

PTA Meeting Notes
Meeting @9AM
April 27, 2022

Board Members Present:

Kate Rubin (Co-President), Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis (Co-President), Regina Thompson (Co-Treasurer), Julie Underwood (Fundraising Coordinator), Parents: Jo Cogan, Christine Chin, Miguel Negron (AP), Meghan Casey (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 9 am.

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

Introduction to the meeting - IB principle is RISK TAKING

- AP Meghan Casey is going to speak today about risk-taking at school and how we as parents can support our kids in this.

Update from Kate Rubin (Co-President, middle school)

- Joyful Engagement grants: The PTA has been able to use money to support many recent inquiries from teachers. Examples of ways our joyful engagement grants have helped: author visits to classrooms, water, gym equipment, manipulatives for math, iPads, culinary room organization, etc.
- Please keep an eye out for information about the auction coming up in May!
- Career Day is coming up. Please speak with (fred.rafael@k497.org) Fred Raphael if you can help! We need more parents to present.
- There have been some incidents related to Tik Tok recently, so Meghan Casey (AP) is going to give a talk that's free about it and some tips on what we as parents should be aware of (May 10, 2022).
- Stomping Ground (school) photos. Please order. It's the first time we've used them for school photos so we'd love for you to order them because they don't normally do school photos and we'd love to have them back.

Update by Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-Ellis (Co-President, high school)

- Welcome back from break!
- I'd like to get hijabs made for any of our Muslim girls here at BHS that have the BHS logo; I've spoken to Principal Sam. I'm going to sit with a few of the students about what they would like.
- There's a lot of excitement about the auction: I wanted to appeal to the parents on the call. If you have a business and can help, please reach out to be a sponsor.
- Thank you to our auction team!
- Next month is the book fair.

Approval of March 2022 minutes

Kate Rubin (PTA co-president) asked if we can approve the February minutes. Motion was started by PTA co-secretary Meredith Franco Meyers and seconded by Regina Thompson.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising and Auction committee: (bhsfundraising@k497.org) Julie Underwood

- Thank you to all the volunteers for the auction!
- Auction is going to be amazing. Great auction items. Please come. Please bid.
- We also need volunteers. Please sign up.

Community committee

- Music Benefit Night @ BHS (May 17, 2022): Please come. It's been rescheduled. We have a few parents who created a house band and kids can come and play a musical instrument or play with a track or sing. We have a handful of students who are going to play with their parents too. We have a surprise faculty member who is going to sing.
- Family Tech Talk (Tuesday, May 10, 2022): Will discuss Tik Tok and other topics.

Teacher Appreciation Committee

Meredith Franco Meyers (ptasecretary@k497.org)

- We are doing a fabulous lunch for all of the teachers next week for Teacher Appreciation Week 2022 and we have a few other fun surprises in store for them as the week goes on. Stay tuned and will update next month.
- We encourage all parents to think about ways to show appreciation this week. It doesn't need to cost money. You can email a specific, personal email to a teacher or staff member or send in a card.

Report on Risk-taking from AP Megan Casey (meghancasey@k497.org)

IB learner program: I want to talk a little bit more about risk taking today. What does risk taking mean for our students?

- We always try to instill a sense of agency in our learners. We don't want students parroting what other people think (we don't want trained seals). WE want students standing in their own perspectives. But you can't have agency without safety. We want students to feel safe bringing up what they
- There's a difference between being unsafe and uncomfortable. You will not grow if you're always comfortable, but also won't grow if you feel unsafe.
- I'm going to share with you the official definition of risk taking as the IB program defines it. "Risk-Takers are **those willing to be wrong in order to learn something new**. They aren't afraid of mistakes. IB Learner Profile: Balanced. Balanced means using a variety of resources and approaches to solve problems."
- How can parents help students with risk taking? Trust your kids.

- Lots of research on this, but it suggests that adults need 5:1 positive feedback to criticism; kids need a 10:1 ratio (10 positives of noticing of growth in your student and one negative)
- When we're helping a student work through those areas that work, we do it through a strength-based approach.
- We approach our students with compassion. Most teens, we can think in terms of a metaphor of a toddler. Toddlers are learning to walk and they want to do it on their own, but they keep looking back to see if you're watching. They need to know you're watching and you have their back, Teens are the same.

AP Negrón's Report

- IB review is here this week checking in on classrooms and seeing how we're doing. They come every five years to evaluate us
- SLT meeting is tonight
- New parent coordinator is coming!! She's starting on Tuesday. Paulette Sampson. She came from our CCM program. She's amazing and we are so excited to have her.

TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP AT MAY MTNG.