

Briarcliff PTA Meeting September 6, 2016

Attendees: Brian Seymour, Abra Rearte, Sheila Cain, Amanda Vanega, Craig Shapiro, Melanie Dunning, Paule Myre-Bisaillon, Marcie Lawry, Kimberly Richards, Rina Serrano, Crystal Holladay, Jennifer Midtheen, Kerry Ossi-Lupo, Kari Moncrief, Mimosa Hines, Ann Dirilgen, Tiffany Barnes, Heather Rossi, Daniel Madding, Kelly Trimyer Amy Kiser, Rachel Love, Staci Morris, Cyndy Fettig

Staff: Stephanie Raiford, Angela Maynard, Donna Allen, Debbie Dale

Meeting Start: 7:08pm

Introductions

Cultural Arts (Ms. Cain & Ms. Dale)

Briarcliff used to have three performances; now there are two performances. 5th grade gets visual arts; 4th grade gets a writer-in-residence. Some schools have no cultural arts performance; we are lucky to have such support from the school and PTA. Ms Cain and Ms. Dale recommend four Cultural Arts programs:

Residencies

4th grade; Michael Beadle (“Wild Words and Free Verse”); October 31 – November 4, 2016
Total Cost: \$1,000 (Grant: \$375; PTA Funding: \$625)

5th grade; Shannon Newby (Coral Reef wall art display); April 3, 5, 6, 7, 2017 (install date TBD)
www.newbyart.com; see “Coral Creations”

Total Cost: \$2,250 (Grant: \$375; PTA Funding: \$1,875)

Additionally, \$500 for substitute teacher for Ms. Dale for four days so non-participating students do not miss art class due to Ms. Dale’s participation with Ms. Newby.

Performances

Schoolwide; Hobe Ford Golden Rod Puppets (“Animalia”); October 27, 2016
www.loydartists.com/roster/f/c/32

Total Cost: \$1,700 (Grant: \$325; PTA Funding: \$1,375)

Schoolwide; Ballethnic Dance Co. (“The Leopard Tale – Meet the Animals”); April 21, 2017
www.ballethnic.com; <https://youtu.be/s4EuoloFAo>

Ms. Dirilgen suggested utilizing the area high schools’ students/dance programs for a more cost-efficient way to get performances. Ms. Rearte agreed and mentioned the possibility of having a high school marching band perform.

Spirit Night (Ms. Cain)

McTeacher Night – September 29, 2016, 5:00 – 7:30pm (near Maynard & Cary Town Blvd)

A signup genius will be sent out soon.

Hamburglar will make an appearance in the drive-thru lane.

No spirit night in October.

November will involve Duck Donuts, Chipotle, and Firehouse Subs

January – possibly at Jump Street

Treasurer's Report/Budget (Ms. Vanega)

Transition from Ms. Morris to Ms. Vanega is complete.

No Budget Committee – the officers and board generally help with the budget, etc.

Many line items (those not listed below) are the same as last year.

Cultural Arts – \$6,050 (more than last year)

Agendas – \$900 (less than last year)

Battle of the Books – \$600 (new budget line item)

Classroom Enrichment Grant – \$200 for full-time / \$100 for part-time

Landscaping – \$1,000 (more than last year)

-Ms. Fettig suggested installing a gaga pit (dodge ball without throwing)

-Ms. Rearte suggested opening a discussion regarding improving the playground areas.

-Mr. Seymour suggested a committee to discuss use of funds for playground or other, similar uses. Several people expressed interest in being on such a committee.

Principal's Discretionary Fund: \$1,000 (new budget line item)

Library Book Grant: \$2,000 (more than last year)

Meet the Teacher: eliminated (as budget line item)

Open House: eliminated (as budget line item)

Grocery Cards: eliminated (as budget line item)

Art Department Grant: \$600 (more than last year)

Fun Run: \$5,800

P.E. Grant: \$900 (funded from Fun Run proceeds; new budget line item)

Makerspace: \$3,250 (new budget line item)

Miscellaneous Wish List Fund: \$1,800 (new budget line item; funded partially from Fun Run; partially from Silent Auction, if we have one this year) Ms. Allen recalled that at the last meeting of 2015-2016 the PTA developed a procedure to be used by teachers that want to use money from this fund. That procedure will be revisited in the near future.

Charles Wilson's Family: Ms. Moncrief reported that Charles Wilson (previous PTA President, longtime Briarcliff supporter) died unexpectedly on September 5. Mr. Seymour suggested, and the Board approved, \$100 for Kari to donate on behalf of, or otherwise support, his family.

Ms. Love suggested the idea of using a relatively large amount of money for a big purchase instead of spreading around some of the smaller grants. Everyone agreed in principle. Ms. Cain and Ms. Morris cautioned that we need to do that during the year for the following year – not discussing it at the beginning of the year for that year. This idea will come up again at future meetings to plan for larger purchases in future years.

Advocacy (Ms. Kiser)

The PTA is the nation's oldest and most successful advocacy group for children. NC PTA website has information regarding the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) (signed into federal law in December 2015). NC General Assembly recently decided to take five public schools that are not making desired

gains and convert them into charter schools. Budget passed on August 13. \$17.5 million was cut from Wake County schools.

Art Fundraiser (Ms. Moncrief & Ms. Dale)

We can do it the same way as before (via projects in Ms. Dale's art classes) or
-K, 1st, 2nd – in school with Ms. Dale
-3rd, 4th, 5th – send home to complete

Makerspace: (Ms. Raiford)

Ms. Raiford gave a presentation regarding increasing students' collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking (the 4C's).

Spirit Wear (Ms. Cain for Ms. Klimas)

Order form will be sent home for individual orders of various items.

Go Play Save (no committee chair)

Letter will go out this week (Ms. Rossi will take care of it)

Communication Regarding Specials

Ms. Rearte suggested that the school send home a short letter 5x/year (start of school year and at end of each quarter) describing what was done in each Special and what is planned. The idea received widespread support.

Family Game Night

Cyndy Fettig is chair.

School Nurse

Ms. Raiford reported that a school nurse will be at Briarcliff three days per week.

Miscellaenous

Ms. Hines suggested using school resources (students, parents, community members) to create a mural to install on an outside wall (within the courtyard, most likely). Ms. Kiser suggested that we ensure we focus on the students when using PTA funds.

Ms. Rearte said that Cary Teen Council could be used to provide childcare during PTA meetings (with one Briarcliff adult present as well).

At the close of the meeting, Ms. Raiford made the Makerspace available for a tour.

Meeting End: 9:30pm