

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT'S ASSOCIATION**MINUTES OF MEETING****10.7.09****ATTENDANCE**

Joe Hurley, Mike Messori, Karin Wetherill, Chris Barton, Julie Vanier, Paula DeSisto, Tracey Hoyt, Anita Chiulli, Kathy Sanford, Mary Murphy, Pauline Groetelaars, Denise Javery, Lisa Browning, Ed Purdum, Megan Corr, Nicodemus McGinn, Michaela Kenwood, Ruth Fain, Stacie McLaughlin, Sallie Newton, Anna Clancy, Stephanie Edwards, Susan Coogan, Debbie Rota, Zoë Alley, Janice Primiano, Heidi Dolan, Kate Brody, Linda Johnson, Judy Dennis, Mary Mainella, Frank Mainella, Joanne Judge, Doreen Schiff, Karen Weber, Kathy Weight, Steve Berenback Kathy Berenback and Nicole Verone.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Co-President Karin Wetherill after an informal coffee social for new faculty and new parents starting at 7:00 PM.

Joe Hurley/New Faculty

Joe Hurley introduced some of the new faculty at BHS who were in attendance; new faculty members were invited to introduce themselves and provide their teaching background and the position they currently hold at BHS.

Joe Hurley/Foreign Exchange Students/Ronnie Newman

Joe Hurley welcomed additional special guests – the BHS foreign exchange students for the 2009-2010 school year; each student introduced themselves, sharing where they are from; how they feel about BHS and what extracurricular activities they are participating in; BHS currently has 4 students from Germany, 2 from Spain and 1 from Slovakia.

Ronnie Newman, director of Barrington's program for 34 years, spoke to the importance of the program, the challenges of finding sponsor families, the rewards of sponsoring the students and the number of repeat sponsors living in Barrington – “which speaks to the greatness of the experience”; she closed by asking parents to seriously consider sponsoring a student in the coming year(s).

Minutes

September Minutes were approved. Karin reiterated that minutes will be posted on the Parent's Association web page after they are approved each month.

Treasurer's Report

Paula DeSisto reported \$1720 was deposited from Membership dues; no expenses were incurred; the budget goal is \$7,000; we have reached our goal.

Guest Speaker

Kim Chapin, Director of Microbiology at Lifespan, provided a PowerPoint presentation on H1N1 and seasonal flu trends in RI and nationally. Kim gave detailed explanation of the virus, the symptoms and the importance of getting both the seasonal flu and H1N1 shots as soon as possible. Kim closed her presentation by fielding questions from the audience.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership

Anita Chiulli reiterated the \$1720 figure as the amount raised from membership dues; secured 148 families at Open House (gathering \$2960 at Open House alone); thanked all for helping in this effort; expressed concern about securing additional membership funds particularly since BHS Highlights is no longer being mailed but provided electronically – thus eliminating the opportunity to send out additional membership envelopes; Kathy Sanford is currently working on compiling the list of members to be posted in the Highlights on a monthly basis to encourage others to join; all agreed this is a good start with 334 families considered members; all agreed additional memberships will come in.

Publicity

Mary Murphy reported she is notifying the Barrington Times about BHS PTO monthly meetings, dates and time; looking at “pitching” additional stories to the editorial staff for additional positive articles about BHS students and faculty; Mary is open to story ideas to propose to the Times.

School Committee

Pauline Groetelaars reported on the October 1 meeting; largely a discussion of the recent first breathalyzer at Welcome Back BHS Dance; 590+ students attended; only one student refused and was reimbursed the entrance fee; the process went smoothly and quickly; students were cooperative and stayed until the end of the dance; plan for next dance to store all bags in a separate room until end of event; ACLU representative attended the Oct. 1 meeting to present legality issues; School Committee voted in the breathalyzer as a policy – no longer just a procedure; Pauline reviewed topics for the next meeting and advised attendees to check the School Committee website for details; Betty Calise gave NECAP test results and discussed working on plan to keep scores up.

SEAC

Chris Barton reported for Tracy Rizzuto, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm at the Barrington Public Library; topic: Special Education Survey.

Nominating

Stacie McLaughlin shared an updated PTO Board Member list; Debbie Rota was introduced as a new/additional School Committee Representative; Wendy Zucker was introduced as a new Bay Team liaison. A motion was made and a vote approved to accept these new members of the BHSPA board.

Library

No update.

Directory

Mary Mainella and Joanne Judge reported meeting with Nancy Cooke, BHS Administrator, regarding formatting the Directory; October 16 is deadline to opt out of being listed.

After Prom

No update.

