

TO President Janis Boulware convened the meeting at 7:45 pm on March 3, 2004. The minutes from the January meeting were approved. Revisions were made to the minutes from the February meeting to correct some names and then they were approved. Copies of the PTO bylaws approved at the February meeting were available to pick up at the meeting.

Senior Thank You: Janis expressed appreciation to Patty Stiernberg for bringing cookies and lemonade to the meeting this evening. These were in thanks for the \$1000 contribution the PTO made to the AfterProm organization for 2004.

Call for Volunteers: Janis called for volunteers to sign up on various capacities including the Nominating committee for PTO Board positions, the Study Abroad committee and SDMC representatives. Nominees for the two SDMC positions will be given 2-3 minutes to speak at the May meeting prior to the elections. Various other volunteer opportunities may be available as well, it is helpful to have a list of names to draw on as needed.

Financial Report: Treasurer Becky Grinstead gave the Financial Report indicating we have total cash accounts of \$85,742.74 and are meeting or exceeding our funding goals. We have exceeded our general fundraising goal by \$750 already. She noted that about half the teacher grants have been paid out so far for the year.

PTO Scholarship Deadline is March 26: Leslie Bourne announced that the PTO has 2 scholarships of \$2500 to award to graduating seniors. The scholarship requirements include a GPA of 3.0, letters of recommendation, an essay and family membership in the PTO. A committee has been formed to review the applications which must be made by March 26. Interviews of the applicants will be held in April.

Pizza Sales: No report.

VIPS: The computer is set up on a small table in the Information Center. Volunteers may log in and record their volunteer hours. There are now background checks being done on volunteers. No notices will be sent to the volunteers unless a problem is identified.

Sedona Conference: Rose Hache reported on a 4 day conference she had attended in Sedona, Arizona along with several teachers and a counselor from Bellaire. She was very enthusiastic about the process and results from the conference. Many creative ideas resulted from the workshops and sharing with schools from across the country. An appreciation for parental involvement in school committees and more open houses showed the attendees that the schools and students

benefit from working more closely with parents.

Friends & Alumni of BHS Scholarships: Four scholarships in the amount of \$1000 will be presented at the close of the school year by the Friends and Alumni of BHS Organization. This is an organization of former students and BHS friends that organizes reunion events and keeps track of former students. Patty Stiernberg indicated that the scholarship applications are available in the bottom drawer of the file cabinet in the counselor's office – Room 119.

AfterProm: The fundraising is coming along well. The AfterProm organization will be handing out 4 scholarships in the amount of \$1000 at the Senior Prom in May. The 2005 After Prom committee is beginning activities now and will hold a meeting in April for interested parents. This meeting, chaired by Arlene Lassen, will be an opportunity to make an early start on the fundraising activities for the AfterProm event for next year. See the AfterProm web site for info.

Oxford Summer Program: Chris Peek, World History instructor at BHS, discussed a proposal for a summer program at Oxford University in England. The program accepts 100 students worldwide and is adding BHS to its list of schools it recruits from. They would like to take up to 10 students, who would be completing their Jr. year and going to Sr. year next year. The student fee is \$5000 per attendee. While Oxford professors will be instructing the students and 3 hours college credit is available. two BHS teachers (Peek & Speratto) are planning to attend as chaperones/counselors. Our two teachers asked for a contribution from the PTO. The PTO approved \$1000 total for the teachers' air fare and expenses.

Principal Portraits: Traditionally, each principal's portrait has been taken and hung in the library, which has been handled by the PTO. Mr. Bill Lawson's picture has not yet been taken, nor has Mr. Salem's. Debbie Ziegler offered to contact a photographer to arrange for the portraits.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Salem reported a very successful TAKS test taken the prior week. This was the first time this Language Skills test was officially administered and took longer than expected, so classes were delayed more than originally expected. To allow everyone to finish, around 200 students gathered in the auditorium to complete their tests while classes resumed around 11:00 a.m. Additional TAKS subjects will be tested in April. The time requirements for these tests are uncertain.

Stanford tests will be administered on March 9 and 10.

In January, BHS promoted students with enough credit hours up to the next grade level. Thus some who had been classified as Juniors in the fall semester, if they had completed enough hours, were bumped up to Senior status beginning in January. The new enrollment by class after these promotions is: 9th graders 954 10th graders 826 11th graders 719 12th graders 773 Total 3262

Basketball playoffs are over. The JV soccer teams for both boys and girls are doing very well. BHS is starting the planning its 50th anniversary for fall 2005. The homecoming will be the first weekend in November. A mini-teaching area has been set up in the library next to Ms. Forester. AP (Advanced Placement) exams will be held the first and second weeks of May. Applications are to be completed by March 31. A school wide pizza party is planned for 3/30. A bomb scare occurred today, March 2, at 9:45 AM. The caller phoned the Bellaire Police and stated a bomb would go off in the school in ten minutes. The school rang the fire alarms to evacuate the building. After school police officers completed a visual check, students were returned to class. Last week the canine unit came and did a walk thru of the school. A potential illegal substance was found in the senior's parking lot by the canine unit earlier. The new HISD schedule for the 2004-2005 school year has been finalized and copies were distributed at today's meeting. Students will begin school August 16 and conclude May 26. 27% of BHS students are now on free/reduced lunch. If 150 more students qualified for the free lunch program BHS would get \$100,000 in federal funds.

Advance Notice Requested, Better College Info: Parent David

Silverman indicated concern about the late notice of the meeting for parents of sophomores with college advisers which had been held the week before. He spoke on behalf of parents needing more information about 1) the 10% rule, 2) how GPA's were calculated, 3) guidance about what colleges expect and what deadlines to be aware of. Janis offered that Lamar HS had a very good discussion about many of these college related concerns on its web site.

Improving the BHS web site was discussed and David Silverman indicated he was willing to develop information on the web site. To better notify parents of upcoming meetings, Mr. Salem discussed resuming the use of automated recorded messages.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next PTO Meeting will

be Tuesday April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Norma Eiman, PTO Secretary.