

Brownsville Elementary PTO  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2010

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by PTO President Joanne Meier. In attendance were Lori Benedict, Sally Cushing, Dawn Kidd, Megan Jackson, Jess Haden, Wendy Bragaw, Ian Sole, Joanne Meier, Danica Plantz, Jeanette Abell, Jo Vining, Katherine Merhige, Sue Brown and Cady Garey. The January meeting minutes were reviewed. Ian Sole moved to approve the minutes, Jess Haden seconded and the motion was carried.
- II. Reports of Officers
  - A. Principal, Jo Vining

Thank you to the PTO for funding the opportunity for 20 Brownsville staff members to attend the “World Peace...” opening event at the Paramount. The group attended the screening and then went out to dinner together. It was great fun and a learning opportunity.

Budget—the dire straits details. Board of Supervisors will decide soon as to the final outcome of the budget. If there has ever been a time to come out, this is the time. The Board is being bombarded by emails, many of which are negative and uninformed. Everything is getting cut 20% to 50%. Main impact to Brownsville: reductions in staffing—teachers and TA’s and loss of money for learning resources. It will soon be clear as to how the PTO might be able to help. Currently the superintendent’s budget is 8 million dollars over the projected funding. Very helpful to email each Board of Supervisor and say “I support Dr. Moran’s budget and will pay additional taxes if need be.”

Writing SOL will most likely be pushed back to March 17<sup>th</sup> which may affect Literacy Night and the Science Fair.
  - B. President, Joanne Meier

Board of Supervisors meeting on March 3 and additional parents are needed to attend. Sign the online petition and look for further information.
  - C. Treasurers, Wendy Bragaw and Sue Brown

Numbers that are and have been stated on the PTO budget report for the numbers on the Golf Tournament are final. Their have been very few recent expenditures. The Spaghetti Supper cancellation due to snow was a loss but we are looking forward to the Tile, February evening and Fun Fair events.
- III. Old Business
  - A. Gifting—Now is a good time to start getting ideas from teachers and staff as to what gifting will be needed. We will propose a slate in May and vote on the final slate in June. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the final budget in April so teachers will have some idea as to what help they will need next year. The projected school size will be between 556 and 560 next year and Brownsville will be the biggest elementary school in the county.

B. May 14<sup>th</sup> will be the date for the Fun Fair.

IV. New Business

A. Nominating Committee

Lori Benedict will form the Nominating committee which should consist of 1 board member and 3 General Membership members. Current committee heads will be contacted about their interest in either staying the same position or giving ideas about who would be interested in stepping into that spot. Having representation from different neighborhoods is important. Nominating committee should start now, propose a slate in May and the vote will occur in June.

V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Parent Council, Ian Sole

"World Peace..." was wonderful, another showing at the Paramount is planned but date is TBA. Ian is sharing information about The Barter Theatre Players at the next Parent Council meeting. The Barter Theatre is the state theatre of Virginia. They offer a touring show (three separate shows geared toward elementary, middle and high school) linked to SOL's. \$675 for the Elementary show which is one hour. Two shows must be scheduled in one day. Discussion of hosting this for the school during spring of 2011 with a show during the day and a fund raising event in the evening. Discuss this idea again during the March meeting.

B. Bee Program, Sally Cushing and Katherine Merhige

Have been busy working on rescheduling classes due to snow days, almost all classes have been cleared up. Have not heard any complaints or calls for refunds. March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for spring classes.

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

Our February project for teachers and staff was to grant small Valentine wishes.

Teachers could request various supplies that might be running low in their classrooms.

About 25 people made requests, and we filled those mostly through our committee members who volunteered to purchase items, and then supplemented with some money out of our budget. Requests included dry erase markers, post-it notes, tissues, cardstock, etc.

In March, we are going to do our "March madness" dinner and dessert give-away again.

Teachers and staff will enter their names in a ballot box and then we will draw names to reveal the winner each morning -- on the morning announcements. For the week of March 15-19, we will provide a dinner each night and then for the week of March 22-26, a dessert each night. I think it will be easy to get volunteers from our committee to help supply the food. The ballots and ballot box will be out next week.

D. Spaghetti Supper/ Bingo

The Spaghetti Supper will not be rescheduled. Bingo will take place at the Fun Fair.

E. February Event- "Party Like a Rock Star"

The Gladstones will perform; Jim Hanchett will be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Five parents will sing and people will vote for their favorites with money.

There will be a silent auction with many great items available. There will be discounted tickets for teachers and staff.

F. Used Book Sale, Lisa Koolman and Maryann Russell

Unsure of date as of now, depends on when the Writing SOL is scheduled. Most likely will be March 18<sup>th</sup>.

- G. Fun Fair, Melinda Somers and Megan Jackson  
First organizational meeting will be this Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Bingo is added to the fun and hair spray is taken care of! Thanks Lori!
  - H. Fun Run  
No set date yet. Melissa Miller, personal trainer, is ready to help. Possibly June 5<sup>th</sup>?  
Earlier date is better due to field conditions.
- VI. Announcements  
The next PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Cady Garey

PTO Secretary