

Blair PTSA Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2015  
7:00 PM - Blair Media Center

- I. Welcome – Raymond Moreno, PTSA President (**Sign-in sheet**)
- II. Highlight of the Month: Ms. Yoko - Japanese Teacher at Blair  
Only one of 4 HS that offers Japanese (out of 16 MC HS)  
Blair offers Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, and AP  
Took a trip to Japan in 2010 and 2014. Hoping to go to Tokyo Olympics in 2020.  
Blair has hosted 450 Japanese students since 2009.
- III. PTSA Business – Diane Friedman and Ray Moreno **HANDOUTS**
  - Budget (Dave Williams) – Audit for last year has been completed and we passed. So far this year \$10,000 in income and \$6,000 in expenses
  - Citrus Sale (Annie Rollin)- Orders until November 6. We get 50% of sales. Can ship to someone out of town.
  - Mini Grants – Applications due 11/23.
  - Membership – 509 members so far; 40 more than last year.
- IV. Cluster Advocacy – Cori Vanchieri  
Blair Cluster has 13 PTAs (9 ES, 3 MS, 1 HS); Blair Cluster Rep is Tom Jacobson  
Overcrowding is a major issue for our cluster.  
Parents encouraged to attend CIP and budget hearings. Next CIP hearing is Nov. 9  
Could invite Board of Ed members to attend school events.  
Cluster meeting October 28 at Blair.  
Future boundary change for ESS and Rolling Terrace.
- V. Staff Advocacy Panel
  - a) Debby Adler – ESOL Resource Teacher  
5 levels of ESOL for 400 students with 12 teachers  
80 METS students – interrupted education  
Majority of ESOL students are from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; some from Africa and some speak French and Amharic.  
Majority of ESOL students are on FARM.  
In need of computers at school- a cart of Chromebooks (cost about \$10,000)
  - b) Vicky Schaffer – Special Ed Resource Teacher  
200+ SPED students – have emotional and learning disabilities, autism, intellectually disabled, cerebral palsy.  
Blair is a full inclusion school with support if needed. 27 teachers plus paraeducators, speech language pathologist, psychologist.  
Some students have accommodations or modifications.  
Offer classes for executive functioning skills.  
Teach students self advocacy.  
504 is for accommodations and IEP is for specially designed instruction.
  - c) Jane Godwin – Counseling Department Chair  
3000 students at Blair; 12 counselors  
Counseling department works on students’ educational program, social-emotional issues,

college and/or career readiness

Help students with their schedules.

Student can schedule an appointment with their counselor and teachers and parents can refer the student to counseling.

Counselors run groups (grief, etc.)

PTSA Chair Ellen Jennings is the Special Ed Liaison; PTSA has Counseling Advisory Committee.

Counselors have a 4 year plan system to track the 22 credits needed for graduation.

Blair needs an additional registrar (Board of Ed decision).

Blair offers Saturday school and there is MCPS Parent Academy.

PTSA will talk to CAC Chair about setting something up for advocacy and study skills.

VI. Principal's Report – **HANDOUT** (no presentation)

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm