

General Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m. | *Meeting called to order by* Linwood Hudson @ 6:33pm

In Attendance

Executive Board Members

- Linwood Hudson, President
- Nichole Marsden, Vice President
- Elizabeth Shouse, Treasurer
- Debbie Nichols, Secretary

Guests

- Amanda Weidner, BMS Principal

Principal Update

Ms. Weidner provided an introduction to the PTO for new parents, reviewed changes to the schedule due to Covid-19, and provided a general update on school news.

-A daily email from Ms. Weidner is sent to students to remain actively in touch.

-A weekly email is sent on Fridays to update parents.

-Students are expected to check-in on Wednesdays. At that time, students have an opportunity to request assistance from teachers and counselors.

-The county has created Wednesday Resources for students, a website offering enrichment and activities for students. Prizes are available to those who participate.

-Ms. Weidner is optimistic that students will be able to return to 50% in-classroom learning.

-Ms. Weidner also recommended Parent Portal as a good resource for monitoring student's progress.

Teacher Update

Linwood Hudson introduced Karen Jones (in absentia) as the teacher representative.

PTO Business

Linwood Hudson introduced the Executive Board of the PTO and provided an update on general PTO news.

- Providing hospitality to teachers and staff will be more difficult this year since we cannot ask parents to bring in homemade food at this time. The PTO plans to continue offering meals, as well as continuing to celebrate staff birthdays, the monthly teacher raffle program, and the coffee cart. The PTO will try to fund these programs through the budget and through parent donations, instead of asking businesses for gift cards.
- Historically, the PTO has sponsored an 8th grade dance. The development of Covid-19 will determine if a spring dance will be possible.
- The PTO hopes to sell T-shirts this year, as has been done in the past, though there will be challenges with distribution.
- In past years, the PTO has sponsored events such as quarterly ice cream for students in Bruin Time. If possible, the PTO would like to resume similar perks for students.
- The PTO will also continue funding Teacher Wish Lists to help provide items and resources needed by teachers that they can use in their classrooms.
- The bulk of fundraising comes from Kroger Rewards, Shelor Growing our Future, Amazon Smiles, which can now be used on both the website as well as the app, and other fundraisers such as shop and earn partnerships.
- Elizabeth Shouse reviewed the proposed budget. Nichole Marsden moved to approve the budget as written. Jenice Jacques seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- Teacher Appreciation will continue but will be modified as Covid-19 dictates. The PTO will host some larger catered lunches, but will also offer some smaller catered meals and distribution of parent donations of grab and go items. A lunch catered by a local sub shop is currently being planned.
- As of now, all food items brought into the school must be individually wrapped.
- It was proposed to try specific fundraising based on individual events. The PTO will attempt this method to determine the success, but will also plan backup forms of payment if fundraising isn't effective.
- The PTO will organize small groups to prepackage food to distribute to staff. Any parents interested in volunteering should send an email to the PTO or use the volunteer form on website.
- Linwood Hudson reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws. The fiscal year and term of office date was adjusted to match the tax year. A second proposed change was to include acknowledgment of meetings taking place virtually. Nichole Marsden moved to approve the proposed budget. Helen Fotinos seconded the motion, and the budget was approved.
- Future meeting dates will be scheduled to avoid concurrent PTO Meetings of the other Blacksburg schools. The third Monday of the month may be a possibility.

Meeting adjourned.