

Bellaire High School PTO Minutes  
September 7, 2004  
Multipurpose Room

Opening - President Nancy Brown opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. Parliamentarian Carol Brush verified a quorum was present and Nancy announced that the meeting would open with some teacher presentations.

Bellaire Studio One – Guitar teacher Ed Grigassy explained that he had resurrected the recording studio at BHS. The studio formerly known as K-BELL and housed next to the auditorium, has new equipment thanks to the PTO funding approved last spring. Mr. Grigassy's fourth period class is currently learning about using the equipment. Some campus groups such as the BHS Jazz Combo are being recorded and any students interested in having their talents recorded may contact Mr. Grigassy about scheduling a time for an audio recording. Mr. Grigassy has professional experience in performing and recording his own CDs. Some pieces of audio and video recording may soon appear on the BHS web site.

Oxford Summer Program – Chris Peek and Angela Sperotto discussed their experience at the Oxford Summer Program. They attended the program at St. Hugh's College as teacher advisors along with 3 Bellaire students. There were 79 students from around the world attending the 3 week program in July 2004. The PTO was treated to a video of the program and heard about the program basics. The students are paired with professors and a tutorial approach with intellectual discussion is used to study various topics the student wishes to explore. The \$5000 tuition covers meals and housing as well as tuition and tours, but does not include air fare. Up to ten students from Bellaire may apply for the Summer 2005 program.

Lucy Bonner sent a thank you note to the PTO for the \$500 study abroad scholarship she received to attend the Oxford Program this summer.

Minutes - The Minutes from May were approved as submitted. Spelling corrections were made to the August minutes and they were approved as corrected.

Web Committee – a signup sheet was circulated for parents interested in participating in the internet committee. Mr. Newland handles the Bellaire web site and will use PTO input to improve the site.

Public Forum on HISD Superintendent – A public forum was held on August 30 on the selection of a new HISD superintendent. PTO members provided cookies to participants who shared their views on the needs for the position.

Scholarship Report – Last year Janis Boulware compiled information from the counselor's office about scholarships and provided reports to parents who subscribed to the PTO scholarship report service. The PTO plans to put the scholarship information online for everyone this year at no charge. Someone needs to gather and compile the information from the counselors and keep it updated on the BHS web site.

Treasurer's Report – Becky Grinstead presented a five page report to cover the old and new PTO fiscal years.

- . The cash accounts as of June 30, 2004 totaled \$59,327.28.
- 0. The July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 year end report reflected total income of \$118,829.03 for the year with \$81,066.01 in original budgeted expenses plus \$29,557.95 in approved additional expenditures for the fiscal year.
- 0. The cash accounts as of August 31, 2004 total \$61,263.31. The July-August period is an extension to the year ending June 30, as the PTO is converting to the new fiscal year that runs from September 1 to August 31.
- 0. The proposed budget for the new school year was presented showing planned income of \$96,500 for the 2004-2005 year with planned expenses of \$90,850. The budget was approved.

Bumper Stickers – Ilene Flora reported the PTO sold \$165 in bumper stickers at open house and Cardinal Camp.

Membership – Lisa Torry reported a strong start to PTO membership with \$12,524 collected to date.

Fundraising – Liz Kuntz and Sara Binau are conducting a campaign entitled “Commitment to Learning”. One feature planned will be having various area restaurants dedicate a night when a percentage of their proceeds will be donated to BHS. They may pick a restaurant each month which will be announced to promote the event. Last year Collina’s night was promoted. Diners earned a donation to Bellaire when they indicated to the waiter they were there to support Bellaire High school. A similar approach or a coupon may be used at various restaurants this year. Restaurants interested in participating in the fundraising include Los Tios, Ninfa’s, and Chick-Fil-A.

VIPS – There have been plenty of volunteers for pizza sales.

College Info Center – Construction of a nice glass enclosed room for interviews is being coordinated by Diana Leeson, school business manager. The finished room will be convenient for students wishing to meet with college reps or research college information housed in the room. Volunteers to help students and parents with college research will be needed to work in the center.

Pizza Sales - \$3500 in sales were made so far this year. In addition to the pizza sold by the PTO, other groups have food sales on campus. The Alumnae sell Subway sandwiches on Monday and the Belles sell food from Taco Bell on Thursdays.

SDMC – The Shared Decision Making Committee hasn’t met yet this year. The meetings are open to the public and guests can attend the monthly SDMC meetings. Tim Salem is interested in parents’ ideas about a proposal for a workforce program. The spring SDMC decision to limit the number of extra points a student could earn on AP

classes was disallowed by HISD.

Public Relations – Eleanor Smith will work with local newspapers to publicize Bellaire High School events and accomplishments. She asked for advance notice to allow time to get articles published. Eleanor prefers to receive information via email sent to [eleanors@swbell.net](mailto:eleanors@swbell.net) or she can receive faxes at 713-665-1635. Her phone number is 713-667-5911.

Archives – Eleanor Smith asked for help in organizing information for the school archives. She welcomes help from artists.

After Prom – Janis Boulware spoke about the need for parents of seniors to help participate in the After Prom fundraising activities. Junior parents are also invited to help. The After Prom committee is not a PTO committee, but is an independent organization that is re-formed each year to provide a vehicle for organizing and funding an all night event at the hotel following the senior prom. This year's prom will be April 30, 2005 in the basement of the Hyatt Hotel. Fundraising activities include Breakfast at Bellaire on November 6 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This fundraiser includes a silent auction. A planning meeting is scheduled for September 21 at 7:00 for interested parents. Senior dues must be paid before seniors can attend the prom. Dues of \$40 are payable now, but the price will go up later, so seniors are encouraged to pay their dues early and avoid later dues increases.

Parent Handbook - Carol Brush has completed a draft of a Parent Handbook which will be provided to all new parents. The contents will also be placed on the web site.

Principal's Report – Tim Salem announced that the current enrollment is 3417 students which is over 250 more than budgeted. There are 1158 freshmen and 627 seniors enrolled at this time. He has hired 22 new teachers this year. He recently met with Kay Stripling and Dr. Saavedra to discuss problems of space and parking. The possibility of building a hi-rise parking facility on Rice was discussed along with remote playing

fields for athletics.

Mr. Salem reported that yearbook pictures were done, the bleachers are not up in the gyms yet following the gyms' renovations, and the pep rally was held in the auditorium. The first football game has been held.

The first report cards come out on October 5. The PSAT test will be administered to all sophomores on October 13, and to juniors who choose to take the test which qualifies students for the National Merit Scholarship program. There is no charge for sophomores to take the exam, but juniors will pay \$12 when they register through the counselor's office. Other students will have a delayed start on October 13. That is also college night and all students and parents are welcome to attend. Colleges from schools across the country will be represented in the cafeteria and multipurpose rooms. A tentative class ranking for seniors will be distributed with grade cards.

Some parents expressed concerns about a lack of desks in some crowded classes and Mr. Salem indicated the supply of desks was being corrected and "leveling" of AP classes was also being done. Bellaire's increased enrollment includes the 600 magnet transfers, 150 M-to-M transfers and 80 appeals transfers, but most of the increased enrollment is due to zoned students.

It was pointed out that the PTO bylaws require specific administrative and teacher representatives to be named by the principal to the PTO board. Mr. Salem agreed to identify specific representatives.

Defibrillator – Sandy Judson spoke about the need for at least one defibrillator on campus. This medical device would help revive a victim of a heart attack if one occurred on campus. The need for specific people to be trained in how to use the defibrillator was also discussed along with possibly needing more than one on campus, such as in the nurses office and in the gym. The purchase price is \$1679 for one unit. The PTO voted to approve the purchase of one defibrillator, providing HISD administration approves its being placed on campus. The PTO also voted that training be required before anyone was allowed to use the equipment.

Car Pool Bulletin Board – Deborah Blumenthal  
([dabwriter@earthlink.net](mailto:dabwriter@earthlink.net)) discussed the need for a means to coordinate car pooling. A bulletin board near the entrance was discussed. It could be posted in the information center.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 5 at 7:30 pm in the multipurpose room.