Bay Team

Wendy Zucker reported the Barrington Substance Abuse Task Force meets the first Monday of each month – 8:45 at BHS; Task Force includes a number of subcommittees; group recently sponsored Family Dinner Week and was very successful; work actively with Barrington Middle School too but call the group “Choices”; have sponsored internet and Face Book workshops among others; also have sponsored parent visits to the ACI and are planning marijuana workshops.

NEW BUSINESS**BEF (Barrington Education Foundation)**

Rubber Ducky Race: Karin Wetherill emphasized the importance of this fundraiser to BHS; Heidi Dolan and Ana Clancy noted that raffle tickets may be downloaded and printed off of the website and then mailed in for entrance; date of event announced as Saturday, October 24; it was noted that BHS was one of the largest recipients of BEF grants in the past two years and emphasized the importance of getting the word out to people to buy raffle tickets to ensure the continued success of this important program.

Education Commissioner – Special Meeting

Karin Wetherill reported she and Chris Barton recently met with Rhode Island’s new Education Commissioner, Deborah Gist; during their meeting they discussed her mission, Transforming Education in Rhode Island; Karin reported Ms. Gist visited both BHS and HMS and has already visited a total of 17 districts in the state; Ms. Gist pointed out the importance of a teachers academic preparedness and the impact on a student’s success; www.ride.ri.gov is the website for more details and updates.

Principal’s Report

Joe Hurley reported on the following – giving a brief update on each due to time constraints; suggested we defer these topics to our next meeting should there be any questions or concerns;

Dr. Bob McIntyre, Barrington Schools Superintendent meets regularly with other superintendents around the state re: H1N1 virus; has met with Barrington Fire Chief to review the plan for vaccine distribution in our schools; by October 15 official plan will be in place.

Security at BHS is a top priority; looking at prices of external security cameras for the school – not just for Barrington but for the entire district to prevent outsiders from entering schools; may use stimulus money to fund the cameras; also considering security latches for the front entrance to BHS; security is a top priority and some changes have already been implemented including in the locker rooms where theft is more frequent.

Breathalyzer was a success at the first BHS dance; reported students stayed for the entire evening; students bags were stored in a locked room in the auditorium and kept secured through the evening; large turnout of students and discussion included fire safety and the number of students in attendance; Mr. Hurley confirmed the numbers were within the safety code; Mr. Hurley confirmed the need to change the culture at BHS and he, George Finn and Fire Chief Bissett consider this a priority; the flow of students into the building buying their tickets and taking the breathalyzer ran smoothly.

Gift to the School is usually done in the spring; the proposed idea for this year is best done sooner in order for the senior class to enjoy them; Mr. Hurley proposed the purchase of picnic tables to be placed in an area just outside the cafeteria (where a dumpster is currently placed) so Seniors might enjoy lunch outside as a Senior privilege; the purchase of six 8 foot tables was proposed; confirmed BHS can afford to purchase them now and the PTO can pay for them in the spring; Mr. Hurley is working with Skip Learned to purchase tables made of recycled materials, easily washable and discussing securing the tables to the ground for safety and security purposes; the idea was proposed to some Senior students and was well received; a vote on approving the request for a \$2,000 gift to help fund the tables was passed and the tables will be purchased; tables expected to arrive within the next month.

Testing Reports were briefly discussed since time was running out at the meeting; Mr. Hurley provided documentation for all attendees to review at home; welcomed a discussion and question time at the next PTO meeting.

Commended Students/National Merit Scholarship Students are being recognized in an upcoming issue of the Barrington Times; Commended Students were being called down on Oct. 7 to be notified of these honors; a total of 18 students being recognized; all agreed this is very good news for BHS.

SAT Report noted student's scores up in all areas in 2009; agreed to discuss in further detail at next meeting; written materials provided.

AP Report noted the number of students taking AP courses as greatly increased; number of students taking AP tests increased.

NECAP Results noted scores are level with last year; curriculum changes have not kicked in yet and are not reflected in the scores; Mr. Hurley confirmed it will take some time to see the impact of the curriculum changes; administration is looking at what else can be done to improve the scores even though students in Barrington did well.

New Profile document provided to all in attendance; document created every year; provides an overview of what BHS offers.

Post High School Plan 2009 report of where BHS students go after high school; report provided to all in attendance.

Next Meeting

Any detailed discussion on any of the topics shared in the Principals Report was tabled until the next meeting.

Denise Javery proposed having special meetings presented by the Guidance Department for parents of each grade level to discuss and provide guidance regarding preparing for college; a what to do when kind of presentation so parents/students can keep on top of the college prep process; other parents in attendance supported the idea; further discussion tabled until the next PTO meeting.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD @ 7:00pm

###