

April 6, 2004

PTO President Janis Boulware called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm on April 6, 2004. A quorum not being present, approval for the minutes of the March 2nd meeting was postponed to the May meeting. Janis shared thank you notes the PTO had received. World History teachers Chris Peek and Angela Sperotto thanked the PTO for the grant of \$1000 for their expenses traveling to Oxford for the summer program at Oxford University. Thank you's had also been received from the student winners of a poetry contest. Gift certificates totaling \$100 were given to the winners by the PTO.

Fossil Display Case – The case approved in the fall has been purchased, although the cost increased somewhat over the amount originally approved, the PTO will pay the additional amount.

Treasurer's Report – The report for March 31 shows a balance of \$86,848.89 in the PTO account. The organization has been doing very well on its fundraisers. Pizza sales have already met their yearly budget. Additional sales will provide surplus funds. Linda Rosen has done the pizza sales with her crew for 6 years, working 2 hours every Wednesday.

PTO Scholarships – Eleven applications for the PTO Scholarships have been received. The committee will interview applicants on April 27 and April 28. Consideration will be given to GPA, essay, service to the school and the community. Winners will be presented awards at the May PTO meeting.

VIPS – Volunteers can sign up at the Information desk. The computer can be used to sign up volunteers, or they can complete a paper form. People can sign up now to volunteer for the next school year.

Renaissance Committee – Brian Wolf, sophomore English teacher, talked about the activities of the committee. He spoke about interfacing groups of various populations in school. The committee has met with the SDMC, consulted with Dr. Robert Aker, worked to identify faculty for professional learning teams. They have developed a Pyramid of Intervention to actively identify students needing improved study skills and address their needs early in the school year. The program will be covered at Cardinal Camp for entering freshmen. Three days will be spent on these skills at the English/TAKS camp that runs concurrent to Cardinal Camp. Fifteen days into the school year – students will be identified who need extra study skills so these can be addressed.

The Resaissance Committee has some recommendations for assisting teachers who need to work together to identify at risk students, such as a common planning period where teachers can compare notes amongst themselves on students whose work they have concerns about. Some proposals include a 2 hour block for Algebra I for certain students and English I for others. The second hour would be for credit, but in a related subject area, such as Technical Writing for those in the extended English I block. A seven minute increase in the school day is proposed, and 6 early dismissal days for teachers and counselors to meet and address global issues. Parental input is key. The school wants to be confident they are addressing the issues parents are concerned with.

Students as Allies – This select group of sophomore students meets with direction of Mr. Wolf to assess student concerns and conduct studies of student issues. Six students from this group presented results of their fall survey. This was a random survey of 3% of the student population and revealed concerns about teachers being unaware of how students were challenged in other classes, and concerns about pressure for grades and other time challenges. Student characteristics gathered in the survey included class, sex, ethnic, overall course load, IB/AP load, extracurricular activities. The SAA team met with department chairs and administrators during the year. The survey has now been refined and will be expanded to the full school population. All history classes will administer the survey in April. The faculty will be surveyed in May.

While participants in the SAA group was by teacher selection this year, next year the club will be open to all students. Mr. Wolf offered thanks to the various faculty and administrators who had advised the club. He indicated a parent survey was planned for the fall.

Cardinal Flags – A supply of 144 flags with the cardinal logo remains from the shipment the 2004 AfterProm committee used for fundraising. The 2004 AfterProm committee ceases to exist after this year's prom is held on May 8. There is not yet an organization set up for 2005 AfterProm, so the PTO is being asked to purchase the remaining flag inventory as an interim measure until the 2005 AfterProm committee can be established. The flags cost \$4.98 each and can be sold as a fundraiser for \$10 each. The motion to purchase the flags (approximately \$720) will be considered at the May PTO meeting.

Teacher Grants – Some pending teacher grants will be considered in

May when a quorum is present. Head Counselor Ms. Raby is considering a newsletter in English and Spanish.

Principal's Report:

- . Mr. Salem indicated a new position of Information Specialist had been established. The position would have responsibilities for the web site, community news, capitalizing on successes, helping with audits and compliance.
- 0. BHS and Westside had advanced in drama competition, and will compete at HSPVA next.
- 0. Odyssey of the Mind winners are going on to National. The Academic Challenge team is going to Disney World to compete in national competition.
- 0. Baseball, softball and golf are ongoing.
- 0. April 7 - Night of Tango
- 0. April 8 - Talent Show.
- 0. April 20 - National Honor Society induction
- 0. April 21 – grade cards
- 0. April 27 – Earth day celebration
- 0. TAKS prep – after school math tutorials are being conducted, with 100 attending today. The TAKS tests will be given April 27, 28 and 29th. First period will start at 11:15 AM on those days.
- 0. Summer school – classes at BHS will be held for students that need credit recovery. A paid summer school option may be available at Lamar, but not at Bellaire.
- 0. Channel 2 News interviewed on campus today regarding former student Emeka Okafor, who plays for the University of Connecticut basketball team which won the NCAA finals for 2004.
- 0. State Championship - BHS won the championship in Chess; also in French, Latin and Russian
- 0. Web Page – the school will work over the summer to improve the site. Email comments/ suggestions to Janis at [jboulware77@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jboulware77@sbcglobal.net).

The meeting adjourned at 9:15. The next meeting will be on May 4 at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Norma Eiman, PTO Secretary.