

Beech Tree PTA
Minutes – October 8, 2015

Thanks to all who contributed to a delicious potluck dinner.

PTA President called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with approximately 15 people in attendance.

Budget: Michelle Whitecar passed out the proposed budget. We have approximately an \$8-\$9k surplus, and the proposed budget would spend about \$3100 of it. Executive Board is trying to strike a balance between keeping a reserve fund and using the money the PTA has raised to support Beech Tree's students. The proposed budget is based largely on last year's actual income & spending.

MOTION: adopt budget as proposed. Passed unanimously.

Calendar: Michelle passed out year at a glance calendar with many of the PTA's activities included. Expect modifications!

Treasurer's Report: Co-treasurer Elizabeth Allison reported on our current financial status. We've received about \$33 from Harris Teeter - more people need to link their cards! We are converting the PTA financial records to Quickbooks and drafting a manual to make transitions easier in the future. Audit has been turned in!

Communications: VP Michael Owens is still trying to get our website domain (beechtreepta.org) back. If not, she has beechtreepta.com reserved. Karim will put the link to the PTA Facebook page on Beech Tree's website (instead of the broken website link).

Membership: We currently have 31 staff and 41 parents signed up, plus \$60 in donations. Planning to do another membership push via Wednesday folders.

Spiritwear: Michael has 50 orders - wrapping up tomorrow. Suggestions were offered for other spirit items -- maybe car magnets or snow shovels next!

After school activities/ holiday camps: Only 2 of the 5 after school classes filled (Whiz Kids construction and Yoga). Overtime Athletics is again offering camps on no school days (Nov 2 & 3 are next); this year we need 20 kids minimum for the camps to run (kids from other schools are welcome). Cost is \$25.00/day and the PTA receives \$2.50 of that.

Odyssey of the Mind: Julie Hadley is working on getting forms together and getting it organized. Competition is Saturday, March 12.

Room Parents: Aneta Miska is coordinating and trying to get one for each teacher.

Book Fair: Dates are Nov 9-13 (set up on Friday, Nov. 6). Tom Coates is taking over as chair and will be sending out a sign-up genius for volunteers. On Veterans Day, BT will have a special assembly honoring veterans, as well as Thanksgiving lunch (and the book fair will be open for sales all day). In addition, we will have PTA meeting/family night/ice cream social on Thursday night and then pack up the fair at the end of the evening.

BeechTree 5K: Saturday, Dec. 12. Heather Chmura has flyers, etc, ready. Belvedere and Parklawn are both committed to the race. Still recruiting additional schools. Greg Skrtic will design t-shirt again. Heather and Michael will work on finding the best deal for the t-shirts. DJ is secured again. We will have a clock, but not chip timing.

Fun Fair: March 12. Laura Coates is in charge again; urgently looking for a raffle coordinator. Raffle is a huge part of the fundraising. Tom Coates is in charge of the cake walk. Unfortunately, the date conflicts with the Odyssey of the Mind competition, but it remains the best date.

Student Council/Patrols: Greg Skrtic reported that the Student Council is again in charge of Boxtops for Education and will make a class competition out of it (with no prizes). The SCA will also sponsor a Costume parade on October 30; a Food Drive Nov. 30- Dec16 (will donate the food this year to Food for Others, which provides our weekend backpacks); and the Spring Pennies for Patients drive for childhood cancer research. Safety Patrols are doing a great job.

Talent Show/Play: Heidi VanDerSanden will organize talent show (scheduled for June 17). Michael Owens is willing to take on the play, and we might use it as one of the cultural assemblies. Michael suggests Thursday evening, March 17, and is looking at Little Red Riding Hood (musical). Will start rehearsals in January.

School Improvement Plan (SIP): Lisa O'Donovan, Julie Tillman, Christine Garant, and Karim Daugherty presented information about Beech Tree's SIP, which is developed in cooperation between the school and the County. It establishes performance targets and strategies to achieve those targets. The full plan, which will be posted on the school website, focuses on the core curriculum (e.g. subjects for which there are SOL tests). Beech Trees goals include: 80% of 3-5th graders will pass reading SOL; 75% of all students taking math SOL will pass; 75 % of 5th graders will pass the science SOL (with an expectation of 40-60 minutes of science instruction daily at all grade levels); 70% of 4th graders will pass the social studies (VA studies) SOL (with the expectation of 1 hour of social studies instruction every day in 4th grade). Karim has purchased a Benchmark Literacy Kit for each classroom, which teachers are finding to be a great resource. Beech Tree is also participating in a pilot study of a new math pacing guide for Fairfax County that seems to make more sense developmentally.

Adjourned at 8:18. Next meeting is scheduled for Nov 12 at 6:30 p.m. (business meeting only; no potluck).

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Martinage
Secretary