

December 2, 2003

The Bellaire High School Orchestra performed a Mozart piece as a musical bouquet of thanks to the PTO for funding. Dr. Kathryn Brown spoke on behalf of the Orchestra, and expressed heartfelt appreciation. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by PTO President Janis Boulware.

Officer Reports:

President Boulware called upon the group assembled to consider assuming responsibility for the upcoming offices for next year. *Treasurer Becky Grinstead* presented the latest Treasurer's Report, and assuming we raise \$15,000 from the Fundraiser, then \$12,000 should be available at the end of the school year.

VP Membership Sonia Kronberg reported that the Membership Drive has raised \$10,000 so far. Elli Samuels commented that although participation numbers are low, upon giving, Bellaire High School parents are generous. Terry Merwin's class participation achieved 72% participation, and so won a pizza party.

A Membership Desk was proposed for the 8th grade parents visiting BHS in the Spring for the first time. Another idea was a "gratitude gift" to the PTO in honor of a particular teacher or student by Senior parents.

Eleanor Smith recommended a reminder on the Web site that anyone applying for a PTO sponsored scholarship in the Spring, or a PTO grant of any sort needs to be a PTO member.

Committee Reports

Teacher Grants-*Cheryl Levy* reported the Teacher Grant Committee met on October 15 to review applications for funding. Eighteen proposals, submitted by 25 teachers, were discussed. Committee members were Janis Boulware, Becky Grinstead, Dorothy Holmes, Tim Salem, Cheryl Levy, and Donna Tenebaum. The following awards were announced for the Fall Cycle:

M. Mavronicles (Biology) received \$1800.70 for a display case to exhibit rare fossils.

K. Brown (Orchestra) received \$3313.10 for supplies.

J. Walker (Social Studies) received \$995 for a LCD projection system.

A. Loonam (Biology) received \$995 for a LCD projection system.

M. Kramer (PE) received \$700 for golf and basketball programs.

B. Harris & M. Rideaux (Life Skills) received \$500 for kitchen equipment and supplies.

J. Burnside (Math) received \$2020 to purchase CPS (Classroom Performance System) software. Total awards \$10,323.80 for Fall. Gimme Shelter Project- *Carol Brush* is meeting with volunteers to work on funding. Carol can be reached at clbb813@aol.com if able to volunteer. Ms. Brush reported talking with Dianne Johnson, HISD Trustee, who gives us her support, and recommended contact with the Area Superintendent. It is the next step. Becky Phillips noted the Alumni Association is interested in SDMC feedback as to school needs. Former PTO President Robin Weiner is lending her experience and time to this Committee. Exxon Mobil provides grants for employee contributions to community and school projects, and BHS parents who work there are welcome to join this endeavor.

Food Sales- *Linda Rosen* reported \$11,000+ was collected for pizza sales, and in particular the “chicken is flying off the racks.”

SDMC-Member *Rose Hache* reported that at the 11/13/03 meeting, the Shared Decision Making Committee heard from Ms. Julie Browning, Director of Rice University Admissions Office. Ms. Browning illuminated some points for the group, stating that if a high school eliminates rank, it forces emphasis on other factors. In the absence of a class rank, military academies assign one. Universities view weighting of additional points as a signal that these are considered the tough classes. The next meeting will be devoted to the GPA issues. Sharon Brenner noted that the stress level on students increased exponentially, since the Texas legislature imposed the rules that the top 10% automatically is accepted to the University of Texas system. Mr. Salem noted that he listened very carefully to Ms. Browning’s point of changing a grading system in response to legislation, which in turn may be repealed or revised at the next legislative session. A discussion ensued with many of the PTO parents in attendance.

Bylaws Review-*Carol Brush* chairs a committee reviewing the by-laws of the BHS PTO, which require amendment. A draft of new bylaws are ready for the next PTO meeting.

Principal's Report:

Principal *Tim Salem* reported awaiting PSAT results. There are 3298 students, 148 above projected enrollment.

December 16, 2003 final exams begin.

Ms. Brenner told the PTO about a student, whose grandparents were killed, she was evicted from her apartment, and was in a car accident all within one month. Assistant Principal Boudreax gave the student

\$300 without expectation of reimbursement, and the PTO voted unanimously to thank him, and to repay him.

Norma Eiman was appointed to the office of Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

The next PTO meeting is January 6 at 7:30PM in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Eiman
Secretary