

Parent Guild Meeting
Barbara Ingram School for the Arts – Black Box Theatre
Hagerstown, Maryland
September 19, 2011

7:30 p.m.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The following officers/committee members were present: Marci Howes, President, Rob Smetzer, Ex-Officio member, Julie Cade, Secretary, Committee Chairs Linda Kelly and Natasha Ramos-Izquierdo, and Michael Thorsen, Principal.

Parent Networking

Prior to the actual start of the meeting, parents enjoyed refreshments and conversation in the school lobby. Parents were also provided an opportunity to mark their “territory” on a county-wide map and sign-up based on “home school” boundaries. This information will be shared with those regions to allow for carpooling, etc.

Video & Welcome

A short video titled “What is the Parent Guild” was shown to open the meeting. Principal Thorsen welcomed everyone to the first 2011-2012 school year Parent Guild meeting. He thanked the parents for the tremendous response in attendance. Mr. Thorsen stated that his expectation for parental participation includes giving of time, talents, efforts and financially. The ways to help are numerous and varied and if you desire to be involved and help, Mr. Thorsen stated he will personally call. He challenged parents to be a part of the school by contacting teachers and working with the staff. Mr. Thorsen also desires every program to say “Brought to you by the BISFA Foundation and Parent Guild”. Please become/stay involved!

Introductions

Rob Smetzer introduced members of the Executive Committee: Marci Howes, President, and Julie Cade, Secretary. He indicated the open positions for Vice President and Treasurer.

Elections

Individuals running for officer positions include:

Jennifer Silbert – Vice President

Cindy Moore – Treasurer

Julie Cade – Secretary

Each person introduced themselves and provided a brief bio. All positions were unopposed. A motion to approve all individuals for election was made and seconded. All in favor. Each will serve 2-year terms.

Amendment to the Bylaws

The following amendments to the Bylaws require full Parent Guild approval:

Change the Executive Committee meetings from Wednesday to the same day as the regular Parent Guild meetings (Monday, 30-60 minutes prior).

Parent Guild officers/chairpersons may miss no more than one-third of the meetings held in one year. The Executive Committee reserves the right to replace any officer that fails to meet the attendance requirements.

Modify role descriptions to lend clarity to particular roles and functions. Specifically, the Vice President is listed as the chair of the Communications Committee.

A motion to approve changes to the bylaws as stated was made and seconded. All in favor.

Endowment

A motion to give 10% of all funds raised to the endowment was made and seconded. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$5/per person for the 2011-12 year. Receipt of payment for dues will begin in October. A suggestion was made to add a membership form to the website that would allow it to be completed and mailed to the school.

School Spirit and Gear

Ms. Erin McCarthy, teacher and “school store coordinator” announced that Phantom gear is now for sale. Details will be included in the Tuesday email blast. She asked parents to provide suggestions for specific “gear” they might desire opposed to articles the children may request.

Committees

Marci stated that Committees are open to anyone interested in helping. Committees that have current openings for Chairs and members are: fundraising, communications and the Mummer’s Parade float committee. Anyone with particular interest or talents in website functions should speak to Marci. Dr. Roberts added that work is beginning on the banners for the sides of the float. Anyone that desires to help is invited to come on Tuesday evenings, from 4:30 – 6 p.m. (at the school) to help. A suggestion was made to add the committees to some area of the website where people can volunteer to serve.

New Business

Mr. Dockery indicated that he serves as liaison to the faculty and welcomed emails to bring to the attention of the faculty. He also stated he is holding an SAT review on October 1.

Marci encouraged parents to bring any area of concern to the attention of any member of the Executive Committee, the faculty or staff. She indicated that the networking opportunity prior to tonight's business meeting stemmed from a parent suggestion.

Susan Mowen indicated that Mr. Weary is holding a lock in/potluck dinner for vocal and musical theatre students on October 7.

Sherri Stewart stated Mr. Hollin is concerned that uniforms for instrumental students are not being altered per his request. These uniforms need to be picked up by students and hemmed as required. Information was previously sent and will again be included in the upcoming email blast. Please look for it.

Natasha reported meeting with the SGA committee and that they are to host homecoming on November 4. The time and venue are to be determined. In prior years the Bridge of Life church was utilized, but rental requirements are becoming cost prohibitive. Various locales were mentioned as options.

Marci announced that Mr. Campbell is sponsoring a Director's Club for students interested in film. The club's introductory meeting is Friday, September 23. All students are invited.

Philosophy Club, under the direction of Mr. Matheny, will begin on Tuesday's after school.

Wreath Sales

Information about wreath sales will be forthcoming.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Cade

Secretary