

Burning Tree PTA Minutes
May 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Dorene Rosenthal. The March 6, 2007 Minutes were approved. Hazel Bradford encouraged parents to be on the Guidance Advisory Committee at Pyle. Jay Kaufman headed the Nominating Committee, and he gave his report. Dorene thanked Jay Kaufman, David Elfin, Laurie Thomas, Gail R. Haven, Soody Schneider, and Darrin Hartzler for their work on the committee. President Elect is Lisa Sanfuentes, President is Olivia Lai, Treasurer is Janine Pendley, VP Fundraising is Cindy Campbell, VP School Based Programs is Karen Van Loon, VP Community Based Programs is Vicki Herson, VP Volunteers is Brenda Conroy, Corresponding Secretary/Membership is Katerina Papaioannou, Recording Secretary is Michele Greenberg, MCCPTA Co-Delegates are Louise Howe and Mary Zambri, Lisa Davenport and Dorene Rosenthal will be the Cluster Representatives. Dorene explained the new Count on Me for Three Campaign. This is a new way to encourage people to volunteer at least three hours. Dorene asked Brenda Conroy to call her committee chairs to see if they are interested in any particular project for next year. The Hail and Farewell Dinner is June 1st at Katerina Papaioannou's house. This is a dinner for members of the PTA Board and committee chairs.

Principal's Report: Dr. Chaset reported that the gym is moving along. We don't have a date yet for the gym dedication. It will be sometime in the fall. Tim Gregory has been teaching the kids music, and he has agreed to come back with his group to perform at the gym dedication. Joan Wolf Chiaverini is trying to get some dignitaries and celebrities to attend. Dr. Chaset will need some people to help with this event. Unfortunately, there was some vandalism over the weekend. Someone painted on the gym walls. The Montgomery County Police Department investigated. Henley Construction is responsible because it is their responsibility to secure the property. The newly painted gym walls were not touched, only the cinder block walls. Joe Busch reported that they have sold 40 bricks so far. The Foundation is meeting Thursday night at 7:00p.m., at Joe Busch's house, if anyone is interested in attending. The Artist-in-Residence was fabulous. She thanked the PTA for the event. The kids loved it. He will come back on June 11th to work with the 4th grade chorus on a video he is making. He will also entertain at the gym dedication. Students have been submitting gym logo designs. The team leaders and specialists will select three, and then the students will vote on them. Mr. Tark and his wife Courtney had a daughter named Hannah. She is doing well and should be home soon. Damarra Dockery had daughter named Alexa. Mrs. Whalen is having knee surgery, and she will be out until the end of the year. She will be back in the fall. Teena Waller will be taking her place. Sam Frenkel and Jen Finberg have been nominated and honored by the Special Needs Committee. Katherine Fox was also nominated and honored. Dr. Chaset still hopes she will get one more reading initiative teacher, but it will come late. Right now we have a 4/5 combination class. One portable will be removed because we are two teachers short. We had 2 cuts, but we are handling that because Mrs. Potosky will not be returning and Mr. Frenkel will be moving back to Philadelphia. The new substitute for Ms. Dockery is Joyce Reinhart. May 24th at 8:30 a.m. is the Volunteer Breakfast.

No Staff report.

MCCPTA Report: The April MCCPTA meeting was the last meeting of the year. The quorum for board members has been tabled until next year. Paula Robinson and Deborah Goldman will be cluster coordinators. Deborah Demille Wagner will be a quad cluster vice president.

VP Volunteers: Brenda Conroy thanked and congratulated Lisa Davenport and Lisa Baker for their work at the Clean-Up day on Saturday. Field Days are coming up. We will need volunteers to help Ms. Loftus. Field Day for Kindergarten thru 2nd grade will be May 18th. May 25th is Field Day for grades 3 thru 5. Teacher Appreciation lunch is on May 10th. Teacher Appreciation week is next week. VP Community Based Programs: Wynne Sitrin reported that Cooking for the Homeless went well. This Thursday is the last sandwich collection for Martha's Table. VP School Based Programs: Nic Ryba reported that there was a Cultural Arts Assembly today. She thanked Mrs. Adelson for all of her work (her child is graduating from BT this year). She also thanked Mrs. Wolf Chiaverini. The Arts Festival is May 30th. Ms. Payne needs help getting the artwork set up for this event. This Friday night is Movie Night on the blacktop. The movie is Over the Hedge. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. People can either bring a picnic or purchase pizza from Armands. This event will be held instead of the Spring Fair. We can't have the Spring Fair because of the gym construction. Fundraising: Laura Weiss reported that California Tortilla did well. She thanked Amy Brown for her work on the Dine Out Nights. The Plant Sale did well, thanks to Lisa Baker and Mary Kunst. Original Artworks did well thanks to Britta Battaile and Marianne Katinas. The Adult Fundraiser made approximately \$28,000 (we don't have final numbers in yet).

Treasurer's Report: Michael Chelst reported that we have a lot of money to be used. Dr. Chaset said that we could use some money to improve the APR. We are hoping to get someone out who can give us an estimate on how much it would cost to improve the APR. We may want to consider getting a new sign for in front of the school. We may want to consider getting some new plants for the front of the school. We need to get some firmer numbers by the next meeting. There is approximately \$10,000 that will be spent before the year is over. Push from the Executive Board to try to reduce the budget. It was reduced approximately \$3,000. The changes from an income standpoint increased the Bingo Night. We tried not to put too much pressure on the people who are running the events to make a lot of money. Note Cards will now be called Original Artworks and it is considered income. The Spring Fair will no longer be a fundraiser. We increased the amount we give to our sister school to \$1200. We took the cultural arts expense up to \$5000. We added a new category called Health and Nutritional Education and gave it \$300. We kept the Math Day-Science Day, even though we didn't have it this year. We increased the science and social studies expenses because of the solar cars that the 5th graders build. We cut some of the Administrative expenses. We will try to send out a copy of the proposed budget before the June PTA meeting. We will vote on the proposed budget at the June PTA meeting.

New business: Mr. Feldman is concerned about school communication. He has had trouble staying up to speed with what is going on at the school. It's a problem for those children who have two households. He has felt at a disadvantage. He was not happy with the directory at the beginning of the school year. Picking up at the end of the day is also a concern. He is concerned about the Kiss N Ride situation. He feels that the yellow lines on the road are a problem and the one cross walk is a problem. We need to get the lines re-painted. He is concerned about the low turn out at the PTA meeting. He has volunteered to help the school in any way he can. Dr. Chaset suggested that Mr. Feldman join the Principal's Advisory Committee, Safety Committee and Technology Committee. Mr. Tark has arranged for a traffic study to be conducted. Keeping parents informed is something that staff needs to have on their radar at all times. Not all of the staff is at the same level when it comes to technology. Dorene reported that the Friday Update is sent out electronically as well as with the kids. Burning Issues is sent out in hard copy, but it could probably be sent out electronically. We are trying to get a PTA website set up. We have a better PTA turn out when we have programs, but most people feel that they are well informed and don't feel the need to go to the meetings. PTA minutes will be posted on the PTA website next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lenkin, Recording Secretary