

Blair PTSA Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2016
7:00 PM - Blair Media Center

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

- Budget Update (**HANDOUT**) – Alisha said it is early in the year so not a lot to show yet. She added a column in the budget showing income/expense to date
- Membership – Deb said we have 550 members so far and our goal is 710 this year. Everyone should ask someone to join. Last year we got a membership award. We are hoping some parents will donate to cover other's membership fees. Deb announced the raffle winners from parent visitation day.
- Citrus sale – Lisa and Jenny reported that November 12 is the last day of the sale. If you don't want citrus, you can donate to Shepherd's Table. Will need volunteers for fruit distribution.
- Homecoming dance is this Saturday and we are in good shape for volunteers.

II. **Bullying Introduction Video** – Blair students

III. **Presentation on Bullying and Cyberbullying (HANDOUT)** - George Simms III from the State Attorney's Office

Parents should know who your child is communicating with, which sites they are visiting, and how long they are online.

Dangers of social media - digital footprint, bullying, anonymity empowers bullies.

Parents should have their kids passwords

Sexting is potentially a crime

What your child posts online can have serious consequences

Online predators defy stereotypes

Crimes: misuse of email, misuse of interactive computer service, harassment, sexting, child pornography

MCPS and Blair have good resources plus:

- Netsmartz.org
- Commonsensemedia.org
- Fosi.org
- Isafe.org
- Athinline.org

Dr. Barbour – Blair's psychologist said parents should boost kids' self esteem. Kids should join clubs, sports, form peer groups. Parents need to communicate with their kids.

IV. **Principal's Report (HANDOUT)** –Mr. Currance

Enrollment is 2966

Spirit Week this week

College Readiness Day October 19

Homecoming game Friday and dance Saturday

438 parents came to the open house day

Latinos Exceeding Academic Potential (LEAP) program at Blair

Athletic Boosters bought a new sound system

V. **Other**

Media Center has reduced staffing and shorter hours. PTSA can lobby for budget increases; everyone can vote for Board of Ed members.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.