

PTA Meeting Notes
Meeting @6PM
January 19, 2022

Board Members Present:

Kate Rubin (Co-President), Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis (Co-President), Meredith Franco Meyers (Recording Secretary), Chloe Lee (Co-Secretary), Terri Desai (Treasurer), Julie Underwood (Fundraising Coordinator), Members At-Large: Esra Dayani, Peg Fox; Principal Samantha Schmoeger, Miguel Negrón (AP)

At least 8 association members, including a minimum of 2 board members and 6 parent members present; a quorum was reached.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order by Co-President (Middle School), Kate Rubin, at 6:00 pm.

Co-President/MS Kate Rubin pta@k497.org

Introduction to the meeting - IB principle is PRINCIPLED

AP Miguel Negrón update (AP.negron@k497.org)

- Grateful to the community at BHS for helping everyone through a difficult time with more Covid cases. As a school community, we share the numbers of positive cases. The DOE didn't necessarily give any guidance on this, but we will continue to share those numbers. Covid cases are about the same, but hopefully going down. Still many staff out quarantining or caring for others, or with Covid. We feel like we have staff on "herd immunity" at this point. Attendance is mirroring that of the city. Families are still keeping kids at home. Attendance is still a little bit low, but the team is working on them and making those pushes.
- School is open and great things are happening in spite of all of this!
- STEM grant was approved and paperwork is signed. Three state-of-the-art STEM carts with robotics kits, promethean boards, smart boards, laptops. IXL is fully funded now with the grant.
- College acceptances are coming in!
- New semester is coming up, Elective classes are being picked this week.
- MAP assessments are coming up and we are excited about Black Lives Matter week.

Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis announcement to school community:

- Thank you for the huge outpouring of support for Mr. Moussa Camara's family.
- We are all very saddened by Mr. Camara's loss.

- We also want to make sure we are supporting the whole BHS community/staff by providing more K95 masks. A bunch will be delivered on Monday to AP Negron. Moving forward, we will be helping keep the school community safe and open.

Guest Speaker Michael Davidovits, PhD, LCSW

PARENTING TEENS IN A PANDEMIC: HOW TO STAY HOPEFUL AND MOTIVATED IN 2022

- Adolescent kids and teens are still kids. Our job as parents is to maintain a connection to them while also letting them do their job (being autonomous). By 13 years of age, our leverage as parents is lower, but easier to maintain if influenced by a good parent-child relationship
- Dr. Davidovits outlines several suggestions for parenting teens during this unprecedented time.
- Questions are asked in the chat forum and Dr. Davidovits answers them.
- Wonderful talk. Would be great to have him back again for another session.

Treasurer's Report Terri Desai (ptatreasurer@k497.org)

- Ready for spring events. 8th and 12th grade graduation, poetry slam, etc. If you're excited about an initiative at BHS, we are always looking for ideas and parents to connect.
- We have a Co-Treasurer position currently open. Our wonderful former Co-Treasurer Crystal Harper had to step down. Please nominate someone or nominate yourself if you're willing.
- Review of monthly Balance sheet and Profit & Loss report
- Amazing outcome after Julie's stellar 30 Days of Giving campaign
- Numbers are up; still not a normal school year, but we are doing well!

Kate Rubin (PTA co-president, MS) moves to approve December PTA meeting minutes. Minutes were approved. Esra Dayani and Terri Desai motion to approve and second the motion.

- NOTE: Minutes from each PTA meeting are always available to read on the BHS website.

Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis update (PTA Co-President, HS) ptapresident@k497.org:

- Thank you to Sherri and Ms. Jackie (Carrier) for organizing and making picture day such a success. Thank you Stomping Ground. There will be another make-up day for photos and for 8th grade cap and gown.
- Because of Covid cases going down, we'd like to do another movie night. This time, "Spiderman: Far From Home"

COMMITTEE & CLUBS REPORTS

Equity Committee (Carla Triplett)

- Elected a third co-facilitator
- Next meeting is February 3, 2022
- Lots of community building happening
- Letter written to the mayor about safety of students and staff during Covid, request for a remote option
- Family Equity Team will also be helping out with the February PTA meeting
- Excited about this year and there's a great team
- There will be an event in the spring for all equity teams

Budget Committee Report (Terri Desai ptatreasurer@k497.org)

- Really nice to see how our budget is making a difference in the BHS community, providing for teacher courses, etc.
- Great meetup; more like a working session; looked at the historical programs and initiatives we've inherited; remove things that no longer reflect our current year; add things that work, will work this year; next steps are to revise current spreadsheet and send to group for another working session

Garden & Sustainability (Meryem Bencheikh-Elli ptapresident@k497.org)

- In March, we are receiving three big bins of top quality soil for raised beds (need to have these built).
- We'd love to have student volunteers with Ms. Brunelle in March and going forward to help build out the garden
- Applying for a grant.
- Sustainability: Concerning composting...we are hoping to launch a campaign throughout the school to do this.

Fundraising (Julie Underwood, bhsfundraising@k497.org)

- 30 Days of Giving was great! Many generous donations. Raised \$20,730.12 of our \$30,000 goal!
- Funded BHS staff holiday gift, help for the school play and other initiatives.
- Next meeting is Tuesday January 25th. Planning the spring auction.

Teacher Appreciation (Meredith Franco Meyers, ptasecretary@k497.org)

- A few things have had to be delayed due to Covid. We are in the process of rescheduling.
- We were able to do one lovely teacher appreciation (catered) lunch for the staff in December
- Action item for this month: new Nespresso or other fabulous coffee machine for the staff/teacher lounge
- BHS mugs are on their way. Really nice, cork bottom.
- More K95 masks for staff

- Feel free to email me if you have any more thoughts for what we can do to make everyone feel amazing during this very stressful time.

Community (Kate Rubin, pta@k497.org)

- A parent volunteered to lead a meditation for the staff
- Another parent wants to do a musical evening in warmer months
- Lots of fun, great things on the horizon

Podcast of the Month Club, Esra Dayani, member-at-large, ptamemberatlarge_esra@k497.org

- Attendance dropped off on the Podcast of the Month. People are zoom-fatigued.
- Esra will be meeting with Principal Schmoeger to see how we can reinvigorate the series and maybe even include students.
- Email Esra if you want to be involved. Students are welcome too.

Other Announcements:

- January 21: Staff New Year Meditation, 6 PM
- January 25: BHS Music Benefit Meeting, 9:30 AM
- January 25: Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7 PM
- February 4: BHS Movie Night, rescheduled to February 4th from January 29th at 6 PM
- February 9: Stomping Ground Picture Retakes and 8th Grade Cap and Gown
- Mr. Moussa Camara (moussa.camara@k497.org) MYP French teacher announcement. Just wanted to express our condolences. PTA sent a Target card for immediate use. Mr. Camara has an older daughter as well as the new baby. Our goal was \$10,000 for him and our ask doubled to \$19,000+. He is returning from Senegal this week. We will keep the community updated. Meryem and I are in touch with him and his family.

TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP AT FEBRUARY MTNG.