

Burning Tree PTA Minutes - February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by co-president, Lisa Sanfuentes. The December 4, 2008 PTA meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report: Dorene Rosenthal reported on the Whitman Cluster Meeting. One of the issues that came up at the cluster meeting yesterday was a possible budget increase in funding for recess and cafeteria aides. There were some discussions at the Board of Education that there were only 40-45 serious incidents, so extra money might not be necessary. There will be a vote on the budget Thursday morning, then the proposal goes on to the Montgomery County Council. Here in our PTA we have talked about getting more and more parents to be out on the playground. Woodacres was sending a letter from their PTA to the board requesting aides. The turnaround needs to be quick because meeting is this Thursday. Comments need to be emailed to the Board of Ed ASAP. Brian Liu suggested setting up a web site to receive all comments and then send them all to the Bd. Of Ed. Unless voices are heard, this initiative might not go forward. Nominating Committee: At our May meeting, we need to elect next year's officers. More specific information will be sent out. We must form a nominating committee to find individuals who will fill the open positions. It is important to try and get a cross section of grades represented on the nominating committee. In addition, guidelines need to be set up for the nominating committee. There can also be self nominations. Audit Committee Report. Darrin Hartzler undertook the audit of PTA books – this takes place within a month of end of fiscal year or whenever the treasurer changes hands. There were no problems. With regards to incoming and outgoing expenditures, everything matched and went very well.

Principal's Report: Aaron Tark said that the new building service manager, Eugene Martin, started officially yesterday. Mary Jones went to Wheaton Woods Elementary School. Facility issues update: There was a slight leak in the gym ceiling. It was due to a design flaw rather than a hole in the roof. It is being fixed. Construction said that the back black top has a bit of a drainage problem – they will add a drain there. Ms. Borg has officially started her maternity leave. Miss Uhar will take over for the remainder of the year. Two new paraeducators have started working at BT: Teresa Halabi started working in the Kindergarten Learning Center class and Hala Bouhafa is working in the 2nd grade learning center. Demographers sent from the Central Office are currently looking at the number of our students to assess our needs. During the first week of March we will get a first look at next years' allocations.

Staff Report: Ms. Shapiro reported that the staff is looking forward to the Adult Fundraiser. Everyone is getting excited about Math Day activities and are looking forward to the luncheon on Thursday.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Norwalk reported that the Kindergarten playground has just been paid for. Invoices for the digital TV studio are coming in. We have paid \$1000 to Whitman for the acoustical shells. The Book Fair number is a final number, which is a little bit under budget. With membership dues, we came out overbudget.

Vice Presidents' Reports: Volunteers: Brenda Conroy reported that this Thursday is the PTA staff appreciation lunch. Mrs. Bouhafa will be at training tomorrow so three parents have stepped in to help. Parents cannot administer any medications, but provide TLC. Playground thank you to Sharon Tompkins who has given us a full roster of volunteers

for February. In the lunchroom, however, we have not been as successful. We still need lunchroom volunteers. Finally, in February, we have Valentine's Day parties on the 14th. Please tell parents to keep snacks as healthy as possible. Community Based Programs: Vicki Herson said that Adopt an Angel and the canned food drive were successful. This week students can donate sandwiches for Martha's table. School Based Programs: Lisa Sanfuentes said that volunteers are still needed for Math Day. Fourteen parents have organized great booths - time machines, marshmallow math, sand timer. Children should bring in as many pennies as possible. The children also need lunch coverage in their classrooms. The Adult Fundraiser auction is March 1 at Maggiano's. The food will be good, and there will be lots of fun things to bid on. Email Cindy Campbell with your donation. Science Day was a great success. Thank you to Katerina Papaioannou and Michele Greenberg.

MCCPTA Report: There was a January 22 meeting. There will be a PTA night in Annapolis on the 11th at 6:30. Legislators will be there. MCCPTA is also working on their nominating committee right now. At the next meeting, there will be a vote on the proposal to have PSATs paid for by the school district in 10th and 11th grade. Contact Mary Zambri if you are interested in this meeting.

New Business: Lisa Norwalk, co-chair of the landscaping committee, said that the trees that are along the front of the school are in need of maintenance. Arbor Care donated some work to prune out the limbs. More of that work needs to be done. Trees near the staircase to the K blacktop are being suffocated by all the pedestrian traffic. The Arbor Care quote to do maintenance, pruning, aerate, mulch and fertilize trees is \$1200. Lisa would hope that we could add this to our wish list, hopefully by spring break. The county won't cover this - they don't have arborists - they don't do anything for the health of the tree. This is not an annual need, maybe every two or three years. Dr. Chaset said that the school can provide half of the \$1200. Approval to put \$600 on wish list for tree maintenance. Motion approved.

No new business

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Zweig Greenberg, Recording Secretary