

Blair PTSA Board of Directors Meeting
August 26, 2015
7pm - Blair Media Center

MINUTES

In attendance: Raymond Moreno, Diane Friedman, Maria Portela, Dave Williams, Renay Johnson, Dave Williams, Nina Uzick, Anne Fothergill, Michelle Fenton, Michael Melinchok, Luke Gao, Judy Dey, Bown Fong, Linda Krimm

1. Welcome and Introductions – Ray Moreno

The PTSA Board is very excited to welcome new leadership to the PTSA. The Board had two very productive summer planning sessions and we have adopted a new vision statement: *The mission of the Blair PTSA is to support the academic success and personal growth of all students, and to unify, engage, and empower families, staff, and the broader school community, through purposeful meetings, events, program funding, advocacy, and informative communication* and a new slogan “We are One Blair”.

We are trying out a fee-free membership program this year to attract more members and will be encouraging donations.

Nina has concern about things that need to get done around the building and the nurse’s office needs spare clothes. Ray has found a church that will donate clothes.

2. Calendar - Diane Friedman

Everyone on the Board received the dates for this year’s Board and general membership meetings.

Ms. Johnson announced that on October 6 there will be interviews with selected parents as part of a study of MCPS Choice programs and the PTSA will add that date to the calendar on the web site.

9th grade parent night is September 3 and Back to School night is September 17. The PTSA will have membership tables at both meetings. Contact Ray or Diane if you can help out.

There is a safety concern about construction on University Boulevard east of the school which will cause students who walk that way to cross two Beltway access lanes. Ms. Johnson will ask Security staff to go out there for 9th grade orientation on 8/27 and will work with MCPS on a possible crossing guard or other solution.

Ms. Johnson reported that MCPS has decided that no buses will be parked at high schools.

School starts at 7:45am this year.

3. Budget – Dave Williams

The Board reviewed last year’s budget and this year’s draft budget which includes every request that has been made and some expense line items will need to be cut. The PTSA raised about \$40,000 last year in income and the current proposal is to raise \$111,000 this year. We have \$25,000 in the bank. We need to form a budget committee to create a proposed budget for this year that will be approved by the general membership at the September meeting– contact Dave if you can help with this. This will need to get done in the next few weeks.

Michelle is the new fundraising chair and the proposed fundraisers are Capitol Steps (possibly Feb. 21), a Direct Appeal (November and throughout the year), electronic Silent Auction (tentative November 16-December 4), a Rummage Sale (possibly April 9) and other fundraiser ideas like 50/50 raffles.

The Fundraising Committee will reach out to alumni for donations. Montgomery Blair Alumni Association does their own fundraising. Discussion of how to get alumni email addresses. Maybe students could call alumni on the phone to request donations and get SSL hours. Maria has an old directory that we could use for alumni contacts. The school administration cannot provide alumni contact information.

The PTSA needs to do a better job marketing all the things the PTSA funds and supports. The Fundraising committee will talk to committee chairs about what they do and what they need. Maybe generate a wish list of what the school needs like cafeteria tables.

It is critical that the PTSA come out strong this fall and sign up as many members as possible in September. Need to reach out to parents in many different ways including going through the students to reach their parents. We could offer incentives when someone donates a larger amount. All incoming 9th graders will receive a folder with PTSA information.

In terms of the budget, there is concern about having too many committed expenses without guaranteed income. We may have to adjust the budget and add in more expenses later once we see the income amount this fall.

Judy will work on grant applications and we hope to apply for more grants this year including Community Foundation of Montgomery County.

We will print two newsletters and post all of them on the web site for people to read. Hoping to get first newsletter out in the fall.

Ms. Johnson would like the PTSA to fund t-shirts for incoming 9th graders next fall. If Board agrees to that, we would need to put that in this year's budget.

The line item for mini grants has been increased (proposed). Would like to add money for some PTSA socials and food at meetings to make PTSA more fun.

School would like PTSA to fund graduation venue. MCPS pays for part of the rental fee but the school pays an extra \$2500 for Constitution Hall. Ms. Johnson has a committee searching for a new, larger graduation venue since we are outgrowing Constitution Hall.

School needs new round cafeteria tables and MCPS only gives \$7000 for furniture. School has asked PTSA to fund a 3-D printer.

Ms. Johnson has asked the PTSA to put money toward prizes for Student Appreciation Day – last year was the first event and she would like to have it again in the spring.

Overall the budget wish list shows \$102,000+ in expenses and the budget committee will review all line items and evaluate which ones the PTSA can commit to funding.

Meeting adjourned.