

Blair PTSA Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016
6:30pm Building tours given by SGA
7:00 PM - Blair Media Center

I. **Welcome** – Diane Friedman, PTSA President

SGA introduction and overview:

- Blair Congress
- Activity Fair tomorrow during both lunches
- Freshmen elections extended
- Homecoming October 22 – need coat check volunteers
- Spirit Week
- Halloween Competition
- Blood drive, food drive and coat drive

II. **Board Member Introductions**

III. **Principal's Report** - Renay Johnson

Introduction of Administrators:

12 –Suzanne Harvey

11 – Brandy Richardson

10 – Mr. Cauley

9- Mr. Currance

Magnet and CAP – Mr Ostrander

METS and ESOL – Lavina Carrillo

Media Center – Ms. Lamphier (Media Center open at 7:15am and after school)

Other info:

- MCPS evaluates and measures Blair on a number of things including English and Math, GPA, Suspensions, AP Scores, College test scores, graduation rate, and counseling programs
- Current students: 2962 (873 9th graders)
- Blair's SAT scores last year better than MCPS, Maryland, and national averages; major improvement on SAT and ACT scores from 2012 to 2016
- New MCPS policy: no more final exams; quarterly assessments instead
- All MCPS staff gets religious diversity guidance (can be found on MCPS website)
- Blair got a .5 FTE increase for the Registrar position and new Chromebooks
- Blair started a free dinner program for all students
- Rec Zone starts Monday – every day 2:30-5pm
- Outdoor track has been renovated
- Hopefully Blair will have a new graduation venue in 2017; seniors finish May 25; graduation date TBD (currently June 7 at DAR)

IV. **Nominations/Elections** –Diane Friedman

Brian Ginyard running for 1st Vice President – no other nominations from the floor

Nina Uzick moved to elect Brian and Dave Williams seconded. Vote taken and motion passed – Brian elected new Vice President.

V. **Budget Review and Approval** – Alisha Dixon

Proposed budget shows \$62,650 income and \$62,725 in expenses (approved budget will be posted on PTSA website)

Biggest expenses are After Prom and Mini Grants

Request from Media Center for funding for an Author's Visit fee not reflected in the budget (this can be revisited by PTSA after budget is approved)

Uncertainty about whether Blair will have to fund a bigger graduation venue

Diane Friedman moved to approve the budget as presented and Frances Frost seconded the motion. Vote taken and motion passed – 2016-17 budget approved.

VI. **Academic Affairs** –Frances Frost

How does the PTSA help with academic success? Will work on Achievement Gap, MCPS Choice Study, College Panel on Monday, budget advocacy, and more

VII. **Navigating Blair**

- Ms. Lamphier explained Edline accounts
- BLISS Intern program: junior and senior students assist teachers. Started 4 years ago with 20 students and now has 105 students. Tutors benefit by teaching. Students have created an online support program
- George B. Thomas Saturday Academy has teachers from U-MD. 455 students last year. Not just remedial, AP tutoring, SAT prep, and more

Other: Citrus Sale has begun – flyers distributed. December 10th fruit pick up. Need volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.