

February 3, 2004

PTO President Janis Boulware called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes from the January 6, 2004 meeting had not been copied and were not available for review at this meeting. Their approval was tabled till the next meeting.

Principal Tim Salem was not available this evening and had asked Mr. Boudreaux to appear in his stead. Mr. Aaron Boudreau is Sr. Class Assistant Principal at Bellaire High School.

Committee Members Needed: Ms. Boulware asked for volunteers to sign up to participate on 2 committees: the Scholarship Committee and the Nominating Committee. A signup sheet was passed around. The Scholarship Committee meets in April, usually over 2 days, to decide which applicant(s) will receive a scholarship from the PTO. The deadline for students applying for the scholarship is March 26 and announcements would be made in the Three Penny Press and emails to parent members of the PTO to remind them of the upcoming deadline.

The Nominating Committee will meet in spring to develop a slate of candidates for PTO Board positions for the next school year.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Becky Grinstead distributed the treasurer's report. There is a balance of \$85,607.32 in cash accounts and the general fund raiser (letter) has so far produced donations exceeding \$7270 of the budgeted amount. There are still some \$14,000 in teacher invoices outstanding from the teacher grants that have already been allocated. When asked about requirements for maintaining balances, Ms. Grinstead indicated the only requirement was an annual carryover of \$10,000 each year. The general fundraiser receipts for this year are primarily targeted for replacing old broken pianos at the school and building a covered basketball court.

No Place for Hate Campaign: A presentation was made by 2 students about a "No Place for Hate" campaign and the PTO was asked to sign the resolution. Rachel Meyerson of the sophomore student advisory committee was assisted by Lauren Weingarten in presenting information about the program which is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. Bellaire High School will be the 14th school in the Houston area to participate in the obtaining of pledges

and holding 3 activities required of the program. Ms. Kelly Forester is the faculty advisor for the program. The students are asked to sign a Resolution of Respect that pledges they will do their best to combat prejudice and promote intergroup harmony. The three activities include a Dance for Diversity held January 31 co-hosted with the Spanish Club, a poetry slam to celebrate diversity, and a National Remembrance in April.

Newsletter Deadline: Natalie Lamont reminded all that February 7 is the absolute last date to submit articles for the spring newsletter.

Fundraiser contributors will be listed in the newsletter. Submit your articles to [bnlamont@pdq.net](mailto:bnlamont@pdq.net).

Pizza Sales: We have a profit of \$14,639. Pizza Hut contacted us about returning to them as a provider, offering to charge 10 cents less per pizza. Firehouse Pizza, our current provider, matched that lower price to keep our business, affording us a larger profit per pizza sold.

VIPS News: There is now a computer set up for volunteers to log in their hours. Thanks to Mr. Jimmy Newland for setting up the PC.

Jeanette Sebesta can be reached at 713-664-6199 for assistance on logging in.

SDMC: The last SDMC meeting again covered the proposal to discontinue the extra grade point for students taking IB/AP classes.

Christianne Melanson offered several suggestions and alternatives to discontinuing the extra grade point at BHS. Parents are welcome to attend SDMC meetings to listen or speak, even though they are not on the committee. They will just not be able to vote. BHS

Administration may be considering limiting the number of extra GPA points per semester to a maximum of 3 points, allowing students to take more electives that don't carry the extra points without reducing their GPA.

ByLaws: A quorum of at least 20 members being present, the amended bylaws were reviewed and voted on. The new bylaws replace the outdated bylaws and correct some administrative and legal or tax issues. Significant changes include making VIPS Coordinator an officer position, changing the title of the VP of Finance to the VP of Fundraising. While the Principal and teacher representative remain on the Executive Committee, these continue as non-voting positions. Votes of the Executive Committee which are decided by phone or email are to be entered into the minutes at the next PTO meeting. To transition the treasurer's duties from the term of office which ends June 30 to the fiscal year which ends August 31,

a responsibility was added to prepare a fiscal year end report. Natalie Lamont moved to accept the new bylaws, seconded by Linda Rosen. The motion passed with none opposed.

Regarding storage of PTO minutes and financial records for seven years as required in the bylaws, the physical records may be retained in the PTO file cabinet in the BHS office.

After Prom Committee: The After Prom organization presented their fundraising efforts and discussed their need to collect another \$5,000 to meet their goal. They asked that the PTO fund \$1000 of this amount. The prom will be held at the Hyatt Regency downtown on May 8 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and the Afterprom Event will go from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. with the students encouraged to stay at the hotel and enjoy music, food, sodas and door prizes, rather than go off into the night and do whatever. Ms. Steinberg explained that the level of activities and prizes for AfterProm 2004 was being kept the same as last year when the PTO had made a donation of \$1000. Elli Samuels moved to donate \$1000 to the Bellaire High School After Prom Organization. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Student Directories: are a fundraiser for After Prom. They are available for \$5 in the main office. Membership: over \$12,000 has been collected in membership dues.

#### Principal's Report

As Mr. Salem was unavailable, he had designated Senior Advisor Aaron Boudreau to fill in for him. Mr. Boudreau presented a letter that was given to students to take home about upcoming tests – TAKS and Stanford 10. He also presented a letter that was distributed to senior class members about Senior Prom and graduation requirements. Mr. Boudreau recognized the excellence of the play being presented in the multipurpose room – Tony and Tina's Wedding. He reported that the basketball teams were still in playoffs, and that soccer games had begun last week.

An 8th grade meeting was held last week for incoming freshmen. A meeting is scheduled for 8:30 on February 10th in the multipurpose room for the Houston A+ challenge. The counselors are presenting information on college funding on February 4 at 7:00. February 19 – A black history program will be presented in the evening. The program will be presented to students at 7th period on the following day. February 13 – 16 will be a student holiday. March 2 will be when

grade cards are distributed for the 6 wk period ending February 20. Students with absences need to bring a note to the Attendance Office to get excused. Or they may take the notes to their AP. Some absences have been misreported on grade cards. Unfortunately, HISD is unable to correct these errors as of now. The next PTO Meeting will be at 7:30 on March 2. Submitted by Norma Eiman, Secretary.