

## PTO Meeting September 24, 2018

### Minutes

In Attendance: Paula Lynn, Jessica Rankin, Janet Salle, Jill Dones, Margo Lazar, Alizah Roman, S.Cheng, Neena Crimmins, Kris Replogle, Merrily McDonald, Megan Johnson, Bettina Boch, Sherly Netzky, Erin Watson, Poonam Goel, Heidi Brode, Keith Peters, Suzanne Fellows, Lisa Efros, Catherine Daneshvar-Ashtari, Barb Kaufman, Anna Barlow, Amy Hendin-Lipson, Mireille Basmajian, Debbi Guettii, Jennifer Cook, Sherri Nosanchuk, Jenny Thai-Tang, Addy Katz, Kathy Weller, Natalie Finerty, Uma Lakshmara, Amy Goodman, Robyn Jenkins, Rachel Schulltz, Amanda Caroll, Nikki New, Stacie Swider, Kathryn Paulon, Julie McManus

Staff in Attendance: Charlie Hollerith, Principal, David Reed-Nordwall, Associate Principal, Jim Fogel, Counselor, Holly Hammerle, teacher instructional leader, Coery Donberger, SRO, Wendy Olah, BYA Counselor Liaison

Meeting called to order at 9:34

Budget review (Keith Peters) Online registration mistakenly listed dues at \$10 instead of \$20. It was eventually corrected but that, combined with the online directory replacing the printed one, has led to a great reduction in dues collected. If you would like to make a donation online, please visit the My Bloomfield registration link. Dues are the main source of funding for the PTO. If you have not linked your Kroger card to a school or if it is linked to a school your kids have graduated from, please change it to BHHS. It's a one time, easy registration that no longer has to be updated or renewed.

The budget for 2018-19 was unanimously passed.

**Principal's Report** (Charlie Hollerith) Each PTO meeting there will be a different topic addressed. There will also be a mental health update.

Over the summer, there were 18 new staff hired including a new Associate Principal, David Reed-Nordwall. He will be responsible for students with the last name starting with A-K, and Sharita Lewis will have L-Z.

There will be a midyear evaluation of traffic flow and parking lot space availability, at which time, there may be more student spots released, but at this time, there are no guarantees.

Enrollment this year is just under 1,800 and the freshman class is approximately 500 strong.

New this year is the outdoor classroom near the model high school.

Welcome back day for teachers and staff included a motivational speaker, Chris Emdin, from Columbia University who addressed staff and visitors and led several break out groups. He gave practical strategies for closing the achievement gap and creating a more inclusive classroom environment.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Corey Donberger and township police led a staff safety training over the summer, including simulated active shooter drills. A modified version was presented to students by grade level and focused on strategies for varied locations in the building and different kinds of threats. BHHS follows the “Run, Hide, Fight” defense model but is flexible to adapt to age, location, type of threat and parental input.

Mental Health Survey results will be presented at the next PTO meeting. The survey was part of a bigger survey presented to students, parents and members of the community last spring.

### **Mental Health Topic of the Month:**

This month’s mental health topic will be a brief overview of the services we offer, some plans for the year (including changes and updates) and some common issues faced by our students.

**The BHHS system** (Wendy Olah) We currently have 6 guidance counselors, 1.5 social workers and 1.5 psychologists at BHHS (the social workers and psychologists split time between buildings.) Overseeing all is our new Assistant Principal of Social Emotional Learning, Margaret Schultz. Some principles we practice are multi tiered intervention, zero tolerance for bullying and restorative practice and justice as opposed to punitive conflict resolution (currently 50% of staff are trained in restorative practice.) We will continue to work toward strengthening student alliances through clubs, consultations with teachers and learning community leaders to monitor student mental health, surveys, programming and partnerships (like the Angst movie screening), crisis intervention, early detection and community resource partnership. New programs include a quiet, sensory calming room known as the “Hawk’s Nest” where students can go during the day to decompress and expanded literature available for students to get anonymous advice and resources outside of school.

**College applications and senior year stress** (Jim Fogel) We have over 100 colleges visiting this year for “College Night” and students can talk to representatives and ask questions. Frank Bruno wrote a book called “College Admission Mania” and it has good advice and strategies for keeping stress to a minimum. His principles are incorporated in the BHHS college application process we have developed. There is a college for everyone. It’s about “a fit, not a prize.” The senior class has a meeting the first week of school. Each senior is given a written guide and instructions on how to use the college application website “Naviance.” Parents and students get passwords and set up their own Naviance accounts to help organize the application process.

President’s Report (Barb Kaufman) Co Presidents Barb and Laura Silberman introduced themselves and the rest of the PTO Executive Board (Treasurer Keith Peters and Secretary Zarine Torrey.) They gave a tutorial on navigating the websites, how to access the online directory, and upcoming events. Bakers are still needed for college night, Monday, October 8 at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20