

Burning Tree PTA Minutes
March 6, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Dorene Rosenthal. The February 6, 2007 Minutes were approved.

President's Report: Dorene Rosenthal reported that we need Cluster Coordinators. If anyone is interested in the "broader issues," they might be interested in this position. Some of the issues are budget, Whitman Guidance, math articulation, learning centers. We will try to have the Audit Committee meet to review the books. Brenda Conroy, Lisa Davenport, Katerina Papaioannou, Nic Ryba, and Janine Pendley will be on the Audit Committee. We need people to be on the Nominating Committee to try to fill the open Executive Board positions for next year. By-laws say that most officers serve one or two years and then have to change positions or leave. This year we have many people leaving the Board. We are thinking of making an amendment to the by-laws so that some people would stay on another term and we would not have such a large turnover in one year. Dorene would like feedback on this issue. We will discuss it at the May meeting.

Nic Ryba looked into the movie night for the Spring Fling. The cost is \$3,500 for 250 people (includes the set-up, running of the movie, and taking everything down). The cost is \$1,900 for a screen for 125 people. An indoor facility is recommended in case of rain (we could use the APR). If the event is cancelled by noon, it can be rescheduled. May 5th is the day before the Race for Hope. Concern is that it would be a late night (movie wouldn't start until 7:30 p.m., and the event would last until 9:00 or 9:15 a.m.). It could also be cold on May 5th. Discussed putting the event off until June. Discussed moving the event to a Friday night. Nic will check on the movie screen and food flexibility. Dorene will change the ICB for the new date. We will try to pick a Friday night in May.

Principal's Report: Dr. Chaset reported that this is the staff allocation season. She anticipates a cut in teaching staff. We have 510 students right now. 465 students are projected for next year. We told them that the figure should be 475 (according to our numbers). Dr. Chaset thinks we will get more students over the summer and that our numbers will be what they were this year. Lauren Benson has been hired as a paraeducator. She will assist in Ms. Askin's class, Ms. Driscoll's class, and lunch/playground. She thanked the PTA for their support of CAST. Math Explorers and Math Builders will begin soon for grades 2 and 3. She thanked the parents for participating in Family Science Night. She met with people from American University. They are reviewing accreditation of American University's program. We hire and train some of these students, and we benefit from this relationship. March 21st through 23rd 14 staff members will be participating in a conference. Mr. Tark reported on the gym construction. The gym is almost 50% done. It is right on schedule.

Field Day may be moved to May 25th. The PTA Executive Board is supposed to have a meeting on that day. The PTA Board meeting will be moved to the day before (Thursday), which is also the volunteer breakfast.

Nic Ryba asked that we consider serving as a site for a 5-K race. We could make a little money from this event. Nic will tell them that we are willing to serve as a site.

No Staff Report.

Treasurer's Report: We have plenty of money right now. The Adult Fundraiser has not happened yet. There have not been many changes to the budget since last month. We need items for the Wish List. Dr. Chaset said that the staff would like whiteboards in the classrooms instead of the blackboards.

MCCPTA Report: Lisa Davenport reported that the Safety Resolution regarding performing a security audit at each school passed. The Resolution on the personal finance class in the high schools passed. They hope to offer the class in the 2008-2009 school year. There is a Draft Resolution for Site Coordinators for construction. Only secondary schools get site coordinators at this time. Mr. Tark said that there is one lead MCPS person who attends their meetings. Lisa has information on the issues, and the MCCPTA has a website if anyone is interested. Maryland PTA wants the unused PTA cards back. MCCPTA dues of \$1/member were paid in February. Dorene said that math articulation was discussed at yesterday's Cluster Meeting. A quad cluster meeting may be held in April. Parents will be encouraged to attend.

Vice President's Reports: Laura Weiss reported that we would keep using Sally Foster for a fundraiser. Dine Out Nite is next Tuesday at Armand's in Rockville. They will have a buffet from 5 to 9 p.m. on the 13th. A flier will be sent out, and it is good from the 12th through the 18th. California Tortilla Dine Out Nite is in April. Note card sales will begin in April. Marianne Katinas and Britta Battaille are in charge of the note cards. April 28th is the Plant Sale. Mary Kunst and Lisa Baker are organizing the Plant Sale. Lisa Sanfuentes is sick and could not be here today. Adult Fundraiser will be at the BCC Rescue Squad Ballroom. Decorations will be stars hanging from the ceiling. Parents can get their children's stars if they want them. There will be a photographer at the event. The pictures will either be a nominal charge or a donation. The Barking Dog is supplying the food. Dave Abramowitz' band will be playing. James Rosen will be the auctioneer. There will be a live and silent auction and a television raffle. Teacher donations will be at the silent auction. Credit cards will be accepted. Volunteers are needed to help at the event. The Foundation may be there too to explain the brick sale. Brenda Conroy thanked Kathy Chelst for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Kristen Farren is working on the school supplies for next year. Playground help is needed. Brenda will put something out in order to get volunteers. Nic Ryba reported that the Arts Festival would be in May. Wynne Sitrin thanked Britta Battaille and Cathy Houston for working on 1000 Sandwiches. 1200 sandwiches were made for Martha's Table. She thanked the Posin/Borkowski family for the gloves. Cooking for the Homeless is coming up at the Rosenthals. A date has not yet been set.

No new business.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lenkin, Recording Secretary