



BES PTA May General Meeting Minutes May 8, 2019

Attendees: See attachment

Maria called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
Quorum was established.

I. New Officer Installation - Maria Rachal

A. Maria read the slate of officers who are running unopposed.

1. President - Brooke Fortier
2. Treasurer - Ashley Linderman
3. Secretary - Andi Parrish
4. VP Communications - Kristin Barry
5. VP Fundraising - Wendy and Tom La
6. VP of Special Events and VP of Programs are remaining in their current positions for one more year.

B. Brooke Fortier, Andi Parrish, and Ashley Linderman, the new officers that have not served on the Board before, introduced themselves to the parents present.

C. Jennifer Wagner made a motion to accept the slate of officers as stated. Michael McLaurin seconded the motion. The motion passed with 22 votes in favor, 0 against.

II. Recap of 2018 - 2019 Special Events - Robin McLaurin

A. Robin discussed many of the special events at the school.

B. Robin discussed the need for volunteers and the willingness of the PTA to adapt/change events if parents were not satisfied.

III. Proposed Budget - Kristin Barry

A. Kristin went over the proposed budget and changes from last year. Please see attachment for the proposed budget.

1. Receipts:

- a) The bank balance is Kristin's best guess of what it will be on July 1, 2019. The budget will be revised before the September meeting to have the actual bank balance.
- b) The Capital Campaign has been decreased from \$25,000 to \$20,000 due to the past two years. In 2018 we made about \$17000 and in 2017 around \$22000.
- c) Kristin has decreased the anticipated earning of Box Top from \$1000 to \$0 due to a change in how Box Tops are collected. It will now be electronic where each individual must enter their own Box Tops and Kristin does not think many parents will do this.

2. Expenses:

- a) Capital Expenditures is down from about \$40,000 last year to just under \$20,000 this year. The \$40,000 was money that had been earmarked for the Media Center Redesign which was completed in the Fall of 2018.
- b) Carnival has been moved from Receipts to Expenses due to historical performance. This year we spent about \$1500 on the family event.
- c) Movie Night's budget has increased from \$150 to \$275 due to an increase in the license cost.
- d) Father/Daughter Dance saw a decrease in budget from \$750 to \$500. It has been such a popular event that most of the dance is paid for through ticket sales.

B. Andi Parrish motioned to approve the proposed budget. Brooke Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PTA Open Positions - Brooke Fortier

- A. Brooke discussed open board positions and the need to volunteer at the school.
- B. There was also discussion about the parents present asking neighbors to share their time and talent with the school. The discussion included the need to make personal requests keeping in mind individual's talents and time available.

V. Glows and Grows - Maria Rachal

- A. Maria Rachal and Heather Christman, two board members who are stepping down after multiple years on the board, were recognized for their service.
- B. Maria facilitated a discussion about areas where the PTA has done well and where it can improve.

1. Field Trips - The PTA is not over field trips, but the school administration has asked that parents share their input regarding next year's field trip. The 5th grade trip to Williamsburg may be cancelled due to lack of participation this year.
 - a) PTA member Jennifer Wagner discussed her opinion that an overnight trip is a right-of-passage that many students look forward to their entire elementary school career.
 - b) Other members discussed the need for a survey to find out the root cause of over 50 5th graders not attending this year's 5th grade trip. This survey could be given to 5th grade parents before the promotion ceremony.
2. Communications - Currently, we have the Facebook page, the school Facebook page, PTA website and the Bear Blast.
3. Parent Participation - Patrick Barry brought up the need to grow the PTA and the lack of participation especially at meetings like this one. This led to a discussion about ways to improve volunteerism and meeting participation.
 - a) PTA member Natisha Mills requested that we have more communication closer to events such as a robocall the night before an event/meeting.
 - b) Stacey Agresti asked that we share the yearly calendar with parents as soon as it is set in the summer so parents can plan in advance.
 - c) Stacey also asked for ways to make the time convenient for more people. This may include a survey asking parents which time, morning or evening, would be better. Also, the idea of having general meetings on one day, but two times - half the board attending the morning session and half the evening. Heather Christman pointed out that this would not work for meetings where votes needed to be taken due to establishing quorum. For purely informational meetings, like December's general meeting, this would work.
 - d) Mr. Greenwood suggested that we combine an education night with a general meeting. We could have a special speaker after a brief PTA meeting.

C. Since there were some new families at the meeting, we went around and introduced ourselves.

VI. School Info - Mr. Greenwood

- A. Mr. Greenwood discussed some of the ways that the administration is trying to increase parent participation such as the WatchDogs program.
- B. He also mentioned that the administration has asked for feedback regarding parents' desire for certain learning environments.
- C. There will be an email coming from Principal Rogers regarding school communication and the parents' satisfaction with current communication methods.

VII. Important Dates - Maria Rachal

- A. See Agenda for important dates.
- B. EOG Proctors are needed. Maria spoke to the result of too few proctors.

Maria adjourned the meeting at 7:37PM.