

PTO General Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/19/22

Start Time: 6:30 p.m.

End Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: BCMS cafeteria

Attendees: Dr. Klugman, Chandra Andrews, Kotun Uruga, Allison Russo, Virginia Muniz, Karen Fitzgerald, and Krista Applebee

Excused: Courtney Russell, Beth Pattison

Discussion:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Review June 9th, 2022 general meeting minutes (vote for approval)**
 - Voted for approval
 - 1st motion by Chandra Andrews
 - 2nd motion by Virginia Muniz
 - Meeting minutes approved by all with no opposition
3. **Review budget by Treasurer-A. Russo (vote for approval)**
 - Voted for approval
 - 1st motion by Kotun Uruga
 - 2nd motion by Virginia Muniz
 - Budget approved with by all with no opposition
4. **Reports from Executive Board & Committee Chairs**
 - A. **President - Cici Andrews**
 - PTO membership**
 - ❖ **Reminder about PTO membership and some PTO details about membership, etc.**
 - o 250 families so far, our goal is 500.
 - o \$50 donation gets a water bottle, \$100 donation receives a water bottle and tote bag.
 - o Your child will receive incentive items the first week of October in school.
 - o Membership doesn't mean you are mandated to volunteer.

- o Some events of the PTO: Breakfast for Character Education, Teacher Welcome Back, EOY Party, Clubs, and many other events/activities.
- o Sometimes we just need baked goods or help in terms of time. However, if you are able to volunteer, we welcome this. Time is valuable and we appreciate any you have offered in the past or are able to offer in the future.
- o As a member, you get access to the Facebook page.
- o The EOY trip is PTO paid. Last year, the 6th grade went to Jericho Drive-In, the 7th grade went to Gupstils, and the 8th grade went to Get Air.
- o Membership is our biggest fundraiser. Any member is automatically entered into the raffle. There is also a "Battle of the Houses'" for most memberships. The students of the winning house receive a Frosty from Wendy's.
- o Spirit Wear will be upcoming, Keep a look out for new merchandise in the next four weeks.
- o School pictures will be during the second week of October. October 12 and 13.
- o A hard copy of the budget can be requested by members via email.
- o Review of changes & current board members: Chandra Andrews & Courtney Russell Co-Presidents, Kotun Uruga VP, Allison Russo-Treasurer, Krista Applebee & Beth Pattison Co-Hospitality & Volunteering Chairs, Karen Fitzgerald & Virginia Muniz Co-Secretaries. All members approved- none opposed

B. Principal Report - Dr. Klugman

Open presentation, Title 1, Overview

❖ Presentation, Title 1

- o New York state public schools are required to do an open presentation to a group when there is enough of a population who qualifies as economically challenged.
- o BCMS qualifies and Elsmere qualifies for Title 1.
- o Title 1 supplements students who are disadvantaged. If you would like additional information, email Dr. Klugman.

❖ Overview

- o We have not been together since fall, 2019. It's good to be back together.
- o There was a three-fold effect of the pandemic.
 - Too much time
 - Negative screen time
 - Game playing/social media
- o The MS administration noticed a trend. Students who were less engaged with extra-curricular activities displayed more mental health problems.
- o Students who got involved with extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, music, etc) were mentally healthier. Whereas, students who were doing nothing, their mental health was affected in ways, such as, anxiety, stress, absenteeism, etc.
- o It should be noted that both groups were on devices and that in this case, there was no connection to this and the outcome.
- o When students were involved with community service in excess of 20 hours a year, they were engaged and mentally healthy.
- o Clubs are an opportunity to get some community service.
 - Garden Club (50-150 visitors)
 - Chess Club (no community service, but it is successful in building relationships and skills. There are 225 students and the age ranges from 3rd grade to 12th grade. There are typically 30 kids per meeting.
- o **Survey:** Did not do survey last two years. Last year all students were here at BCMS. The year before, students were staying home every day or under the hybrid model. When teachers would teach on screen, many times students would show up, but then the screen would be turned off, so that teachers were not sure about student engagement.
 - This effected **executive functioning** issues of our students.
 - This effected our **sense of community**.
 - If students **love coming to school**, the rest will take care of itself.

-Secondarily, we have been looking at our **work completion rates** on tests and on how we approach our curriculum, and on-time work, the **timing of assignments and typical work load**.

-**Check-in/Evaluation**: Every five-week point, we have a **conversation** with our staff in terms of asking ourselves, are we too high or too low?

-There are four levels of **math** each grade. Higher levels move at a faster pace. These levels have open enrollment and students can move up or down by choice.

-**Rigor**: We are still trying to figure this out in terms of if the students are ready to be at the pre-pandemic level. There's talk nationally that there was learning loss, however, Dr. Klugman doesn't think this happened. Rather, he sees an **atrophy of social development** and that social development was lost in these past two years. The cafeteria is loud again this year, and kids are socializing more!

-Students couldn't go to Scouts, doctors, church, etc. (during the pandemic) and now they can. This and other social engagements have given students an **opportunity to speak, socialize and engage**.

-Kids make **mistakes**. We are not looking to get kids into trouble, we are looking to **educate** them. Once we do so, the expectation is that the student **tries**.

o **Executive Functioning with Sarah Ward, an internationally renowned psychologist.**

-Adults have no problem with executive functioning.

-High school students ages 16-18: How far out can they envision a task? Two days inside their head? This means backtracking, pre-planning. However, none of this is going through their minds. They don't have the ability to do it.

Executive functioning has to do with **budgeting time, planning time and tasks, and starting at square one**.

-Sixteen year-olds are actually like 14-year-olds in terms of their abilities regarding executive functioning.

-Sarah Ward will **conduct a training with our teachers and we will push it out to the parents.**

o **Questions**

-Can we have Sarah Ward conduct training with the students?

- Not at this time due to the expense.

-How long is lunch and recess?

- Lunch is 41 minutes and recess is halfway through.

-Events at the school?

- Halloween Ball
- Dances
- Fall and Spring socials
- Friday Town Park events: **SCREAMS**
-cost of **SCREAMS** membership is \$10 and events are typically \$15. If any student is in need of funding **SCREAMS**, the PTO will sponsor.

-Is math accelerated for each grade level?

- Only 6th and 7th grade
- ALEKS program is going away. Students will be able to accelerate when they come to BCMS.

-How is acceleration determined?

- I-Ready, teacher recommended, is the student cognitively and conceptually being successful—getting the work done on time and effectively?

o **Other**

- **Clubs** have started. Late buses have begun.
- If you can't make a club date it's okay.
- Find a list of clubs on the BCMS website.
- If a student would like to have a club started, seek out a teacher as an advisor.
- Parents and guardians can help out with clubs with the proper clearance (fingerprinting process, etc.).
- Dismissal is 2:45. Clubs begin after dismissal and end at 3:30 or 3:45.
- The **late buses** run Tuesday through Friday. There are no late buses on Mondays.

- The late bus has a different slot for the student compared with their regular bus slot. Students can ask Jody Monroe, Mark Warford or Mike Klugman. The slot for the late bus after clubs will stay the same as long as a student's residence remains the same.
- **Vaccine requirements** are not in place for all sports. There is no high risk designation currently.
- Please remember to read the **BCMS Weekly Agenda**.
- Join any **Google Classroom** by putting in the code and hit join.
- **Football games:** Middle School students always needed parents with them.
- **Communication** is different from 5th grade. Student's counselor is the point of contact for students. The counselor builds the 9th grade schedule for your child. The counselors go to the elementary schools about six months before school ends to start building bridges to middle school.