



PTA MEETING: Wednesday, September 4, 2024
TIME: 7:30 PM EST LOCATION: Virtual

MEETING CALLED BY: BPES PTA Board
TYPE OF MEETING: BPES PTA General Meeting
PTA PRESIDENT: Voula Augustin
PTA RECORDING SECRETARY: Denise J. Meyer

In Attendance: Christina Yingling, Denise Meyer, Voula Augustin, Cathy Tran-Zwantez, Candice Gerstner, Grace Sokolowski, Kristian Rutledge, Tom Dewees, Jennifer Shafer, Nicole Oxenham, Alyson Schwartzbauer, Shari Roberts, Tara Benedetti, Shana Faris, Sarah Musco, Corinne Kleinman, Bhaile & Lindsay Callaway.

Quorum Status & Start of Meeting: Seeing that a quorum was present, Denise Meyer started the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Welcome & Introductions: Christina Yingling & Voula Augustin

Principal's Report: Kristian Rutledge

The school year is off to a great start! Our student support team which consists of Mr. Dewees, myself, the school psychologist and the counselors have spoken to most team about expectations and what they can expect from the school year. We discussed our PBIS program and incentives that we will be offering students that display positive behaviors at school. We call this our Roadshow.

Our **Regional Early Childhood Centers (RECC)** students began last Thursday and are getting acclimated to going to school. For those of you who don't know, we have a large RECC program at BPES. This includes:

MINC Pre-School

Pre-School

Pre-Kindergarten - Income Eligible

MINC Pre-Kindergarten - Income Eligible

MINC EL

Back to School Nights are next week. Below is how is evening will be structured

See back to School Night Dates below - Please note these are for adults only.

Tuesday, September 10th, Back to School Nights Grades RECC/Pre-K/ K-2

Administration Presentation 6:00-6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria

ALS Presentation 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. ALS Classrooms

Classroom Presentation 6:30-7:00 p.m. Classrooms

Thursday, September 12th, Back to School Nights Grades 3-5 and GT

GT Presentation 5:30-6:00 p.m. School Cafeteria

Administration Presentation 6:00-6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria

Classroom Presentation 6:30-7:00 p.m. Classrooms

- I want to clarify our new attendance procedures:
 - **Email BPESabsence@hcpss.org. If you child will be absent from school.**
 - Do not use this for a dismissal change - you can use green notes if you still have them. We have ordered notes that will take the place of green notes, or you can just send in a handwritten note or email your child's teacher with a dismissal change.
 - 3:15 is the last early dismissal, if you are later than that please go to the car line.
 - Three discretionary days will be approved per year. They will be excused absences. Fill out the form and send it to the office for approval. The form is located on the website.
 - Band and Chorus enrollment is open until November 6th. Information and links are in the Bushy Bear tales. They are also accessible on the BPES Website.
 - Picture Day is next Friday the 13th. Information will be sent out tomorrow to families. We have a new company this year. We are using Classic Photography.
 - Please refer to our website for the color days and all updated information.

- Technology Policy reminders. The policy will be sent out via email schoolwide and will be reiterated at Back to School Nights.

Strategic Plan Stakeholder Input Meetings:

Community members are invited to attend one of these meetings to help inform the system's new strategic plan by providing their input about stakeholder values during this virtual, hour-long opportunity facilitated by HCPSS staff. No registration is required.

- [September 9, 2024 – 5:00–6:00 pm – Google Meet link](#)
- [September 10, 2024 – 7:00–8:00 pm – Google Meet link](#)
- [September 17, 2024 – 5:00–6:00 pm – Google Meet link](#)
- Mr. Dewees Update
 - Reminders about Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) testing.
 - Starting week of 9/16/24 through mid-October; a local assessment given to Howard County Public School students to assess student performance and progress related to standards. If a student is absent they will have an opportunity to make up their testing.
 - Any questions? Please send to Mr. Dewees
 - 1st & 2nd grades – 3 times a year (Fall/Winter/Spring)
 - 3rd & 4th grades – 2 ELA (Fall/Spring); *NEW* 3 Math (Fall/Winter/Spring)
- **No Questions**

Upcoming PTA Events per Approved Calendar: Christina Yingling

- October PTA Meeting | Wednesday, October 2, 2024 @ 7:30 PM | Virtual
 - Meetings are likely to be 1st week of each month unless it falls on a holiday or there is another need to schedule differently.
- PTA Back to School Picnic | Friday, September 6, 2024 | 5-7 PM | Tony's Pizza will be there selling slices of pizza
 - Casual event to get to know one another
- Back to School Night – PTA will present
 - Tuesday, September 10, 2024 | PreK – 2nd Grade
 - Thursday, September 12, 2024 | 3rd – 5th Grade
- Wednesday, September 18th | Chick-Fil-A Clarksville Family Night | Open to close 20% back, please mention BPES when ordering
- Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (School ½ day) | Main Event @ Columbia Mall | PTA members will be there to collect receipts
- Friday, September 20, 2024 (Rain date 9/27/2024) | BPES PTA Movie Night

- Do not have a chair for this event; do have the screen; need set up for projector, snacks, speakers, etc.
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024 | Ten Oaks Restaurant Night | Open to close 15% back, do not need to mention BPES
- Friday, October 11, 2024 | BPES Fall Fest | Looking for 17 vehicles for Trunk or Treat
 - Have volunteers from Glenwood Middle School volunteers planning to assist with this event
- Starting October 14, 2024 | Fall Bookfair | Media teachers will take students to preview and fair will be open in the evenings for sales.
- All events posted on BPES PTA Facebook, will be shared on Bushy Bear Tales, shared in PTA Newsletter, PTA Website and BPES School Website Calendar
- Ms. Rutledge advised that the BPES Sign can be used by the PTA for events as well.

