

General Meeting Minutes

October 26, 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
- Karen Jones

Minutes Review

The minutes were reviewed by all present, and Nichole Marsden motioned to approve. Elizabeth Shouse seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

Financial Review

Linwood Hudson reviewed the Budget Progress Report. He added the following explanations:

- Birthday gifts have been purchased for all teachers.
- The PTO Discretionary Fund expense of 90.00 covered the cost of the attendance incentive program.

Principal Update

- Ms. Weidner addressed the upcoming conclusion of the nine-week grading period. Report cards will be mailed on November 12, 2020.
- Attendance has been high for the last few weeks, and two weeks of attendance raffles have been completed as an incentive for the students. Administration will evaluate the program after a period of time to gauge student response and to determine if the program should be implemented long-term.
- Extracurricular activities have been limited at this time due to Covid, but winter sports will begin as scheduled.

-Ms. Weidner suggested to those present to encourage students to take advantage of Wednesday Resource Time.

Teacher Update

Karen Jones provided a teacher update.

-The Thanksgiving Basket Drive is about to begin. Keeping Covid in mind, donated and purchased food will remain untouched in the school for several days before sorting and distribution to minimize exposure. Options for distribution are being evaluated, considering safety limits due to Covid. Monetary donations may be requested to limit those involved to a minimum. A plan will be finalized and approved before moving forward, and more information will be forthcoming.

PTO Business

Linwood Hudson reviewed ongoing PTO business.

-With the help of parent contributions of money and prepackaged food items, the PTO sponsored staff luncheon was a success. Linwood expressed appreciation to the parents for their support.

-Birthday cards are prepared to send to all faculty and staff and will include gift cards to Hello Bagel.

-Hello Bagel also contributed gift cards to be used in the raffles.

-Real Life Dental will be supporting the PTO again this year.

-The PTO is collecting teacher appreciation "Shout Outs" to share with the staff around Thanksgiving. Comments are being collected by teacher "groups" and can be submitted via a distributed Google Form.

-The "Give a Bruin a Boost" program was discussed as an option to facilitate the creation of a more targeted list of requests for teachers and staff. If the PTO provides favorite snacks, drinks, etc., Ms. Weidner agreed to find places throughout the school building to store these items.

-Linwood shared information that was discussed at the Montgomery County Superintendent's county-wide meeting pertaining to attendance. At the meeting, Dr. Mark Meier, Superintendent, confirmed that school attendance is down across the county. In an effort to improve attendance, Ms. Weidner started the attendance incentive raffle. All students who show up for class through the week are entered in a raffle for a gift card to a local business. Cards have been purchased from Sugar Magnolia's, Carol Lee's, and Benny's. Ms. Weidner approved the future purchase of gift cards from Target, as well.

-Regarding the Teacher Wish List Initiative, Ms. Weidner has been trying to address teacher instructional needs in order to preserve PTO money to be used for the extra items teachers might want. Additional sources of revenue are available from the Federal Government and other resources. The timing of the Wish List will be determined at a later date.

-Given the circumstances surrounding Covid, parents who have offered to help with the Copy Shop may be recruited for other labor-intensive assistance.

-Elizabeth Shouse discussed the creation of an additional account dedicated to the Teacher Wish List.

-Ms. Weidner reported that the county is planning to purchase desk shields for every student desk in the county, sponsored by Federal Cares money from the Federal Government.

Meeting adjourned.