

BES PTA General Membership Meeting @ 7.30pm Tuesday, 12/07/21

Attendees (ZOOM meeting, screen names, likely incomplete list): Juliette Searight, Katharine Gordon, Susan Limb, Alejandra Zurita, Kathleen Wolf, Kevin Stults, Anna Benefiel, David Hecht, Jodi Lazarus, Erika Aguirre Spensley, Pavi Tumbapura, Marsha Ashley, Margaret Cantrell, Marget Maurer, Vanessa Sax, Mary Minshew, Amanda Sutaria, Carol (?), cristinkumar, Erika Satlof, Jessica Gilbertsen, Julie Lam, Kidane Family, Kristin Regen, Lara Josey, Melissa Waite, Nathan, Nardo Day, Stephanie Kodiak, Sue Lin, Verinda Fike, Christine Castellano, Claudine Rono, Lisa Kays, Dana Shaiyen, Pilar Jimenez, Katy Levine, Parker

Opening Remarks: Juliette Searight

Present New Board Members: Juliette Searight

- Anna Benefiel, Margaret Cantrell, Marsha Ashley, Kelly Griffiths
- Motion to approve by Vanessa Sax, seconded by Kevin Stults. 24 votes for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Present Budget: Kevin Stults

- In October meeting, approved budget from summer
- Tonight, presenting revised budget for 2021-2022 school year
- Voting to approve on subtotal level to allow flexibility within subcategories without coming back to membership
- Auction, mayfair, fun run are confirmed. Drama club, variety show, international night, enrichment matters (clubs) are all predicted to continue throughout the year. - Adding Artist in Residence back into budget, which is a significant expense not previously accounted for so we had to balance the budget a bit to get this experience - Dues from families and staff are still a little under estimate of \$9000—join the PTA! - Predicted surplus at end of the year is \$3,171.
- Kevin motion to approve, Marget seconded. Vote 25 votes to approve, no votes against, no abstentions.

Boy Scout Charter: Juliette Searight

- PTA brought motion to approve Boy scout charter Marget, seconded by Susan - Vote: 23 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

Present Minutes from 10/05/21 PTA meeting: Juliette Searight

- Anna Benefiel motion to approve, Kevin Stults seconded.
- 22 votes yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

DEI Committee Intro – Marsha Ashley

- Putting together a survey for BES community to understand what families want and need from DEI committee
- Pursuing a grant for a possible DEI event

- Looking for more members to join the committee—contact Marsha (marshaashley@gmail.com; 270-300-6348)

Auction: Anna Benefiel

- March 26, 2022 at Praline
- Seeking origami paper (making cranes for decoration)
- Seeking volunteers to help organize
- \$50/family for family sponsorships, and corporate sponsors too. All sponsors go on tee shirts. (could use help getting corporate sponsors if anyone has ideas)
- Contact anna at Anna.Benefiel@Vizientinc.com; 817-988-8897

Fun Run: Kathleen Wolf/Juliette Searight

- Planning for March 19, 2022 (might bump to March 12, 2022 to space from auction, but TBD)
- Volunteers for tee-shirt distribution on race day
- Tee-shirt designs will be collected starting in January
- (Use high school and middle school kids)
- Kathleen.n.wolf@gmail.com

Peace of Mind Presentation: Cheryl Dodwell, Peace of Mind Executive Director and Christine Castellano, BES Counselor

- (Cheryl is a BES alumni parent)
- PoM is a non-profit, works with BES/Ms. Castellano
- Develop curriculum and storybooks to teach mindfulness, brain science, SEL, conflict resolution
- Aim to teach kids skills for life
- TeachPeaceofMind.com
- Cheryl will send slides to Juliette to circulate to BES parents
- At BES, usually PoM is on Wednesdays (castellano teaches one week, and homeroom teacher teaches next week).
 - o K-2 is one curriculum
 - o 3-5 go at their own pace
 - o Right now, thinking about metacognition and gratitude

Membership plea—Juliette asked to please join PTA (membership toolkit)

Drama Club Update: Juliette Searight

- Collaborate with Ovations theater
- Starting in January, performance will be after Spring Break
- Costs more than other clubs because it's intense—4 hours a week
- 3-5 graders, capped at 43 students
- 5th graders will be able to do "tech"

- Sign-up for drama club will not be coordinated with other club sign-ups -
Details about dates/times/locations TBD
- Drama club \$399, and parents are asked to help out

Variety Show Update: Katharine Gordon

- Currently booked for April 2 at BCC high school auditorium, but working out exactly how to do that in a COVID safe way moving forward.
- More information to be forthcoming in January

MCCPTA Update: David Hecht

- Advocacy priorities
 - o 11 comments from BES community (seems low, but in relation to other cluster schools this is “good” involvement)
 - o Review of priorities was distributed in BES PTA newsletter in November
 - o MCCPTA advocacy committee was pleased with our input
- Mask Mandate
 - o Dec 1 meeting at MD State BOE
 - o (MCC BOD and delegate assembly advocated to keep blanket mask mandate until Feb 28 and then reassess)
 - o MD BOE passed a resolution asking State Dept of Education to draft a new policy to allow local jurisdictions to have flexibility to loosen mandate according to local jurisdiction
- MCCPTA looking for feedback on student programming
 - o What existing programs are working?
 - o What new programs are communities asking for but not getting?
 - o Questionnaire in this week’s newsletter to ask for input
- MCCPTA asking for review of MCCPTA standing rules—review and give input if you are interested

Motion to adjourn by Susan Limb, seconded by Katharine Gordon. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM