**Bradley Hills Elementary School**

**PTA General Membership Meeting**

**November 10, 2020**

**October 6 Meeting - In Attendance**: Molly Wilson, Jen Villani, Carolyn Figoten, Dave Filbeck, Veronica Velez-Burgess, Katie Iversen, Joanna Marsh, Kate Linde-Kogan, Laurel Keating, Anne Reid, Anne Sherman, Shelby Pike, Karen Caroscio, EunHee Cho, Vicki Pike, Cristina La Rocca-Wynn, Anna Broome, Libbie Rozofsky, Amie Park, Jenni Weinstein, Amanda Spergel, Brian Ryckman, Faith Ezrailson, Hillary Johnson, Jordana Paul, Kit Leininger, Libby Henninger, Lisa Wallace, Megan Pritts, Melissa Miller, Orly Mezrahi, Pamela Horn, R. Wakefield, Elizabeth Haile, Sarah Zetterli, Shogun Hong, Srotalina Khanna, Donna Jones, Paula Pinha, Asante Dixon, Amanda MacVey, Jason Kornegay, (several attendees had incomplete names in their virtual profile)

Molly Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:32pm, welcomed everyone and said it has been a busy month of PTA outreach with programs and events, including: community service efforts, Bingo Night, a second drive-in movie night, read-aloud sessions and PTA membership gains.

Jen Villani introduced Mrs. Caroscio to begin a principal Q&A session to discuss important topics in our school community.

**Principal’s Q&A Session (Mrs. Caroscio)**

Mrs. Caroscio presented a slide show with the health matrix the county is using to make in-person/virtual learning decisions, information about what the school will look like in-person, the models that she will choose from if we return to in-person learning, and ways administrators are preparing for a return to school. She then took questions that had been submitted by the school community ahead of time as well as a few written during the meeting. The session was recorded and a link will be sent to parents but a brief summary is below:

* **SURVEY**: MCPS survey sent to families to fill out for EACH child to select in-person or to continue virtual once return to school possible. Many decisions will be based on survey results, including: staffing, which school buildings will open, transportation. Many questions won’t be answered until they know how many students will come back - including if students will remain with same teacher, at home school building, if additional staff may be necessary, which learning model/experience will be used, what “hybrid” means or will look like.
* **Wednesday schedule change**: There were concerns around screen time, wellness, stamina. Morning blocks are now for review and clarification, afternoons were originally for that purpose with small groups as needed. Teachers will share resources and ideas for independent learning time.
* **MAP Testing/Learning Loss**: Best thing to help maintain reading skills is have students read/be read to for at least 30 minutes a day. Math is trickier and is a big focus because concepts must be understood in order to then build on them. Between 2nd & 3rd grade usually see a dip in MAP scores because taking MAP-P vs. MAP-M. Resources to help stay on top of math: using Zearn, IXL (3rd and 4th grade).
* **Playground Access:** Because the school building is a public facility it can be rented when not in use. RDCA child care has a contract with the county to use BHES classrooms and playgrounds during the day. Pre-Covid intermingling with students after school was fine but now with county’s limitations they have priority. The blacktops, field, and small playground on the corner of Madison & Hempstead are open for our community’s use all day, but the kindergarten and larger playgrounds are only open when not being used by RDCA.
* **School Photos**: Lifetouch equipment is not conducive to outdoor pictures so will take pictures in the APR. If choose to use another professional photographer you can still submit picture to the yearbook but they will be put on a candid page.

Jen thanked Mrs. Caroscio for her time and answering questions for our first Q&A.

Anne Sherman moved to approve the October 6, 2020, PTA General Membership meeting minutes. The motion passed 24-1.

Ms. Park, BHES media specialist, told everyone that the library’s “Holds-to-go” program will start tomorrow - Nov. 11. Students can sign up to reserve books from the school’s library ahead of time and pick them up on Wednesdays.

**Membership (Dave Filbeck)**

Dave reported that the PTA added 39 new members in October to bring us to 70% membership. Directory access was closed for non-members at the end of October. Hard copies of the directory will be sent to PTA members in December.

**Community Engagements & Events (Shelby Pike):**

Shelby reported that the Halloween weekend drive-in movie was a big success with almost complete attendance (limited to 50 cars total) and they hope to host another one soon.

**Enrichment (Veronica Velez-Burgess)**

* **EYB:** Veronica shared that the first EYB pod took place today. Students met on Zoom after school and presented and shared projects they had worked on to a student group. This is an ongoing program and we hope students will take advantage of this opportunity to learn from and interact with each other. Wednesdays are a good time to have your child work on it and be on the lookout for more EYB sign ups.
* **Community Service**:
  + **Distribution Event:** Veronica and Becky Trent coordinated a big distribution event for our sister school, Weller Road ES, on Friday, Oct. 9, with donations of books, groceries, baked goods, and other supplies going to students and families there.
  + **Read-Aloud:** Reminder that each Thursday there are read-aloud sessions with BHES and WRES students
  + **Warm Clothing Drive:** There is a warm clothing drive coming up. Weller Road signaled that leggings for girls and coats for older boys are in high need but more information will be sent to the school community soon.
  + **Volunteers Needed:** Veronica said that the community service team could really use 3-4 more parent volunteers.

**Volunteer Chair (Joanna Marsh)**

* Joanna reiterated the need for volunteers for the Community Service Committee. There are a lot of events and more help is needed to make them a success.
* Joanna also gave a shout out to room parents for putting together amazing Halloween parties for the students under very limiting conditions using the virtual platform. Thank you to all of our fantastic room parents!!

**Communications (Katie Iversen)**

Katie said to keep sending information by Saturday to go into the Weekly Whale.

**MCCPTA/Cluster (Laurel Keating & Anne Reid):**

* Advocacy Priorities were discussed at the most recent MCCPTA meeting.
* Boundary Analysis meetings have continued.
* A survey will be sent out Nov. 11 regarding in-person learning.
* MCPS is hosting a virtual conversation Nov. 11 about returning to school.
* Virtual learning continues to be the biggest focus. County wants to be clear and transparent but there seems to be some question about who (Smith, BOE, health officials) will make the final call for returning to school.
* Mrs. Caroscio reminded attendees there will be an Anti Defamation League (ADL) presentation tomorrow (Nov. 11) at 9:30am, topic is giving parents tools to talk to kids about race.

**Budget Update/Vote (Kate Linde-Kogan)**

Kate went over income/expenses and reminded those in attendance, to whom it applies, to submit their forms for reimbursement.

Mrs. Caroscio said she has planned for our school psychologist to give a virtual talk to the BHES community on anxiety and anger on Thursday, December 3 at 7pm.

Jen Villani thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.