

Blair PTSA Board of Directors Meeting
December 14, 2015
7pm - Blair Career Center

MINUTES

In attendance: Raymond Moreno, Diane Friedman, Dave Williams, Renay Johnson, Nina Uzick, Beth Allen, Merlene Mazyck, Samir Paul, Maria Portela, Jill Ortmann-Fouse

1. Status Report– Diane Friedman

Big events coming up: Capitol Steps, Beach Week Meeting.

Graduation Buses are reserved and organized by the school, PTSA just helps fund.

We will push to increase staff membership in the PTSA, Renay mentioned that 100% of English teachers are signed up.

Maria mentioned that at the last Los Padres event the Montgomery County Library was signing students up and giving them library cards.

2. Treasurer's Report - Dave Williams **HANDOUT**

Dave met with Judith Arbacher of Drama Boosters and compared the financial records. They agreed that the amount Drama Boosters had in our account as a pass through at the beginning of the year was \$6758.47. All records are updated to reflect that amount

Direct Appeal has now raised over \$10,000, almost 1/3 of the way to our goal, and the phone bank is going well.

We talked about the pros and cons of personal thank yous sent directly to donors vs. more public announcements of donations, particularly large donations.

Ray talked about how we are getting more donations from a more diverse population than in the past.

We expect the remainder of the Citrus Sale money to come in soon.

Maria would like to be able to track how much people involved in Los Padres are donating.

We are still waiting to hear from Capitol Steps as to when they need a deposit.

3. Minigrants - Ray Moreno for Linda Krimm

Linda Krimm reported to Ray.

All applications are in, the total requested amount is actually less than the \$10,000 allocated, so there will be money left over even if all applications are fully funded. (we didn't have the exact amount at the time of the meeting.)

We discussed the possibility of extending the deadline or having a second round to give out the remaining money. It was generally agreed that simply extending the deadline wasn't fair to the people who'd gotten their applications in on time, but a second round after the initial money is allocated seemed like it might be feasible, however it would be up to Linda.

4. Membership - Ray Moreno for Debi Hopkins

Currently 586 members and the goal is 1000.

We had 450 members last year in December

Average donation is \$22

We are planning a January membership drive.

5. Principal's Report – Renay Johnson HANDOUT

Total enrollment is 2948.

Frostburg State University and Trinity University came to Blair and did a total of 21 on-the-spot acceptances to Blair students.

Blair is looking for donations of winter coats, hats, gloves, etc., drop off in the main office

Renay had a meeting with the Muslim students and discussed some of the examples of intolerance and disrespect they were facing at Blair in the current social/political climate.

Blair will be on It's Academic on 12/26.

Winter break starts Dec. 24, school reopens Jan 4, 2016.

6. Los Padres – Maria Portela

Student panel in January.

Citizenship advocacy meeting in March.

Nina reported that the Blair Latin teams came in first and second in the Certamen, a Latin "College Bowl" with entrants from all over Maryland.

7. Operating Budget Discussion - Jill Ortman-Fouse

Jill first talked about the graduation venue problem for Blair. She has talked to Darryl Williams, the Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools for MCPS and let him know we are concerned. We do know many people at U.Md. and send many students there every year, there may be some sort of deal that can be made. We are putting pressure on the Board of Education as well.

Jill talked about the operating budget, there is a \$179 million budget deficit county-wide, we can expect 10% cuts generally. Meanwhile school enrollments are increasing dramatically, and Montgomery County has very high poverty and ESOL rates among students. The County Executive is responsible for funding the whole operation of schools and sets the bar with the budget presented to the County Council. The County Council will not raise the budget over what is presented by the County Executive. Salaries make up the bulk of the costs, so most cuts would have to come from that. The only realistic way to close the deficit would be to raise property taxes.

Jill talked about a lot more in detail about the budget problems we could be facing. Details of plans are covered in the report "A Call to Action to Fund Our Future", which can be downloaded from:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/budget/fy2017/0651.16_2016Budget_FastFacts_ENG_web.pdf

Operating Budget hearing on Jan.14, 2016, Blair will be testifying.

8. Other

Minutes from 11/9 - Diane moved to approve and Dave seconded. Minutes approved.

Minutes from 11/17 - Dave moved to approve and Nina seconded. Minutes approved.

Handouts: Principal's report, Budget, 11/9 and 11/17 minutes

Meeting adjourned 9pm.