

Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes
General Meeting, September 5, 2012, 4 PM

Attendance: Carla Slebodnick, Meredith Shealor, Monica Davis, Lisa Maloney, Jeanne Truesdell, Lauren Ermann, Holly McFall, Dawn Jefferies, Laura Oler, April Peacock, Yvonne Clark, Amanda Poff, Jane McGuigan, Rhonda Burch, William Sembello, Faith Taylor, Jenny Lo

- I. Call to Order at 4 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes from Aug 25 Executive committee meeting postponed until October—Carla forgot to distribute!
- III. Principal Report
 - a. PTO will not have “teacher representatives” this year. Instead, the Beeks staff on the *School and Community Relations Committee* will attend PTO meetings. Hopefully this will “bring the T back in PTO” and help with parent recruitment since parents typically are more interested in helping teachers than other parents.
 - b. Interim Reports: During previous years, paper copies of grades were sent home half way through grading periods. In order to save paper, these reports will be available electronically through Parent Portal. Paper copies will be sent home only upon request. Instructions for establishing a Parent Portal account can be found on the MCPS website at <http://www.mcps.org/ParentPortal.html>. Note: Grade reports for K-2 are not calculated using Parent Portal.
 - c. Parent-teacher conferences for Grades 1-5 are scheduled for the 1st week of October. Kindergarten conferences will be later to allow the KG teachers time to complete student evaluations.
 - d. Leanne Helsing suggested having grades and/or individual classes “adopt” sections of the Beeks landscaping. This will not happen immediately because teachers are busy with new school year responsibilities. But, Mr. Mefford is hopeful it will happen this school year.
 - e. The MBE supplies budget for 2012-2013 is \$26,900. This is a \$4000 cut compared to 2011-2012 and a \$9000 cut compared to 2010-2011. As the amount of technology in the classrooms increases, this is a double-whammy. As a result, Beeks might begin holding fundraisers with the community (i.e. not targeting Beeks families directly) once/year.
 - f. Mr. Mefford would like to obtain ipads so that teachers can be trained on how to use ipads in the classroom. After teachers are comfortable, ipads would be used for student curriculum.
 - g. 6 classrooms need rugs (ca. \$300 each). Mr. Mefford plans to buy before the 50th Birthday party and might need help with paying later.
 - h. MCPS has changed the technology policy—kids are now allowed to bring e-readers to school for reading books.
- IV. Teacher Representatives: Nothing to report. Mainly sitting in/listening/learning today.
- V. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. August Income=\$1942.28: PTO Dues=\$720; Kroger cards =\$1222.28 (includes checks from July and August)
 - b. August Expenses=\$3378.47: 3rd-5th grade planners =\$1272; Teacher stipend for supplies (\$26.5 teachers @ \$50/teacher)=\$1325; Principal Discretionary=\$31.47; Beeks 50th Birthday preparations=\$750.

VI. President's Report. The next PTO President's meeting with Superintendent Blackburn is September 13. If anybody has anything they would like Jenny to mention, let her know.

VII. Open Issues

- a. 2012-13 Committee Chair Needs: Spring Fling/Summer Kickoff—contact Jenny Lo (jlombepo@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering or want more information.
- b. Beeks 50th Birthday Party on Oct 3, 6-8 PM: Jeanne Truesdell said planning is going great.
 - Advertising in newspaper, Blacksburg Alert, Facebook, flyers to neighborhoods.
 - Still looking for memorabilia—all items will be returned.
 - Will have many displays about Beeks through the decades. Sample lunch menus, class schedules, mascots, ... and birthday cake!
 - Newer teachers who don't have student graduates will help with organizing. Remaining teachers and attendees will be encouraged to mingle.
 - Cool t-shirts available.
- c. VT Football parking: PTO earned about \$1100 for September 3 parking. We also have MBE the lot on Sept 8. Faith Taylor says there are enough volunteers.
- d. Landscaping. The area in front of the Annex building received much attention on the August landscaping day and looks wonderful. Many thanks to Steve Sutphen and all the volunteers!

VIII. New issues

- a. *Reading Garden Project*: Mrs. Wiggerts daughter and a friend are interested in establishing a reading garden at Beeks as part of their Girl Scout "Gold Award." The girls will work with master gardeners to establish the garden where the old picnic tables were located.
- b. *School Photos*: Beeks contract with LifeTouch expires at the end of this school year. Previously, Candid Color, Clix, and Katie Thacker approached Beeks about bidding for the 2013-14 contract. After much discussion, it was decided that the LifeTouch photos are of good quality and the other companies can not offer competitive profit margins (Life Touch returns 40% of cost of pictures to school/PTO and also supplies free banners, signs, teacher photos, graduation photos, etc...). With the budget cuts to MCPS and Beeks, the profit margin is becoming increasingly important to daily school operation. A motion was put forth and 2nded to continue with LifeTouch for 2013-14. Motion approved. It was also suggested that we include flyers in the school photo announcement letting the families know that 40% of the money comes back to the school—most parents/faculty in attendance at the meeting did not realize this.
- c. *Fundraising*: Michelle Vann was considering having a Fall and Spring PTO Fundraiser, but this was discouraged because past history says that parents get frustrated when there are too many fundraisers. Mrs. Rasnake would like to hold a fundraiser (i.e. non-PTO fundraiser) to purchase equipment for the art room. Michelle and Mrs. Rasnake should coordinate so that fundraisers don't overlap.
- d. *Guest Author*: Laura Oler would like to invite Cece Bell. It has been 3 years since Cece Bell's previous visit. General consensus was that (a) teachers and students enjoyed Ms. Bell's last visit and (b) it is not too soon to have her again. Ms. Bell has enough new material that the experience will be new for kids seeing her a second time. This also gives Laura a chance to start looking for a 2013-14 guest author—many author schedules start to fill a year in advance. If anybody has author suggestions for 2013-14, please let Laura know (lauraoler@gmail.com).
- e. School Volunteers—We need more office and lunch room volunteers.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.