PTA Communication: Nicole Oxenham/Grace Sokolowski

- First PTA Monthly Newsletter went out this afternoon via email (9/4/24)
 - Goal is that in the beginning of each month we issue our BPES PTA Newsletter, which will have the majority of the PTA information. BPES PTA Website is another source for all PTA information.
 - Bushy Bear Tales is often filled with a lot of information, we will keep PTA information/updates simple and bulleted.
- PTA information about events and fundraises can be found on BPES PTA Monthly Newsletter, BPES PTA Website & BPES School Calendar
 - Bushy Bear Tales, BPES PTA Facebook Page and BPES PTA Meeting Minutes will have consolidated information, updates and event information.
 - We want to direct everyone to our [BPES PTA Website](#), this has all our information and much more details.
- **Questions:**
 - Alyson Schwartzbauer – did the new PTA Newsletter go out to everyone or just the PTA Board? Do not see it in email inbox.
 - The new PTA Newsletter was sent to the entire school.
 - Voula – getting 5th grade involved and add fun content to our BPES PTA Newsletter
 - Staff spotlights, 5th grade contributions/interviews, etc.

Staff Appreciation: Nicole Oxenham

- Welcome Back Breakfast
 - Went well, was wonderful, kudos to Rosies Delicatessen and BPES families for their donations.
 - Staff reacted well and the community support is much appreciated.
- Starting this month, we will provide a Snack Cart once a month.
 - Donations are needed for the snack carts throughout the year, sign-ups for these can be found on our website and on FB.

- Memberhub donations are being used for treat days, small gift cards, bus drivers gifts, conference week activities in November, etc.

Committee Reports

- *Fall Fest – Christina Yingling*
 - Friday, October 11, 2024 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Truck or Treat sign-up is out, need 17 vehicles
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A9A823A6FBC25-trunk#/>
 - Glenwood Middle volunteer sign up is out, will need some adult volunteers to monitor throughout the event
 - Food trucks and two ice cream trucks (to help with long lines)
 - Will have games and prizes
 - Encouraging dressing up, but non-gory costumes

Sponsorships/Bushy Bear Dash Fundraiser: Christina Yingling

- **Desperately need chairs and volunteers to help with Bushy Bear Dash on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM @ BPES.**
 - Bushy Bear Dash is the largest PTA fundraiser for Bushy Park Elementary School
 - Board working to get food trucks, DJ, and general support
 - Board will be in full support of this event as it is the biggest fundraiser for the school year
 - Will advertise this need in other ways as well (FB page, ask for volunteers at Back to School Night, etc.)
 - Looking for community sponsors
 - Event will be managed differently this year
 - PTA Board members will be assigned and charged with managing the fiduciary aspects of this fundraiser
 - Fundraising efforts will be done through *99Pledges*

PTA Membership

- The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides valuable support to parents and the school. PTA members are essential to keep our organization running well and we operate solely on parent and school volunteers.
- Please join the BPES PTA, you can do so by clicking here:
 - [JOIN BPES PTA](#)

Volunteer Committees: Cathy Tran-Zwantez

- *Event Chairs* are needed for the school year

- 5th grade picnic: co-chairs (2)
- Belonging Together: Co-chairs (2)
- **Bushy Bear Dash: Co-chairs (2) *** major need *****
- Bushy Blooms: co-chair (1)
- Council Delegates: representatives (2)
- End of Year Celebration: co-chairs (2)
- **Fundraising: co-chair (1) ** major need*****
- Ground Beautification: co-chair (2)
- **Movie Night: chair (1) *** major need*****
- Restaurant Spirit Days: chair (1)
- Spirit Wear: chair (1)
- Sweetheart Dance: co-chair (1)
- Talent show: co-chair (1)
- Details for each chair/event available on [BPES PTA Website](#)
- **Questions:**
 - Candice Gerstner – Since Movie Night is right around the corner, are we considering cancelling this one since there are no chairs or volunteers?
 - VAugustin – We are hopeful that we can pull this off as a PTA Board if no one volunteers. Doesn't seem like the event is a huge undertaking. But we are hopeful that we get volunteers.
 - Sarah Musco – Chat Message: Is the Bushy Bear Dash just for kids or is there an adult component?
 - VAugustin – This would be up to the chair/co-chairs in charge of the event, sounds like it could be some fun competition if adults were included.

Financial Report: Jennifer Shafer

- Updates – no reimbursements yet this year
 - Taxes are being completed now, due November 15, 2024.
- Copy of the budget is available on [BPES PTA Website](#)
- Reminder of ways to support BPES PTA:
 - PTA Member Registration
 - Help with sponsorships
 - Attend Family/Restaurant Night Outs
 - Bushy Bear Dash Fundraiser (our largest fundraiser!!)
- **No questions**

General Questions/Misc Information

- Shari Roberts – Are the local cub scouts approved to set up at Back-to-School Picnic this Friday?
 - Christina Yingling – Yes, they have approval to set up at the event
 - Reminder that if anyone has a small business or knows a small business we'd love to advertise the business via the PTA through our Community Sponsor Program.
- Lindsay Callaway – Any information on room parents?
 - Nicole Oxenham - Information will be shared at Back to School Night, flyers and QR codes to be shared by the Room Parent Chairs and in PTA newsletters.

Having no other items of business or questions, this meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM by Denise J. Meyer.

Next meeting, Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 7:30 PM (Google Meet). Keep an eye on your email and BPES PTA Facebook page for other details and the virtual meeting link.