

August 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Linwood Hudson at 6:03 p.m.

In Attendance

Executive Board Members

- Linwood Hudson, President
- Nichols Marsden, Vice President
- Robin Sanborn
- Elizabeth Shouse, Secretary

Guests

- Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal

Members

- Many members, new and old, were in attendance

Board & Introductions

Linwood Hudson, President, introduced and welcomed Nichole Marsden as the new BMS PTO Vice President. Also introduced were Robin Sanborn, Treasurer, and Elizabeth Shouse, Secretary.

BMS Principal Amanda Weidner was introduced. Karen Jones was unable to attend the meeting but will continue to act as teacher representative for BMS.

Budget

Robin Sanborn presented the proposed 2019-2020 school year budget and the prior year 2018-2019 school year budget for review. Ms. Weidner discussed the budget item for Brain Pop and explained its use within the school. Robin discussed the budget item for Copy Shop and what it entails as well as t-shirts and the teacher wish-list. Also detailed were budget items related to staff such as luncheons, coffee cart, and staff appreciation gifts and budget items related to students such as the 8th grade dance, 6th grade open house, health screening day, and midwinter bingo.

Linwood Hudson briefly discussed sources of PTO income to include fundraising items through restaurant nights, Shelor donations, Kroger, and parent donations specific to teacher wish-list. The PTO is open to suggestions for additional sources of funding or ideas for projects benefiting students, staff, or the school in general.

There were no questions or oppositions to the proposed budget. Nichole Marsden made a motion to approve the budget and a member in attendance seconded that motion. All present were in favor of approving the 2019-2020 budget as presented.

Ms. Weidner, BMS Principal

Ms. Weidner thanked the PTO for the work that has been done to benefit the school, students, and staff in the past and encouraged all members in attendance to join and help. She reminded parents to be on the lookout for Friday weekly updates by email. Ms. Weidner stated that she tries to be as accessible as possible and available to answer questions or assist parents as needed.

PTO Business

Linwood Hudson discussed the various things that the PTO does throughout the school year to benefit the school, students, and staff. The items discussed included:

Teacher Wishlist: a list of special, out of the box requests from teachers that parents can fund directly (i.e. if a parent with a child in band wants to help fund a band department request, the parent can designate their donation directly to that cause).

Ms. Weidner asked if we were going to have two phases for the teacher wishlist for this school year and proposed a September 30th deadline for the 1st semester and a similar timeline for the 2nd semester. Linwood agreed to two phases.

Teacher Appreciation Raffle: through a partnership with Real Life Smiles, the PTO raffles gift cards and certificates for free dental cleanings at Real Life Dental. Once a month at staff meetings, the PTO attends to raffle off these items. Linwood discussed opening this up for teacher donations of gift cards, etc.

Bruin Time Distribution: started last year to give something directly back to the students, four times per year. The PTO is seeking to change this program to offer things that might be more meaningful or beneficial to the students and is open to suggestions on ways to reformat.

T-Shirts: PTO sold t-shirts for the first time last year. The sales are not intended to make a profit but instead to be a “cool” thing for students, parents, and staff. T-shirts are \$10 each. Order will be due in early October. It was recommended by Ms. Weidner to have the order form go out in the first report cards and all agreed it was an idea we would look into further.

Fundraising

Linwood Hudson discussed in more detail the current fundraising happenings to include Kroger, Box Tops. Nichole Marsden provided details on the new app for submitting box tops and reminded of the 14 day deadline to submit a receipt. Shelor offers an incentive to staff members or parents when purchasing a vehicle from Shelor. A certificate is needed to redeem the incentive. Shelor has been a large source of funding for the PTO. Shelor also has a raffle currently for \$1 per ticket to win a new car with winners announced in December.

Upcoming Fundraising Dates:

September 19th, Wendy’s Fundraiser

November 21st, Jersey Mike’s Fundraiser

There is an opening for the fundraising committee and the PTO would love to speak to anyone interested in helping with fundraising efforts. No role is too big or too small.

Hospitality

Linwood Hudson discussed hospitality and openings for help from parents in this area. Volunteers will help with luncheons, coffee cart days, etc. Ms. Weidner asked if the PTO has dedicated any dates to these things yet and Linwood responded that the PTO was still finalizing dates. Suggestions for dates included early release days and Election Day.

Upcoming Events:

Health Screening Day – signups will be sent out for volunteers

6th Grade Open Gym – open to the entire family

Annual Approval of Bylaws

Linwood Hudson presented the BMS PTO Bylaws for review to all in attendance. A member present asked if anything had been changed since the last approval, to which the answer was no. Questions and Input:

Nichole Marsden suggested an edit to state that all parents present have voting rights vs. the statement that all parents have voting rights. A member in attendance pointed out that it is specified in another section that members/parents must be present to vote.

Elizabeth Shouse discussed Section 5. After a discussion which included several other members in attendance, it was determined that the wording of Section 5 was not clear, and the meaning was not understood well. Linwood stated that Section 5 would be re-worded and presented at a future meeting.

A motion was made to approve the bylaws with the exception of rewording Section 5, all in attendance were in favor of approving the bylaws.

Miscellaneous Business and Parent Input

Linwood Hudson opened up the meeting for parent input or suggestions and noted items such as the desire for guest speakers at meetings. Topics discussed include:

- Receiving information by way of electronic correspondence from Ms. Weidner on what presentations were offered to students by guest speakers during school hours would be helpful for the parent to continue that dialogue at home.
- Scheduling PTO meetings around other happenings such as having a meeting just before curriculum night or other school-wide events when parents may already be planning to attend the specific event.
- Guest Speakers should be appealing to the whole family and not just to the parents so perhaps the students may want to attend the meetings.
- Use some of the discretionary fund, apportioned to last year's roll over, to increase already-budgeted items.
 - Linwood added that the PTO is open to hearing suggestions on school-wide projects such as the Video Studio that the PTO funded two years ago.
- The PTO should look into offering something for 7th grade students since 8th grade has a dance and 6th grade has an open house.
 - Various members in attendance discussed possible 7th grade activities and it was ultimately decided that the PTO would work with Ms. Weidner to offer something comparable to 7th graders.
- PTO board members discussed offering a small gift to teachers and staff on their birthdays and several members in attendance offered to help hand-write birthday cards. Nichole offered to head this up with the help of the board and parent members.

Next Meetings

The PTO proposed moving regular meetings to Wednesdays instead of Mondays to better fit scheduling of all involved. It was decided that the PTO would try to have meetings around events when possible but would keep meetings not scheduled around events on Wednesdays.

Based on parent input, it was determined that the next meeting will be held during the Wendy's fundraiser on September 19th, 2019.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:26 p.m.