the website for the current Teachers Wish List. Some items on the list right now: 7 portable sewing machines and patterns.

After Prom Committee 2011 will hold a March 25 lunchtime meeting.

Blake Beat is looking for donations from parents to buy ads for their seniors in the next paper.

If anyone is interested in attending School Improvement Plan (SIP) meetings, they will be held April 14, May 12 and June 9, all from 2:30 – 4.

Robina would still like to establish regular meetings with counseling.

There were no further announcements or questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary