

Brownsville Elementary PTO  
General Membership Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2010

In Attendance: Claiborne Miller-Davis, Shan Meulenberg, Lori Benedict, Jeanette Abell, Megan Sullivan, Heather Marcel, Suzette Mata, Amy Life, Wendy Bragaw, Sue Brown, Cady Garey, Betsy Aronson, Jo Vining, Linda King, Ian Sole, Danica Plantz, Jess Haden and Joanne Meier.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Amy Life moved to approve the minutes with a change of section 3A to read the date April 20<sup>th</sup>. Danica Plantz seconded the motion. Approval passed unopposed.
- II. Reports of Officers
  - A. Principal, Jo Vining

Jo will be retiring at the end of this school year. Many reasons were at play in her decision including a grandson that she wants to spend time with, her art work, and the opportunity to teach at Mary Baldwin. She has enjoyed the last 7 years at Brownsville and will work through the end of June. New leadership will be respectfully chosen. Karen Marcus, Crozet Elementary Principal, will retire this year also.

Third grade DI team is going onto Globals and is working hard to raise funds to go.

Brownsville received a 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Governor's recognition.

There may be some staffing changes next year. No changes are due to reduction of forces. The school is gearing up for SOL testing. An end of the year celebration for the "new" school is in the planning stages, VMDA Architects will be included. Brownsville will be the largest elementary in Albemarle County.
  - B. President, Joanne Meier

No specific report this evening but will have lots of input throughout the meeting.
  - C. Treasurers, Wendy Bragaw and Sue Brown
    - redemptions—Harris Teeter and Box Tops are up
    - Used Book Sale came in over budget.
    - Expenditures are on track.
    - Looks like at this point that gifting will be about \$12,609.87 this year.
    - Money Market now open to gain some interest.
    - Star Lab looks like it will not happen this year. Can this year's budgeted amount be used for Barter? Wendy suggests making a payment this year to Barter.
  - D. Nominating Committee, Lori Benedict

Some positions still available. Event can become whatever chair would like. Slate will be voted on at the May meeting and finalized at the June meeting.
- III. Old Business

- A. Fundraising Ideas—Joanne handed out the following summary of the ideas that were generated at the last meeting:

Goal: Non-product based fundraising that raises money to support the needs of all Brownsville students.

We also want our fundraising activities to:

- Build community
- Support local businesses and artisans
- Promote a healthy lifestyle

Major Fundraising Event **Ideas**: (>\$1,000)

1. Golf Tournament (Oct)
2. Fun Fair (May/June, or Fall)
3. Evening Event (spring)
4. Direct donation letter with car magnet\*
5. Jog-a-thon (fall)\*
6. Redemption Programs/Grocery Store Programs (throughout the year)
7. Attractions Coupon Book (October)
8. Spiritwares (2x a year)

Other Fundraising Events/Events/Community Builder **Ideas**: (<\$1,000)

1. Arts & Crafts Fair (Oct)
2. Family "spirit nights" at local restaurants (2x in fall)\*
3. Family Dance & Ice Cream Social
4. Spaghetti Supper
5. Yearbook (\$\$ collected in January, delivered in June)
6. Great Wall (done with Square One Art, usually Sept/Oct.)\*
7. Barter Theater\* (spring)

Events with No Money Associated

1. Family Game Night
2. Bee Bop
3. Grounds & Butterfly Garden Beautification
4. Science Fair

\* = new for 2010-2011 year

Joanne reminded everyone that we don't have to do everything, if there is no support for an event, that is okay. One parent suggested NO fundraising and fewer events to lessen volunteer burnout. Jess has agreed to do the Golf Tournament one more time.

The idea to do the Fun Fair as a fall event was floated—and perhaps the idea to move the Golf Tournament to the spring. Jess said that this would be possible, though dates might be hard to come by as many golf tournament fundraisers are held in the spring. Also, would the turn around to do the Fun Fair in the fall, especially without a chair would be challenging. Welcome Back Picnic will turn into a September Ice cream Social and Family Dance. Newcomer’s network—Potluck Picnic at Mint Springs. Major Events: Golf Tournament, Fun Fair, redemptions, Arts and Crafts, Spirit Nights, Year Book, Barter Theater and Evening Event.

Joanne to send out recap.

IV. New Business

A. Welcome Back Picnic

No Welcome Back Picnic. Family Dance and Ice Cream Social will take its place. Newcomer’s Network event in August?

B. Spiritwares

Great interest in car magnets.

V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Parent Council, Ian Sole

The Parent Council met at Burley this month. PTO survey distributed; results will be given out at May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting including information from all participating schools. There were presentations on keeping kids active including Quick Start Tennis, the Bike Guy—brings a trailer around to schools with spinning bikes for about \$600 (perhaps a Bee Program?) and a presentation by Dave Rogers-Sutherland and another Principal about Expeditionary Learning. Announcement that there will be no principals shared between schools.

B. Bee Program—no update

C. Teacher and Staff Appreciation, Amy Life and Betsy Grinnell

May 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> will be Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Sheets with information about the theme for each day will go home on Monday.

D. Fun Fair, Melinda Somers and Megan Jackson

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Online sign up sheet sent through “Sign up genius”. Two thirds of booths are sponsored. Harris Teeter deciding between providing food or sponsorship. Old Trail may possibly be a sponsor. Classes are getting booth sign ups. Need cash boxes with lots of \$1’s. Wish list is delayed.

E. Fun Run

Jess-grounds and tents. Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Rain cancels. **This event has since been canceled.**

VI. Announcements

Phi Beta Kappa Alton L. Taylor Leadership Award has been given to Jo Vining. Congratulations Jo!

Gifted proposals will be discussed at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm. Next meeting is Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cady Garey, PTO Secretary

