

TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP AT OCTOBER MTNG.



PTA Meeting Notes
Meeting @6PM
September 22, 2021

Esra, Acting PTA Recording Secretary ptasecretary@k497.org

- Introduction to the meeting - theme is INQUIRY
- Had parents enter their children's grade level into the chat
- Welcomed parents (new and returning) back to the 2021/22 School year
- Kate asked AP Negrón to record for note taking purposes
- Agenda presented
 - o Welcome
 - o New Board
 - o President Report
 - o New Business

Principal Nicole Lanzillotto nicole.lanzillotto@k497.org

- Big Hello
- Wished we were meeting in person with sparkling water and cookies
- Time will come, but not in that moment now
- Thank you to all contributors stepping up and taking time to participate
- 8 yrs ago there were 3 parents at PTA meeting, now much larger community
- Received emails about some specific matters to address
- Also want to give some school wide DOE updates
- Change in policy around COVID testing and quarantine procedures
 - o Testing policy change
 - Now will be 1x/week
 - Have not yet received the full policy and implementation
 - Not sure of details exactly (i.e. 10% of pop, unvaccinated kids, etc.)
 - Please [complete consent for testing](#) or [use paper form](#)
 - Quarantine policy change Starting Sept. 27
 - If a case occurs we will no longer have to shut-down and quarantine
- Been a tough week with cases/quarantines, but everyone back now
- Will share more what policies will look like
 - o So far – If there is a positive case, and students were masked and maintained 3 ft distance, quarantine will not be necessary
- Recognize parents may feel differently +/- about this change

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- Starting 9/27 all DOE employees will need to at least have their first dose
 - o Can't share numbers, but our vaccinated percentage is very high
- Received a few emails about cases reported to school – what happens when this occurs
 - o Last Friday we received notice from a community member ~8:30AM that they were positive
 - o Spent the full day speaking with the situation room
 - Combined office where test and trace team work with the DOE
 - Investigation unit helps determine who may have been in close contact with the individual
 - Pretty complex exercise
 - Spend a lot of time to get confirmation and clearance to close appropriate classrooms
 - Did not get official clearance until 4:20PM, and then needed to manage outbound communication to community
 - 2 cases Friday, 1 case on Monday
 - This was a high-level issue that took a lot of time
 - Needed to also prepare teachers
 - They needed to synch to synchronous learning on Monday
 - Clearing students to come back is another layer of complexity
 - When the policy changes we'll have less disruption
- Friday there was a physical altercation
 - o School did everything possible to respond, meet with families and make sure the discipline code was adhered to so there was accountability
 - o Understand hearing this took place is alarming
 - o Very upsetting, unacceptable and will do all that is possible to ensure that there is a safe environment for all students
 - o Feel good and confident about the things in place to ensure safety
 - o Safety is #1 priority as a principle
- There is a lot of frustration with the family welcome center
 - o Some families have been accepted by BHS, but not showing up on the roster
 - o Some kids have not been placed
 - o Trying to advocate and escalate these issues
 - o Willing to communicate from the school to help bridge the gap for parents and advocates
- This is a strange year, a whole new reality with students who have not been in the building for up to 2 years
 - o Conscious of this and taking steps to bring students together by building relationships
- Thank you!

Assistant Principal Negron AP.negron@k497.org

- Nothing to Add

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- Inquiry is our theme this month
- How can the PTA improve our community this year?

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- o More meet and greets?
- o More outdoor activities?
- Need to approve June Minutes
 - o Will be available on website in the event people miss the meeting
- Esra put forth a motion to vote on the June PTA meeting minutes
 - o Requested participants to vote
- Esra introduced New PTA Board
 - o Kate and Meryem
 - o Treasurer Terri Desai
 - Looking for a co-treasurer
 - o Fundraising coordinator – Julie Underwood
 - o Members at large
 - Tamiko
 - Peg
 - Judy
 - Esra
- Thanks all for stepping up!
- Also need a Secretary and Co-Treasurer
 - o Secretary - Notes is the minimum, but can do more if desired
 - o Co-Treasurer
 - o Info about the open board positions is on the website
 - o Have until Oct. 31 to get these positions filled
- Need more men, more representation from the community
 - o Want a true representation

**Co-Presidents Meryem Bencheikh-ellis ptacopresident_hs@k497.org
& Kate Rubin ptacopresident_ms@k497.org**

- Supporting all families
- Partner with Admin
- Continue to grow our successful initiatives
- Over 100 parents filled out the survey in the 1st hour
 - o Helping to understand what grades kids are in, parents super-powers
 - o Want to see what we can do with those skills
- Support ALL Families
 - o Lots of work done with the equity team
 - o Advocating for all students and parents
 - o Committee work
 - Budget
 - Garden
- What is important – Amplify what is already great about BHS
 - o Community
 - o IB
 - Thematic content will help us (parents) connect with our students
 - Hyland provided some good materials to explore the IB principles
 - o Language/International

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- Being able to make things relevant for our school will be exciting to find ways to connect
- o Culinary
- So far this year
 - o We updated the website
 - Kreg Holt worked on this project with Kate to get this done
 - o Looking for quick hit opportunities for parents to support
 - Had some quick wins from that
 - o Did a pre-order for merch sales
 - Sold what we ordered, was successful
 - Meryem will be inside the school on Thursday and Friday to make sure teachers and admin can get access to merch
 - o If money were not a factor what would you make happen at BHS
 - Enter into the chat

