

Blair PTSA Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2015  
7:00 PM - Blair Media Center

I. Welcome – Raymond Moreno, PTA President **sign-in sheet of meeting attendees attached**

Amanda Wall and Megan Park – Blair teachers announced new program “Empty Bowls”; proceeds go to local food bank. Meal served in the handmade bowl – share dinner. They received a grant through Montgomery County for the clay and materials. Tentative event date: March. Parents encouraged to make a bowl and/or soup to put in bowls. Hoping to get the whole school involved. Will post info on web site, etc.

II. Principal’s Report – Mr. Cauley **Principal’s report attached**

- Cheerleading team won Spirit Award for 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row
- New policy: hats allowed
- George Thomas learning academy now open

III. Treasurer’s Report – Dave Williams **Report attached**

Dave moved that we transfer \$500 from SAT Prep to Bliss and Mr. Cauley seconded. **Motion passed.**

Citrus sale: line item for income doesn’t show online sales. Citrus sale made between \$10-11,000 but not \$14,000 as budgeted. More boxes were sold but there was an increase in the price. Next year the committee will do more promotion at school events and not just online. Citrus committee will need volunteers to manually offload 3000 pounds of fruit on Friday December 4 in the morning. Will bring 80 cartons of oranges to Shepherd’s Table.

IV. Membership – Deb Hopkins

All members have now gotten a letter by email

541 members; last year this time 429 members; goal is 1000

We need everyone to recruit more members

Events: hoping to have a Winter Party; International Night and Capitol Steps scheduled

New Facebook page

V. Life At Blair – Resource Teacher Panel

- Ms. Roark -Science

27 teachers

Biology has state assessment

Incorporating Common Core into curriculum

- Ms. Thornton - Social Studies

25 teachers

Use Chrome books for inquiry-based projects

- Ms. Davis - Math

22 teachers

Core curriculum

Math is integrated with other subjects; a lot of problem solving

Algebra 2- new curriculum this year  
2 math help rooms  
Math assessments – State, County, and PARCC

- Ms. Adamson – English  
28 teachers  
New writing classrooms this year  
Common Core: ask questions, think independently and be readers and writers - reading and writing at high level  
Bridge classes to help students transition from ESOL to regular  
Ted Talk on text diversity  
Might have 5 book options in one class at one time; Americanah might be added to reading list; all 10<sup>th</sup> graders read the Odyssey  
Teachers limited to books on MCPS-approved list; MCPL-approved books can be used in literature circle; have to advocate for new books at BOE

Need more Chrome Books for all departments  
School has Bliss tutors; lots of resources for academic help

#### VI. Other– Ray Moreno

We are One Blair – conversation to come about what that means  
Board of Elections having a voter registration drive and need help with polls and elections – students can get SSL hours or paid  
Fundraising: Merlene and Michelle  
Direct appeal letter in the mail; goal is \$32,000. Asking everyone to give at least \$25. Phone bank to follow-up – need volunteers. Message on school marquee out front. Trying to get a video made about One Blair.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm