

**Bellaire High School PTO Minutes**  
**February 1, 2005**                      **Multipurpose Room**

Opening – President Nancy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm on February 1, 2005. She then introduced several teachers who expressed appreciation for the items they had received from the PTO Teacher Grants approved in the fall.

- **C. Smith/Art History** thanked the PTO for the projector and presented a PowerPoint slide show of impressionist art and music as a thank you.
- **Angela Sperotto** thanked the PTO for the trophy case used to display trophies from various student competitions.
- **J. Walker/U.S. History** thanked the PTO for the purchase of historical novels that would be available to students and help them in building their vocabulary knowledge.
- Coach **A. Clarke/PE** thanked the PTO for \$1000 for the volleyball program.
- The French instructors **G. Dwyer and S. Goeriot** thanked the PTO for another LCD projector that allowed them to show many visuals of French publications and enhanced the technical skills of students as well.
- **M. Lopez/Communication Applications** thanked the PTO for the VCR & television for his area.

Student Survey - Mr. **Brian Wolf** then introduced a group of seven students from the Students As Allies Club and they presented results from the all school survey done in May 2004 of all BHS students. The faculty was also surveyed. The SAA group is planning a parent survey for later this year. Volunteer parents are needed to prepare this survey. Areas addressed in the faculty and student survey included communication between teachers and students, cheating, awareness of counselors, student work load among other topics. Cheating is becoming more prevalent according to the survey. It may be due to competition for grades, laziness, and an overwhelming amount of course work.

Parliamentarian Carol Brush indicated a quorum was present.

Minutes – The minutes from the prior meeting were presented and accepted without change.

Nancy indicated the slate of officers for next year was being completed and some positions on committee chairs were still needing volunteers. Anyone interested in participating on the PTO is invited to contact Nancy.

Newsletter – The deadline for new articles for the PTO newsletter is February 15. Articles should be turned in to Natalie Lamont by that date to be published in the spring PTO newsletter.

Financial Report - Treasurer Becky Grinstead reported that the PTO tax return had been completed and submitted. The treasury has \$88,737.05 as of January 31, 2005. This includes income of \$4200 from the general fundraiser. The campaign has been very successful this year. Half the purchase cost of the sound shells has been made as a deposit. Overall there are more funds coming in than needed to meet budgeted expenses and allow the carryover of \$10,000 to the next school year.

Becky indicated that while a discretionary fund for the Social worker had been budgeted by the PTO the prior year, it had been left off this year's budget. A motion was made to approve \$500 for the remainder of the school year to meet student needs that may be identified by the school Social worker. The motion carried.

ByLaw Change Proposed - The current PTO bylaws specify a fiscal year that ends August 31 but this is different from the school year. An amendment to the bylaws was presented by Becky Grinstead which would change the fiscal year ending date to June 30. This would more closely coincide with the school year and allow a better separation and accounting of expenses between one school year and the next. The amendment to the bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the March PTO meeting.

Fundraiser - Sara Binau reported that the fundraiser in cooperation with Escalante's restaurant had been very successful. The PTO received a donation of \$800 from the restaurant.

Teacher Grants – Cheryl Levy indicated that \$20K had been budgeted at the beginning of the year and that \$14K had been approved in the fall. She requested that an additional \$6000 be added to the amount budgeted for teacher grants. The motion carried.

Scholarships Abroad – Norma Eiman discussed the general eligibility requirements for the \$2500 in scholarship funds that the PTO offers. The application forms will be available within the next month.

PTO Scholarship – The application and selection process for the two \$2500 PTO Scholarships was discussed also. The committee assesses the applicants in three areas considering academic achievement, community involvement and financial need.

SDMC – Rachel Crochet reported that there was discussion about the proposed creation of mid level classes between the standard level and the AP level. Some parental concerns about cheating were reported at the SDMC meeting. Some seniors had been experiencing 3 week delays in receiving transcripts. Mr. Salem reported that additional personnel in the registrar's office will end the delay. Parents dropping off students in the middle of Rice Boulevard are a hazard. The students should not be allowed to emerge from the cars into the middle of the street.

Principal's Report – Mr. Salem has finished the two 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meetings. The 663 graduating seniors can order caps and gowns and invitations now. Field tests were conducted today for sophomores. A fine arts evening will be held on Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program will include jazz, dance, choir, orchestra and theater. On Friday a blood drive will be held. Additional events:

- 2-15 Financial Aid Workshop
- 2-18 Staff in-service day, no school for kids
- 2-24 10th grade college night
- 2-25 Mardi Gras dance sponsored by student government at the Renaissance Hotel

The Lacrosse team swept their tournament at College Station last week. Bellaire came in 5<sup>th</sup> in the Academic Decathlon. The Web Site committee will meet at 11:30 on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rubin has sent post cards out on the parent meetings. This has increased attendance at the meetings.

PTO Scholarship – A discussion followed about increasing the amount of scholarship money the PTO awards to graduating seniors. At this time in the evening, we no longer had a quorum. Lacking a quorum, the issue will be considered at the next meeting.

Additional Awards to Discuss - Ms. Leeson, BHS Business Manager, coordinates financial needs at BHS. If the PTO has additional funds, areas they may be able to help the school include these choices:

Wireless Access	\$30,000
Pool Repairs	\$24,000

These items might be considered instead of the \$25,000 the PTO has allocated towards the construction of a cover over the basketball court. The Softball Coach also has written a letter to the PTO requesting funds for a maintenance tractor to assist in grounds keeping at the softball field.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting will be March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Eiman