
Baltimore Public School - Parent Council

Meeting Minutes - October 4, 2023

Members Present: Renee Cameron, Mark Duke, Trisha Lichtenberger, Breeann Cochrane, Rachel Finlay, Stephanie Seaborn, Ashley Daniel, Cait Miller, Jen Pendergast, Pam Graham, Danielle Dafoe, Lindsey Logel

Newly Elected Chair Members:

Co-Chair: Breeann Cochrane & Rachel Finlay

Secretary: Lindsey Logel

Treasurer: Danielle Dafoe

Head of Fundraising: Jen Pendergast & Mark Duke

Regional Rep: Noone appointed at this time (Renee to inform members of the dates of the regional meetings)

- Minutes from the last previous meeting (May 10, 2023) were approved.
- President discussion re: goals for future:
 - Short Term - school trips, support for teachers and classrooms, etc.
 - Mid Term - technology, etc.
 - Long Term - new playground equipment, climbing wall, etc.
- Current Fundraising Events:
 - Mabel Labels - ongoing
 - Hot Lunch Program - ongoing
 - Baltimore Gear
- Possible Fundraising Ideas for the 2023 - 2024 school year:
 - Little Caesar Pizza Kits
 - Domino's Pizza Night
 - Recipe Jars
 - Kernels Popcorn
 - Professor Jams
 - Spelling Bee
 - Purdy's Chocolates

Yearbook: Yearbooks were successful last year. Rachel and Tracey have already started planning this year's yearbook. Rachel provided Renee with a contract to review and sign. It would be very similar to last year. The books cost \$11.54 each and we would sell them for \$15.00. This includes a minimum of 20 pages in each book and you must order a minimum of 80 books. Tracey and Rachel suggested a yearbook club which the junior classes could join to get students more involved in the process. Mark suggested having a "class reporter" in each classroom which would help with getting more pictures.

Healthy Hunger: Cait and Brianna have agreed to run this program again this year. The program will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They are looking for additional volunteers (2 people each day) from 10:45 a.m. to approx. 11:30 a.m. to help get the food ready to hand out to students. Mark will send an email to staff asking them to reach out to parents for volunteers.

Treasurer's Report: There is approximately \$20,000 in the council fund. There is an additional amount of approximately \$10,000 of donations. Council approved providing \$200 to each classroom for teachers to utilize within their classrooms.

Teacher's Report: Mark advised that teachers are interested in the \$200 per classroom again and asked what the best format would be for additional requests from teachers. It was agreed that the information would be sent to Danielle (Treasurer) to process.

Principal's Report: Renee advised that the beginning of the school year has been challenging for staff. On the second day of school, Ms. Leonard's husband suddenly passed away from a heart attack. The school's head custodian, Mr. Harrison, also suddenly passed away from a heart attack on September 21st. This has been difficult for all staff and students. Renee advised that staff are hoping to create a character award after Mr. Harrison, which would include a plaque. They are also looking into a fundraiser to buy cardiac equipment for the hospital.

Renee asked council members if they would approve paying \$1000 towards the playground maintenance (pea stone gravel, inspection, etc.). Council approved this.

Renee has been speaking with the school board about the playground equipment since July. She indicated the juniors are really missing their swing set. The cost for a new 6 seater swing set is \$11,763.30 which doesn't include the cost of the border around it, the installation or the removal of the maple tree. Renee highly recommended that council at least approve a four seater swing. No vote occurred during this meeting in regards to this. Renee will obtain quotes for both the 4 seater and 6 seater swing sets for council to discuss to make an informed decision.

The climber on the playground was fixed today. The other swing set has a bent bar and will need to be replaced soon.

There are several grants that council can apply for, including a grant through Hamilton Township, if the playground is community based. The Hamilton Township grant is due October 23. Other grants noted may need to be used within a certain time period, so there was a discussion regarding the best time to apply. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Renee advised the school board removed several chrome books and ipads this year as they determined they were no longer able to be updated, and therefore unable to be used. She said the school is about two class sets short now. One set of 25 chrome books costs approx. \$12,750 and one set of 24 iPads costs approx. \$11,520. The school would also need a trolley to move the devices from class to class which costs approx. \$1,600 - \$2,000. There is a high need for chrome books for grades 2 and up. The iPads are used by the children in kindergarten to grade 2. The school board does give \$7,000 to each school to replace technology. A request was made to council to assist with additional technology for the school as a midterm goal.

The President's Choice Children's Charity Grant was approved and has started this year. It allows for extra snacks and breakfast for children (Cheerios and Chex). This is available to all students. They are also looking for volunteers for the snack trays. The volunteers must have their food handling course.

There was a request by a teacher to change the Baltimore Public School logo. Renee shared the history of the logo with council members. It was designed in 1984 by a former student. In order to change the logo there are several steps that need to be undertaken, including getting approval from the superintendent, surveying parents and students, voting on the top ideas, and having the school board design team create the logo. It was agreed by council members that this item would be put on pause for a year and be discussed during the following school year.

Renee advised that there is a new literacy/language curriculum that teachers have to follow this year and it's going to take awhile to learn. The school board has provided a free program from the University of Florida for the kindergarten to grade 2 to help teach it. The school board also bought one program to share; however, Renee purchased it for everyone. It's called the Haggerty Program. The teachers will be learning this program on October 20th and Renee will be having supply teachers attending for coverage that day.

Renee confirmed all of the exercise bikes are at the school now. Each classroom has two passes for students to use when they need a break from the classroom. She reported that there has been positive feedback about the bikes.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6pm in the library at Baltimore P.S.