

**Ben Franklin High School Association  
Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2009**

President Dennis Kay brought the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Kay asked for suggestions for future meetings. Judy Zanchi suggested that we have Michelle Cullison speak at our General Membership Meeting in October. Cullison spoke to the Association on using the Internet in April, 2009.

Minutes

Secretary Libby Black asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of 3/17/2009. Isabel Medina moved that the minutes be accepted and Josephine Everly seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Black also asked for a motion to approve the General Membership Meeting of 4/21/2009. Nancy Olinde moved that the minutes be accepted and Isabel Medina seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Leslie Clark reported that the Association spent \$114.30 over revenue in our last fiscal year. Additional funds are still coming in from our participation in the Frühlingsfeier, in the spring. The Silent Auction at the festival netted \$5000 overall.

Zanchi and Medina made suggestions toward incorporating a listing of how the Association spends money into the Membership Directory. Christy Read and Dennis Kay agreed to draft a set of bulleted points about how the association's funds are spent, for the directory, newsletter and website. Rachel Becker, parent liaison suggested that BFHSA provide a section in the Liaison Newsletter.

Mary Beth Myer-Caronna suggested adding BFHSA Membership to the list of items that parents pay for at Registration. She asked if there were any legal obstacles to doing this.

Tina Le discussed using a fair as a fundraiser. Ideas included recognizing sponsoring businesses on a banner.

Principal's Report

Dr. Timothy Rusnak reviewed the some of the school's financial dynamics. The Post-Katrina era of federal dollars is over. We currently receive \$8247/student. The percentage of students eligible for free lunch is not enough to justify additional assistance from the federal government. Our roll is slowly increasing. Pre-Katrina Ben Franklin enrolled 936 students. We have grown from 558 in the 2008-2009 school-year to an enrollment of 615 for the 2009-2010 school year. Dr. Rusnak projects continued growth in student enrollment. We currently have a

15:1 Student-Teacher ratio, one which is very competitive with the private schools.

The administration recently did a thorough survey of the facility and how many students it could adequately support. The school is aiming for a “break-even budget. Our endowment will not be touched as a means of funding the school.

#### Faculty Liaison

Gerald Schumacher gave a brief update on the teachers. Teachers are now teaching 6 periods, with one academic planning period and one study hall. There is less time for planning available.

#### Membership

Josephine Everly discussed our strategy for membership. She thinks that even at \$40/family, we are unlikely to get 500 families to join. We need to be strategic and have clear goals for fundraising.

Isabel Medina reports that production of the Membership Directory is proceeding well.

#### Hospitality/Social Events

Charlston Britton discussed the need for a New Parent Social. Dr. Rusnak said that a September date is okay.

#### Admissions

Millie Denegre reported that the school has admitted new students consisting of 184 Freshman, 48 Sophomores and 11 Juniors. New students are from 72 schools, 15 states and 2 foreign countries. 141 new students are from public schools and 101 are from private schools.

#### Registration

Nancy Olinde reported that Registration went smoothly. She had 10 volunteers.

#### Career Day

Judy Zanchi reports that Career Day is scheduled but no date has been chosen yet.

#### Education

Olle Kjellgren will speak to Dr. Rusnak about ideas that need to be developed.

#### Student Support

Susan Weeks reported that the New Student seminars are going well with two more planned.

#### Transportation

People are trying to get buses lined up for New Orleans East and the Mid-City/Lakeview areas. Rachel Becker is the Parent Liaison for this.

Judy Zanchi noted that the position of Volunteer Coordinator is not on the list of officers.

August 26<sup>th</sup> is the Open House. Dennis will welcome parents after Dr. Rusnak speaks. Tina Le will see what the school needs regarding food.

Dennis asked Leslie Clark to email the budget to him so that the membership can approve the budget at the next meeting. Our General Membership meetings are traditionally scheduled for October and April but all meetings are open.