Terri Desai, Treasurer ptatreasurer@k497.org

- Talked over budget
 - o Events, expenses, wish lists
 - o Established an estimate of what we can do this year
 - o Any questions?
 - o Asking for budget committee volunteers
 - Need to check the box and approve the budget now, but this is a living document which will be updated by the committee through the year
 - o Requested parents complete the poll to approve the budget
- Financials
 - o In the process of transitioning from one bank to another
 - o A lot of helping hands trying to make the transition
 - Next month we'll have a better sense of what our PTA dollars are
 - o Next need to approve a CPA
 - Need to file taxes
 - Need to get approval to spend any money above \$2,000
 - Will solicit a CPA to prepare and file taxes on behalf of the PTA
 - Terri proposed the motion to vote, Ayna seconded the motion
 - Meryem suggested Katya has volunteered to perform CPA services Pro-bono

New Business

- Showcased T-shirt from equity team designed by BHS art students
 - o QUESTIONS
 - Child took the 1st dose, but waiting for the 2nd dose to occur
 - Will he be tested
 - Response from AP Negrón
 - o We think 10% of students will be tested every week
 - o Random list is provided every week by DOE and tests are performed
 - Will Social distancing policies change after the 27th

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- Response from AP Negrón
 - Desks are configured in a way where 3 ft. distance is maintained
 - Hallways are a little crowded, but they are only in the hallways for a few minutes so this is not enough time to meet quarantine criteria
- Why did some teachers have to quarantine if all teachers need to be vaccinated
 - Response from AP Negrón
 - Deadline for teacher vaccination is 9/27
 - Or if teacher tests positive they would need to quarantine as well
- Can someone address the issue of kids being left unsupervised during some classes
 - Response AP Negrón
 - There have been a lot of movement with quarantining and coverage of classes
 - No excuses, we have refined the way coverage occurs and systems so this does not happen again
- Have there been changes to bathroom procedures
 - Response AP Negrón
 - Now bathrooms are being monitored 100% of the time
 - Only 1 person can use at a time
 - New lock procedures for bathrooms
- Lunch buddy program
 - Response AP Negrón
 - Great idea, can be discussed with the 6th grade team
- Afterschool, what programs have begin, what is coming, how to get kids in
 - Response AP Negrón
 - 1 after school program running (CCM), middle school program only
 - Application goes through dycd website
 - Goes from 3:30-6:30 Monday through Friday
 - Can send application if interested
 - BHS program will go out Monday
 - Middle school and High School
 - Will begin 10/4
- Child needed to exit the building from the 2nd floor to re-enter the building to go to after-school
 - Response AP Negrón
 - This issue has been brought to our attention and has been addressed – should not happen again
 - Was done as a safety measure, but should not happen again
- Should dismissal be staggered
 - Response AP Negrón
 - The admin team was discussing this today and are considering testing a staggered dismissal of 3-5 minutes

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- There was a communication swirl that occurred around the cases that came out on Friday, how can we manage the comms better
 - Response Kate
 - Looking to have grade liaisons organize themes that are coming up as questions
 - On Konstella there is a group for Grade Liaisons, please check out the group and add your name if you are interested
 - Nicole addressed the challenges with this earlier
 - Sent out a school letter that there was a positive case and potential exposure
 - Individual (close contact) families receive a separate letter with instructions to quarantining
 - Google Class information

Questions answered in chat

Some kids has ID's with pictures and some don't. would the kids with no picture eventually get a picture ID?

Ms. Bradley, is pushing into PE classes this week to take photos of those missing

Will there be a ManageBac training?

Yes, Managebac training is on September 27th.

Will social distancing policies change as well? Right now it's 3ft distance however I am told that is not happening in classes

The current policy of "3 feet distancing wherever possible" stays in effect.

How often do the kids change Electives?

Electives will change in January

Why did some teachers have to quarantine if all teachers are supposed to be vaccinated?

All staff need to have their first shot by Sept. 27th. Our staff vaccination numbers are high, but not all of our teachers are vaccinated yet. Also anyone with possible exposure who has symptoms must quarantine even if vaccinated. Some good news with these three cases: as of this time there has been no evidence of any spread in the building from these three cases which is in large part thanks to how well our students are doing with wearing their masks.

Do all the rooms have HEPA filters? From my understanding most schools were supplied filters from the DOE.

yes, every room has 2 filters.

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I missed what it means to be a “member at large”?

Member At Large helps with whatever they can/want to help with! but would attend Board Meetings in addition to PTA meetings!

Are there not enough lockers for all students in the building?

There technically aren't enough lockers BUT apparently lockers are much less popular in the upper grades so we have yet to ever run out of lockers for students who want them. On a side note 6th grade lockers tend to be the most creatively decorated.

I'm concerned about the late lunch. My son reports kids constantly complaining about hunger & falling asleep in the periods leading up to lunch. Some schools have combined advisory with lunch to have an earlier lunch.

Since we are a shared building we have to rotate every year and this year we got the late lunch. To accommodate this all students can have snacks 4th period.

My request for administration is that communication be streamlined. The emails we receive are really dense and vital things are being lost as evidenced by how lost parents seemed to be on Konstella regarding remote quarantine. The emailing parents zoom links but not the students was also ineffective for parents(and students). Using their email and Google classroom so they can navigate their work is best and should be the standard. Quarantine will happen again.

For students that will be required to still quarantine based on the new policy, will there be a consistent schedule of assignments and office hrs. With this recent week there were some Challenges