

**Bellaire High School PTO Minutes**  
**October 5, 2004** **Multipurpose Room**

Opening - President Nancy Brown opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Website – Nancy announced a new link to the teacher’s schedule had been implemented on the web site. The internet committee is meeting monthly. This committee consists of interested parents, Jimmy Newland and Jamey Schaaf, the BHS web site administrator. Teachers are also invited to participate.

Scholarship Report – The information collected on available scholarships is proprietary information and cannot be posted on the web site after all. Information on available scholarships can be distributed to parents and others subscribing to the Yahoo news group through the BHS web site.

College Night – will be October 13 from 7 to 9 pm. Over 100 colleges are expected from across the country. There will be tables set up on the cafeteria and hallways and in the multipurpose room.

Newsletter – the fall issue is ready to go to press.

Car Pools – Debra Blumenthal is coordinating the formation of car pools for students needing to share rides. The information is available on a bulletin board in the Information Office.

Treasurer Report – The Treasurer’s Report was presented showing actual expenses and budgeted expenses for the school year beginning September 1. The budget amendment item approving purchase of a defibrillator was corrected to show approval for the purchase of a single unit for \$1679. The report was approved as corrected.

General Fundraiser - Liz Kunz indicated that a letter was being prepared to be sent out. It is at HISD to have printing arranged. A

follow up post card will be sent in December to remind potential donors and keep people's mind tuned to the school's needs.

Study Abroad - Ed Klein discussed the scholarship program. There is \$2500 available for scholarships. He wants to publicize the program early in the year so students can have time to apply for the overseas programs. They have to be accepted for the study abroad program before they can apply for a scholarship.

SDMC Info - Sandy Judson reminded parents to wear a visitor's badge when they visit the school. These can be obtained from the main office. Visitors are also required to sign in on the visitor's log.

Club Sponsorships – There was some discussion about parents cosponsoring clubs.

Principal's Report – Enrollment has dropped a little to 3399 students. The enrollment level reached as of October 29, 2004 will determine funding levels for the year.

Mr. Salem met with Dr. Saavedra and Ms. Streeter, the District Superintendent for HISD's Southwest region. They discussed acquiring more property near Bellaire High School to accommodate parking and other space needs. The discussions are very optimistic at this time.

Homecoming week was successful with a dance on Friday and a game on Saturday. The campus had a successful blood drive. There will be an early dismissal on Tuesday October 12 to allow teacher professional development. The PSAT will be administered to all sophomores and juniors electing to take the test on October 13. Other students will report to school at 11:00 a.m. on October 13 after testing is completed for the PSAT.

Report cards will go out again on November 9. Testing will be done November 16 to November 18 for Credit by Exam. This allows students that opt in to take exams for credit in areas they studied

independently. Mainly home schooled students take these tests.

Bellaire has 44 National Merit Semifinalists this year. The semifinalists will fill out the application and get recommendations to apply as finalists.

Scholarship Report – Leslie Bourne reminded parents that two scholarships of \$2500 would be awarded in the spring to graduating seniors. She will be looking for volunteers this year who will be able to continue on the committee in future years. This will be her last year to head the committee.

School Improvement – Michelle Shoulders discussed the work she is doing with the faculty in encouraging teachers to share best teaching methods. Teachers are working in Professional Learning Communities. She also discussed the Renaissance Committee which meets Mondays in the library. Parent input is needed on the Renaissance Committee and parents are invited to contribute to the ongoing developments of this committee.

Study labs are being used for kids needing more attention, support, etc. Various encouragements are used to help them stay focused. Various students are participating in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> periods. Ms. Shoulders invited parents to help these students by providing positive values and donating items that could be used as student incentives. The PTO voted to provide \$1000 to Ms. Shoulders to use for various student incentives during the year. Ms. Shoulders indicated she wanted to see opportunities increased for all students. A discussion ensued about the problem of insufficient, inadequate instruction for students in the middle range. Although IB students are properly challenged and the Low level students get extra instruction, the average level students don't have incentives to achieve. Students in IB classes have 7 hours of homework a night while students in regular classes seemingly have none. Parents urged more attention for the students in regular classes.

After Prom – the Breakfast at Bellaire is scheduled for November 6. Food will be provided by Outback Steakhouse and Chick-Fil-A. Please invite your neighbors. Raffle items include prime parking spaces.

Donations for the silent auction are invited. Hairstylists, nail salons, beach house weekends, bunko parties, and hotel stays are all welcome contributions for the auctions. Jerome Grey from channel 8 will be auctioneer.

Tee shirts and sweatshirts will be for sale on Wednesdays next to the pizza table.

Parents are invited to use Central Market cards. Purchases with the cards result in donations to the school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be November 2 at 7:30 in the Multipurpose Room.