

Raymond J. Lockhart PTA

Minutes of the General PTA Meeting March 8, 2011

START TIME: 9:05 am
END TIME: 10:30 am

Co-President Jeannie Georgis called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Board Members in Attendance:

Co- President – Jeannie Georgis
2nd VP - Gina Blando (Ways & Means)
Treasurer - Patti Stauder
Corresponding Secretary - Gina Angelone
Recording Secretary - Barbara Martin
Teacher Reps - Mrs. Bacheller & Mr. Cunha

Officer Reports:

Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last January meeting – Marta Keirnan and Jennifer Esposito.

Closing balance as of March 7, 2011 - \$26,398.72 (see attached)

Correspondence to report: Thank you from the teachers for their book fair gift certificates.

Berner Middle School Guidance Counselors:

Welcome Mr. Herr, Ms. Tomasello and Mr. Keenen from the Guidance Department at BMS.

They distributed a typical 7th grade and 8th grade schedule and discussed the following:

Academics

- Math and science accelerated are linked. There is an accelerated language and do not need to be in other accelerated classes for same.
- Grades divided into team colors – all team color have same 4 core teachers (math, science, SS, English) – these teachers may have different team colors each year.
- All teams are randomly picked/selected
- All students take the same language through 10th grade and take a test in 8th grade only need 22 credits to graduate HS.
- Discussed Flex period – the core teachers rotate and teach during flex for review and enrichment.
- 8:02 am homeroom begins; 9th period ends at 23:55 pm.
- No backpacks are allowed to be carried to classes; must be kept in locker (health, crowded hallways and promote locker use).
- Expect 1 to 1 ½ hours of HW each night
- Students encouraged to get HW buddies.
- Teachers will help with planner use.
- BMS is open late so students can come back if they have forgotten books, etc.
- Introduction of Parent Portal – parent internet access to student's grades.
- Extra help is offered 4 days a week (except Tuesday) from 3:05 to 3:40 pm.
- Counselors can help for all grades/class; call/email anytime.
- If student is failing more than 2 class they can not participate in any after school activities.

Social

- What to expect - bodies and hormones are “a mess.”
- 5 counselors, 1 nurse and 1 dean to assist students.
- 7th and 8th grade students develop good habits for HS placement.
- April 5th – 7th grade orientation at BMS.
- Schedules to be sent out in summer with room #s. Students can come in and walk the building.
- Every student gets a counselor – scheduled by last name.
- 2 locks given to them for hall and gym lockers – they are encouraged to practice opening at home.
- Many clubs and activities offered after school.
- Late buses available but students are encouraged to know their cross street and if they are north or south of Sunrise because late buses are limited and do not make all stops.
- Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school but must be kept in their locker during school hours.
- Students will learn time management and learn to communicate with their teachers and other adults.
- Students will learn independence and parents are encouraged to listen to their child.
- If student needs to see a counselor they need a pass from their teacher.

PTA Updates:

Committee Reports:

- PARP finished up and was a big success. 323 students participating. The 2nd grade won and had a hot pretzel party. All those that participated received a guitar pick necklace and a free kids meal at Friendly's. The top three readers will be receiving Barnes & Nobles gift certificates. Thank you Angela and the PARP Committee for all your hard work.
- The Talent Show was on Feb 11 and it was a great night. There were 30 acts and about 400 people in attendance. The kids put on a great performance – there is a lot of talent here at Lockhart! Thank you Millie and your committee for another wonderful show!
- Boys Night Out is this Friday night – with a dj, karaoke, games and food – it promises to be a fun night - tickets are still available.
- Spring Fling is March 16 at the Manor East – we have over 60 baskets to raffle off and many gift certificates! It is a fun night of dining dancing and prizes! Tickets are still available.
- Circus week begins on March 21 and concludes with our 5th grade show @ MCK on Friday March 25!

Council Meeting Report:

- Dr. Grossane spoke about the redesign of the Special Education Department
- The new slate of Council Officers for 2011-2012 is
 - o President: Lucille Vitale
 - o 1st VP Allison Prystupa
 - o 2nd VP Carin Catinella
 - o Treasurer: Sheryl Cowan
 - o Recording Secretary: Susanne Smoller
 - o Corresponding Secretary: Bonnie Goess

PTA Business:

- Arts in Ed: the 6th graders are making Greek Masks in Social Studies this week
The 2nd graders saw Erik's Animal E-ventures reptile show – and got a chance to touch some really cool animals.
Kindergarteners celebrated the 100th day of school with a musical show by The Singing School Bus Driver.
- Nominating forms went home in the March packet – please consider taking an active role in the PTA!

Next Meeting April 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.

Submitted by:

Barbara Martin
Recording Secretary
RJL PTA