

# October 2019 Meeting

October 1, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Dr. Skarbek Library at Relay Elementary School

Attendees: Brian Gunn, Amanda White, Merie Daniel Pary, Erin Brice, Melodie Smith, Chelsea McWatters, Jamie Brown, Marie Bates, Amani Abid, Becca Geris, Jason Barnett, Heather Agler-Roth, Yung Hunter, Jossie Flor Sapunar, Emily Mullinix, Nicole Nguyen

Not present: there was no teacher representative. Mr. Barnett indicated a potential miscommunication in scheduling and that potentially the representative is Ms. Benedick. Mr. Barnett gave an abbreviated teacher report.

## Welcome and Introductions

### Treasurer's Report

- Budget – take special projects line down and increase clubs line item, Mr. Barnett offers for PTA consideration funding classroom libraries, he can put together a plan with dollar line item, the school does not meet the student to books ratio in the school library, the PTA Board will revisit the suggestion of grade-level team reimbursements at a later date, nothing in the budget is set in stone, last year the mascot was purchased and this year the patio tables
- **Vote to Change Special Projects Down by \$1000 to Add to Clubs Line Item Passes**
- **Vote to Approve Budget Passes**

### Upcoming Dates

- Yankee Candle (Fall Fundraiser) – Orders due October 4
- Chick-fil-a Nights – October 7 – chick-fil-a cow will be at school dismissal time. Families must say while ordering that they're present for the fundraising night. Time will be posted on Relay PTA FB page.
- Kindergarten Meet and Greet – October 7 – 6:30-8 @ Arbutus Library. All kindergarten families are welcome.

### Events and Planning

- Trunk or Treat – October 24 – Nicole Nguyen will distribute volunteer signup sheets. Event starts at 6:30-8 pm. Set-up at 4:30 or 5 pm. Cars can arrive 90 minutes before the event starts. At planning meeting on October 16, volunteers will review games, activities, roles, etc. Nicole can email volunteer links/event blurb to Mr. Barnett with 24-hour notice to distribute school-wide.
  - Volunteers – volunteer to run the event, games, cider, photo booth, Relay PTA table to control inflow of students, continually pass out candy to the cars, decorate their cars, middle school volunteers can get hours
  - Donations – list forthcoming
- Book Fair – November 18-22

- Volunteers throughout the week – sign-up sheet will go out requesting volunteers
- American Education Week – November 18-22
  - Volunteers in the morning Monday – Thursday
  - Breakfast offered in the morning -for parents

## **Administration Update**

G1-5 started MAPP testing about a week ago. Administration wants quiet and calm testing environments for students by opening up additional rooms. Teachers implemented goal setting to motivate children. If parents/guardians want scores, email teachers or Ms. Pitarra.

Student feedback: they loved the author who came to speak at school. May offer parents/guardians ability to order his books.

October 8: Fall picture day. Check student folders for picture day. November 12: tentative picture re-take day

October 9: no school for students on teacher workday

October 10: we are half-way through quarter one. Interim reports and feedback from teachers will come next week.

November 11-15: Ballroom dancing for fifth grade students. Same instructor as last year. Families will be invited to watch them ballroom dance: details forthcoming.

Pre-K conference day: November 22. Teachers will schedule with each parent/guardian their child's conference. Be on the lookout for that.

Teachers are planning field trips, like kindergarten for example. Stay tuned.

Club activity fair: 3:40-4:30 at school. Options for G4&5 are vast. K-2 options are fewer. Multiple new clubs, including basketball afterschool program, 24 Math Club challenge, etc. Young Rembrandts and Eco-Explorers are paid. All others are free, paid for by the school.

Accountability for schools starts and stops with Mr. Barnett. It has always been his goal to create an environment that supports teachers. If you have questions about where we are and where we are going, ask Mr. Barnett. Teachers are working hard, and we have additional resources from Baltimore County Schools, which are making a big difference so far. Superintendent visited last week with county superintendent: Mr. Barnett gave him expectations for the school. His door is always open.

Not all parents/guardians are receiving phone calls. The BCPS system changed this year as BCPS wants parents/guardians connected to BCPS One. If a parent/guardian has signed up for a BCPS One account and has problems, call the front desk.

For some activities, Mr. Barnett translates simple messages into certain languages, like Burmese. Formal translations through BCPS takes 2-3 weeks and take place for major school events.

Mr. Barnett is inputting the bus system child by child so that he can target messages by bus (instead of blasting to the full list).

You can opt-in with BCPS for text messages. Scheduled to start after next week.

Open Door is at capacity, and many students were left without afterschool care. Mr. Barnett will follow up with Open Door on the request he made to expand capacity.

**Teacher Update** – Ms. Benedick will be the teacher representative. Mr. Barnett is encouraging teachers and staff to come with requests personally. Ms. Campbell is offering a six-week education program for parents and caregivers who are experiencing anxiety, mental health run by a professional organization. Space is limited.

### **Fifth Grade Committee Update – Marie Wainglass Bates**

It is important that all grades support the fifth-grade committee as well as the rest of the school. Fifth grade committee pays for ballroom dancing, panoramic photo of entire grade, fifth grade yearbook, and ballroom dancing for next year's fifth graders.

Fifth grade will do pencil grams for Halloween due Friday, October 25, and Valentine's Day. Will be posted on Relay Parents page in case parents need to print it out. November did iced tea and cookies from Chick-fil-a due November 22. Pick up day will get coordinated either Monday or Tuesday. Concessions at all school events. Ideas for Relay-branded gear are welcome. Fifth grade committee will get first dibs on selecting the theme for their bingo basket. Relay5th2020@gmail.com with feedback.

### **New Business**

- Class Parents - tabled until the next meeting
- International Festival: food truck idea – need for speed: food trucks should make one food item to cut down on wait time. We could solicit for a portion of the proceeds or a set amount to benefit the Relay PTA. Mr. Barnett can find out what the rules are about having food trucks pay for a spot. Might be phrased as a donation to the PTA: anything over the \$100 goes to the PTA for instance.  
Fifth grade committee could do an exhibit or artwork or presentation – each fifth-grade class could do a country – Marie can present that to the fifth-grade committee  
Another idea is hosting a flag parade with kids dressed up in cultural garb or traditional or folklore outfits. Cute idea for pre-k and kindergarten.
- Other – we have interest from a teacher to start a school store – Relay PTA is researching the logistics, Ms. Attanasio volunteered to oversee the school store and volunteers – budget item would be a collapsible kiosk or cart. More to come.

**Working Meeting/Trunk or Treat:** Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 pm in the library

**Next PTA Meeting:** Tuesday, November 5 at 6:30 pm in the library

**Upcoming PTA Events:**

- October: K Meet and Greet, Trunk-or-Treat
- Book Fair, American Education Week
- December:
- January: International Night
- February:
- March: Basket Bing
- April:
- May: Teacher Appreciation Week
- June: End-of-Year Dance