

PTA Meeting – May 5, 2009 at 7 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Sanfuentes. The March 3, 2009 minutes were approved.

President's Report (Lisa S.) - Nominating Committee. We have a great line up for the proposed slate of the Board of Directors: President – Cindy Campbell; President Elect – Ellie Abramowitz; Treasurer – Pam Janssen; VP Fundraising – Julie Garcia; VP Volunteers – Lisa Segert; VP School-Based Programs – Patti Klepp; VP Community-Based Programs – Kerry Sporkin; Recording Secretary – Surya Shah; Corresponding Secretary/Membership – Yvonne Van Lowe; MCCPTA Delegates – Ira Feldman & Sharon Tompkins. Proposed slate of directors is elected for 2009/2010 year.

Thank you for the Plant sale, BTES clean up, DC Food Bank Collection and Teacher Appreciation Committee. For next year's **school directory**, the individual who created the database for our school directory is making improvements and wants to start charging schools \$200/year. It's very useful software and the information continues from BTES to Pyle. He and another entrepreneur will work together to get all the advertising for the directory and for us the database and printing is free. They get a percentage from the advertising revenue. He guarantees we will make the same profit as last year or 5% of ad sales, whichever is greater. We made about \$1,300 last year. We would now charge more for ads: back cover would now be \$750 versus \$400. Bannockburn Elementary charges \$800 for the back cover. Inside front cover would now be \$600 vs. \$350; full page is \$350 vs. \$300; half-page is \$250 vs. \$200. We can veto any ads he finds and we will still solicit the same people as years past. Karen Van Loon will continue to do data entry. **Big Train Baseball** – games are held at Cabin John Park and they are offering a fund raiser to the school where we make 10% of the gate ticket and food sales of the day we select. It would be in the summer, on either July 9 or 16. We can offer our chorus to sing the National Anthem, teachers sell the food and tickets, students who wear school shirts get in for free, principal and/or assistant principal throw out the first ball. **Greenraising** will replace Sally Foster. Cindy Nickerson and Ira Feldman spearheaded an effort to green our school and PTA activities. Sally Foster is not made from recycled materials. Through Greenraising we will sell gift wrapping, water bottles, hand lotion, jewelry, gifts, household cleaning products. We will still get delivery of all materials on November 10 and the drive ends 4 weeks before. We will make 40% from their catalogue (we made 50% from Sally Foster) and 25% from their website. We have an option to sell reusable bags at the Spring Fair for \$5 (we purchase them for \$3.75). For **Teacher Appreciation** the PTA and Mrs. Erdrich are partnering to give teachers a big canvas bag with the BTES logo on it. At lunch, tomorrow, we'll make an announcement to the teachers that something "big" is coming for them. **Drive for Supplies** – any supplies that teachers and kids empty from their desks will all get donated (for example, crayons, lunch boxes, etc.) **President Elect (Cindy C.)** – we need committee chairs for next year. The empty positions are on our website. **Treasurer's Report (Lisa N.)** – we have \$70K in the bank. Some of this money will get used up and some will get carried over. We must allocate the monies because we are a non-profit. For this year's wish list, the lobby renovation monies are all used up; the new paper cutter, die cut, tools, letters and shapes are in too. We are asking teachers and administrators about one-time items for the wish list for next year. Parents can also recommend wish list items. For after-school activities, many more teachers are doing them and their classes are very popular with our students. In the preliminary budget for next year, the Fill Our Pond \$ is so low because it's a plug number to balance the budget. **Principal's Report (Mrs. Erdrich)**- thank you for everything – the school looks fantastic, the kids look happy. **Staffing Update** – next year, except for 5th grade, every grade level will have 3 classes. This year, our 1st, 4th and 5th grades had 4 classes. We had to involuntarily transfer 2 teachers (Ms. Lopez and Ms. Walker), based on seniority. But, we did get Ms. Walker back for 3rd grade. It's out of our hands. Next year's 2nd grade class is on the cusp of getting one more class. We can't get a 4th homeroom teacher unless we have 27 in each class. We did get a 0.5 resource teacher, which is great. The ad has been up and no one has answered it yet. With this extra allocation, we increase our reading initiative from .9 to 1.2 which is 1 ½ days more. We'd like to give KG some reading support. Currently, 1st and 2nd grades have extra reading and writing support, but not KG. For ESOL, we went from 1.2 (1 person + 1 day) to 1.1 (1 person + ½ day). Ms. Hurowitz is retiring. We have a new media specialist – Nancy Barry who is a former BTES parent and paraeducator. She comes with excellent recommendations. We have hired a new Learning Center coordinator because Dana Cook is pregnant and will take a year off. Dana Cook's replacement has been a coordinator before and is very good. We will miss Mrs. Cook. There may be some

movement of teachers across grades. At the end of this week, you will get a form to talk about your child's learning style, hobbies, etc. We have articulation meetings for current teachers to meet with specialists and us to make next year's class placement. Please don't tell me which teacher you want – I cannot honor that. You can state who you don't want your child to be with. Be specific and use our form. All decisions will be made with care, taking into consideration what you wrote down. We care about your kids. KG orientation is on Friday. We currently have 55 kids registered for KG, but we're projected to have 71. We can go up to 25 kids/KG class. Labeling a child gifted or not doesn't affect the education the child receives in our school. Our kids are getting more at BTES than kids in other parts of the County. Dr. Wiest has published the "7 Keys to Success". For our students, we're almost there and we may have already passed some of the benchmarks. In our SIP goals, we're looking for more students to complete the MSAs at higher grades. Please keep telling your kids to wash their hands. We have lots of jackets and lunch boxes in the lost and found. Whatever is left will be donated to Broad Acres. **Mrs. Granof** – we feel very appreciated this week. We need parent volunteers for Field Days and parties. **VP of Fundraising (Ellie A.)** – we are very excited about Spring Fling. We still need more volunteers, bags for Bag-O-Mania and cakes. We're showing "Hotel For Dogs" with a teacher's challenge. We will publicize all this in this week's **Burning Issues**. The 5th graders will be selling Frisbees; we'll accept donations for the Humane Society; there will be an estimation jar for Kisses for Kayla; and we are selling luminaries for Relay for Life. We made over \$2K in Dine Outs this year. **MCCPTA Delegate (Darrin H.)** – resolution on the Gifted/Talented program passed. Minor changes were made to the bylaws. **Community Based (Lisa S. for Vicki H.)** – DC Food Bank Collection has been very successful. Thank you to Vicki – she collects and delivers all the bags. It's a one-woman show. **School Based (Lisa S. for Karen V.L.)** – we need volunteers for Relay for Life on May 20, 21 and 22. Please contact Elissa Ginsky if you can volunteer during recess. **(Katerina P.)** – we now have 320 members which is the same as last year.

Respectfully submitted
Surya M. Shah, Recording Secretary

Attendees at the meeting:

Nancy Erdrich, Aaron Tark, Helene Granoff
Lisa Sanfuentes
Cindy Campbell
Yvonne Van Lowe
Beth Martino
Ellie Abramowitz
Surya Shah
Lisa Segert
Olivia Lai
Lisa Norwalk
Pamela Janssen
Nikola Koritz
Julie Garcia
Cristina Arumi
Katerina Papaioannou
Dorene Rosenthal
Darrin Hartzler
Cindy Nickerson-Pechilis
Kristen Pruitt
Elissa Ginsky
Kerry Sporkin
Theo Lindtzer
Elizabeth Padgett
Camelia Fawzy
Patti Klepp
Vicki Herson