



## Belmont PTA Meeting Minutes

12/4/18, 7:00pm

24 in attendance

Meeting called to order

Approved November Minutes

Principal's Report (moved to after committee updates)

- Interims will be posted on the portal on January 18<sup>th</sup>. End of quarter January 30<sup>th</sup>
- December 24-31<sup>st</sup> is winter break
- MD State Report Card of each school in Maryland: Equity Accountability Model, was released morning of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Belmont is a 5 star school based on criteria. Staff celebrated at school today and Mr. Pinkowitz thanks his staff and PTA for their contributions and support to make Belmont so successful.
- Mr. Pinkowitz shared the website MDreportcard.org (which was down the night of the PTA meeting) to visit for more information on our school. In addition, Mr. Pinkowitz sent home a detailed email with links to better understand the State Report Card.

Committee Updates –

Treasurer report

- Michelle updated that Basket Night profited \$11,407.69.
- 23 in attendance voted to add \$200 to the budget to reimburse Reading Specialist and Reading Initiative staff, which was inadvertently left out of the budget when voted on in October.

After School Club Application Process

- A sample application to begin a scholarship program for students in need at Belmont was shared. Process was shared.
- 23 voted to add \$400 to the budget to support children in need at Belmont, towards a scholarship for an after school activity. Applications will be tweaked some from the draft handed out tonight and will be translated in Spanish as well. Applications will begin for spring clubs. All applications will go directly to the school rather than the PTA for confidentiality reasons. Students selected (up to 4 students receiving \$100.00 towards a club of choice per year) will be chosen in a lottery by Mr. Pinkowitz and notified.
- Some discussion/questions/comments on the new application and process included: having a direct deposit for families who want to contribute more to reach more students in need, what if siblings don't get a spot, limit the scholarship to once a year to make sure all students in need get chosen, some clubs will match or offer lower tuition to meet the families' needs,

can we add more money to the budget to support this. All suggestions will be taken into consideration as we try this in the spring and can tweak along the way.

#### Walking Club

- We still need volunteers for the Walking Club. Signup genius is posted on the pta website and will be sent out periodically via email. 575 miles walked/ran already!

#### Restaurant Nights

- Next Restaurant Night is January 23<sup>rd</sup> at California Tortilla. They give 25% to Belmont

#### Martin Luther King Night of Service

- Our next family fun event is MLK night on January 18<sup>th</sup>. More information to come. Jen R. is running the night with her committee.

#### Cultural Arts Assembly

- Students enjoyed an author study from Jonathan Roth late November. His *Beep* and *Bob* books are for sale. In December, students enjoyed a music and technology assembly from Carolyn Lin.

#### ***Guest Speaker: Mrs. Jennifer Kelly, Reading Specialist, Shifts in MCPS Reading Instruction***

- Mrs. Kelly prepared a powerpoint presentation on the shifts in the new reading program in MCPS. Mr. Pinkowitz introduced Mrs. Kelly as well versed in literacy and a leader who has really raised the bar for Belmont's staff and students.
- Mrs. Kelly shared how the new reading instruction looks at each grade level. Newest change is that complex text will be available to all students so that even on and below level readers will have access to rich text and will not fall further behind. Teachers will spend less time focusing on what leveled text each student is reading and pushing them towards higher level text. Instead rich text will be used for all students, below, on and above grade level students, and teachers scaffold and differentiate small group instruction based on the student's needs to access rich text.
- Mr. Pinkowitz shared that we have enough complex text right now to support the shifts in reading instruction, but also waiting on the new curriculum, implemented in Fall 2019, to see what additional materials and needs the school will have.
- Mrs. Kelly will provide community with a list of grade level appropriate books to have at home. Reading to and with your child and asking them about what they have read is the best you can do for your child. Mr. Pinkowitz said "leave the rest to the school."
- Any additional questions and comments should be directed to Mrs. Kelly.

Meeting adjourned – Next meeting February 5; Tuesday, 7pm; *Speaker: Mrs. Padilla, Belmont School Counselor*