

February 26, 2019, 5:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Kela Rosario at 5:31 p.m.

In Attendance

Executive Board Members

- Kela Rosario, President
- Linwood Hudson, Vice President
- Robin Sanborn, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Shouse, Secretary

Special Guests

- Connie Froggatt, School Board
- Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal
- Karen Jones, 6th Grade Teacher
- Kristy Hudson, Fundraising

PTO Members

- Many in attendance!

Board

The Board: Kela Rosario, Linwood Hudson, Robin Sanborn, and Elizabeth Shouse were introduced.

Guest Speaker – Connie Froggatt, MCPS School Board

Connie Froggatt of the MCPS school board presented on the budget and happenings among schools.

- Reassessment, possible 10% to 30% increase in income for County even with no tax increase
- Superintendent requests \$8.1m
 - Last year's request was \$7.3m, but was reduced significantly
- Highlights of items needed include: 3.5% pay raise for teachers, increasing substitute pay, 22 new teaching positions, 1 admin position, learning cottages, 8 school buses, school maintenance.
- Only 63% of the county tax bill goes to schools
 - County is 100% responsible for schools, MCPS does not receive town tax proceeds
- Redistricting is needed in Christiansburg as the entire area is over capacity
 - A plan will be selected at the first meeting in April
- MCPS is fully accredited, has strongest special education program in the state, received workplace readiness award last year, and received a fine arts seal.

During the presentation, Ms. Weidner pointed out that when she became principal 4 years ago, the school was at just over 800 students and the school now has 970 students. Some classes have 28-30 students. BMS lost many staff members around 2009 and has only gained about half of those positions back.

Parent Input – Jenny Dye

Jenny Dye expressed concerns about the dress code and raised concerns about the dress code targeting female students and whether BMS was inclusive of LGBTQ students. During the discussion, many in attendance expressed concerns including Kela Rosario, Robin Sanborn, Ms. Weidner, Connie Froggatt, Heather Cox, Sarah Ovink, and several others in attendance who did not announce their name. Included in the concerns were what constitutes a professional attire, lack of clarity in the dress code, specific dress items such as sun dresses, shorts, gym clothes, muscle shirts, hoodies, hats, religious attire. Recommendations for working towards a better system included a focus group to determine what is appropriate or asking students to voice their concerns in a safe environment.

Parent Input – Sarah Ovink

Sarah Ovink expressed concerns about Chromebook usage. Specifically, her daughter experienced neck issues which was deemed to be a result of excessive usage of electronics such as the Chromebook. She would like the school to look into ways to educate students on posture, breaks, etc. and recommended stands for the Chromebooks that would allow

them to be at eye-level during use. Heather Cox added a concern about personal electronics usage for school activities and recommended an app that allows teachers to block usage of non-school devices in the classroom. Connie Froggatt mentioned that it was their hope when providing the Chromebooks that students would not need to use their personal electronics. Parent Viki Neurauter offered her expertise as an OT to walk through school and help identify problem areas and possible solutions.

Guest Speaker - Ms. Weidner, BMS Principal

Ms. Weidner provided updates on current happenings at the school

- 3rd Nine Weeks ends on March 13th, in the home stretch
- Spring Sports have started
- Clubs are staying busy
- 8th Grade writing SOL test will be in March
- 8th Grade dance will be June 1, DJ is already lined up.
 - Robin Sanborn mentioned that the cost went over budget last year and wanted to remind students to budget wisely for dance supplies. The PTO has budgeted \$750 for the dance costs.

Guest Speaker – Karen Jones, 6th Grade Teacher

Karen Jones states that there is not much to report. Teachers are eager for less snow days and more nice weather so they can take students outside.

Budget

Robin Sanborn provided financial reports relating to the budget. No questions were asked about budget items.

There were several new funding requests (listed below). The board reviewed each item and determined that there are enough funds between the miscellaneous budget and the activities budget to fully fund all items requested. Robin Sanborn proposed that all items be approved. Heather Cox seconded. All present were in favor of approving all items.

PTO Board Openings

Kela Rosario announced PTO Board openings for the 2019-2010 school year. Linwood Hudson (currently Vice President) will be taking over as PTO President. Robin Sanborn will remain in the Treasurer position. Elizabeth Shouse will remain in the Secretary position. Kristy Hudson will be stepping down from the Fundraising position. Available positions are:

- Vice President
- Hospitality (more than one position available)
- Fundraising (more than one position available)

Fundraising Committee

Kristy Hudson discussed fundraising activities. There was a discussion among those present regarding ways to locate additional volunteers to assist with the various fundraising activities. Kristy stated that she has been in contact with Yassimo and Avelino's restaurants regarding fundraising nights. The board agrees that new avenues for raising funds are needed as restaurant nights are becoming less productive as they become more popular among many schools.

Meeting Dates and Times

Kela Rosario discussed setting future PTO Meeting dates and times. It was agreed that no date nor time seemed like the best time to hold a meeting. Until such time that a better date and time is found, meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday at 5:30pm and may change at any time, as necessary.

Q&A

All questions from today's meeting have been outlined in the above minutes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

The topic of discussion at the next meeting will be Vaping among students and young people.

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Shouse provided minutes from the last meeting for review. There were no questions. Kela Rosario made a motion to approve the minutes and Robin Sanborn seconded. All present were in favor of approving the minutes.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:29 p.m.