

## Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes

7 October 2010, 7-8 PM

**Attendance:** Micah Mefford, Jeanne Truesdell, Jenny Lo, Carla Slebodnick, Michelle Harris, Hope Lester, Yvonne Clark, Lara Krisch, Laura Battiatia, Cindy Hill, Monika Schneider, Laura Carroll, Kaye Gilliam, Megan Ridgely, Susan Thompson, Erin Predmore, Carly Weber

### Principal Report:

- *Beeks Webpage:* Will be updated eventually, but good reason for delay. MCPS is updating their site and they want all the schools to use the same template. Beeks is waiting for those guidelines, rather than investing significant time updating the existing site, only to have to do it again shortly.
- *Yearbook:* Lifetouch finally sent bill for last year's yearbooks.
- *Playground Equipment:* We would like to obtain swing sets for the 3rd-5th grade playground. The estimated costs of an 8-seat swing set is \$2149+shipping. Mr. Mefford is also going to investigate the status of the swing sets at the 2 elementary schools in Eastern Mont. Co. that closed last year. Perhaps they have swing sets we can obtain for free?
- *School Budget:*
  - 25% cut in supplies this year. This will impact the school. Especially since Mr. Mefford would like to update some technology, computers, and other classroom equipment. Thus, PTO might need to help fund emergency purchases at end of the school year.
  - \$800,000 surplus from 2009-2010 school year: The county has decided this money will go toward teacher bonuses and technology. Beeks will receive a yet-to-be-determined amount at a yet-to-be-determined time.
- *Beeks email listserv and emergency phone system.* The email system that is being used only recognizes 1 email/family. Thus, many families are flustered by not receiving emails. Unfortunately, this is a known problem, but there is not yet a known solution. For the phone system, it is currently setup to handle only local numbers. Thus, anybody with a long-distance cell phone is not receiving the phone message. Again, this is a known problem with an unknown solution.

### Teacher Representative Report

- *Teacher request:* Mrs. Wiggert requested \$23.90 to purchase "Magic Writers" and ""letter beads" s part of a reading/writing program. Motion to approve purchase: VOTE: 1st = Laura Krisch, 2nd = Erin Predmore, unanimous approval.

### Treasurer Report

- *September Income:*
  - PTODues: \$500
  - Kroger cards: \$713
  - Football parking: \$732
- *September Expenses:* Books for Breakfast: \$52.90
- *501(c)(3):* Many thanks to Jeanne for submitting these lengthy tax forms. The PTO is officially a tax-exempt organization.
- *Target Cards* also are a good Beeks fundraiser--money goes directly to Beeks, not PTO.
- *October/November Fund Raisers:*
  - *Fall Fundraiser:* Flags and wrapping paper sales currently active. Orders due Oct 12.
  - *Football Parking:* Sat. Oct 16 @ GLE (need 4 volunteers) and Thurs. Nov 4 @ Old BMS (7 volunteers minimum, but 12 recommended)
  - *PTOMutual Fund:* In 2009-2010, the PTO agreed to cash in a mutual fund to purchase Smart Boards and other technology. There was still \$2080.36 left in the mutual fund. Mr. Mefford will use this remaining balance to purchase another Smart Board. This brings the mutual fund PTO monies to \$0.00.

## President Report

- *Superintendent Meeting:* Jenny attended the 1st PTO/PTA presidents' meeting (held monthly) with Superintendent Blackburn (4:30 PM, Sept 28). Discussion topics included:
  - *Parent Portal:* This is a website where parents will be able to login and access info regarding their child(ren), including attendance, disciplinary issues, and grades. The site is already being used for middle & high school students. Elementary schools will begin using it in January. K-2 will use the attendance and disciplinary recording features. Grades 3-5 will also use the grade book features.
  - *Enrollment Projection:* The Montgomery County enrollment for 2010-11 is 145 students fewer than the projected enrollment.
  - *Literacy Intervention Training:* This is a K-2 program to improve literacy. Last year 1st grade teachers received training. This year, Kindergarten teachers will receive training.
  - *Math Textbooks:* K-5 will adopt a new math program next year. The county will want parent involvement/input.
  - *Accreditation:* All MCPS are accredited for 4th consecutive year.
  - Superintendent Blackburn also mentioned some personal initiatives she wants to pursue (below). If any parents are interested in these initiatives, contact Superintendent Blackburn.
    1. *Student Achievement Committee:* Wants to benchmark MCPS with other school districts. Also, what can we learn from the best schools?
    2. *Improving graduation rates (part of Commit to Graduate Campaign)*
    3. *Career and Technical Education experiences*
    4. *Social Justice and Diversity*

## Open Issues

- *Committee Chairs:* We still have critical positions to fill. Positions include VT Parking, Summer Kickoff, Fundraising, School Pictures. Descriptions of these positions can be obtained from the PTO Webpage (go to the **Beeks** homepage, click **PTO**, then select **Volunteer**). If you have questions, contact any PTO officer.
- *Fall Festival* (Oct 29, 5:30-8 PM). Plans are progressing well. Will have carnival-like games, crafts, food. This is a free event.
- *MaggieMoo's Night:* Will try to schedule a MaggieMoo's night in Winter or Spring.
- *New PTO Webpage:* We now have an official domain name (www.mbeppto.com). The site will be designed and run from weebly.com. The new site has not yet been made public--Next step is webpage design.

## New Business

- *Campbell's Labels for Education.*
  - PTO is cashing in ~10,000 points to purchase playground equipment (lemon twists and a "playground kit" containing balls, jump ropes, etc.).
  - The PTO has a new e-labels for education account (elabelsforeducation.com). This is a way to earn additional points. Setup an account and register your Kroger Credit card to earn additional Campbell's points for Beeks.
- *Playground storage bins:* The grades 1-2 playground lost its storage shed in a storm last summer. The grades 3-5 playground has no storage shed for playground equipment. PTO voted to purchase 2 storage chests and locks for the playgrounds (\$280 expense). VOTE: 1st = Jeanne T., 2nd = Carla S., unanimous).

## **Public Forum**

- *Blacksburg Parent Coalition:* Laura Carroll informed the PTO of the "Blacksburg Parent Coalition" that has been organized to support building a new BHS, AHS, and renovating the old AHS to become the new AMS. The coalition is currently looking for parents from Auburn to meet with Blacksburg parents. The coalition is also selling T-shirts. For more information, or if you know any Auburn parents who might be interested in more dialogue about the future of the schools, contact Laura Carroll <twcarroll1@verizon.net>
- *Lunch Nutrition:* A discussion was held about improving school lunch nutrition (e.g., fewer sugary foods). Mr. Mefford informed us that pizza and rolls are whole wheat and cereals have reduced sugar. Also, school lunches must meet Federal Nutrition guidelines--any changes would have to go through the MCPS Nutrition Department. Mr. Mefford also said that parent suggestions for educational ideas/activities that promote wellness are always welcome.