

**Ben Franklin High School Association
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009**

The Ben Franklin High School Association met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. President Dennis Kay started the meeting at 6:35 in the Library. All attendees introduced themselves.

Secretary Libby Black asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2009 meeting. Charlston Britton asked for clarification if we decided that BFHSA dues would be paid at next year's registration. The Board agreed that that conversation was correctly captured in the minutes. Rachel Becker asked that the minutes be amended to show that teachers are now teaching 6 periods, with one academic planning period and one study hall. Isabel Medina moved that the 8/18/09 Minutes be approved as amended. Josephine Everly seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

There was a discussion on whether BFHSA membership money should be collected as part of registration or separately. Christy Read said the money must be collected separately. Dr. Timothy Rusnak suggested that we clear up our 501 C3 status first then discuss the best way to collect membership. A question was asked if we offer discounts for single parent families. The cost of membership is the same for any type of family.

Principal's Report

Dr. Rusnak announced that he feels the school year is off to a good start. The administration wants to hire substitute teachers to cover study halls and ease the workload of our teachers. We are expecting a 10-15% increase in the student body next year. He suggested that BFHSA help raise funds to hire the additional teachers. Several suggestions were made regarding where to find potential employees including Teach for America and the teacher certification programs at the University of New Orleans and Tulane University.

Faculty Liaison

Mr. Schumacher announced that the teachers were enjoying the copying service being manned by parent volunteers.

Treasurer's Report

Leslie Clark passed out the 2008-2009 budget. There was a discussion of the value and purpose of the student directory. Dr. Rusnak reiterated that it has been advised that we do not put the directory of the web site for security reasons. Isabel Medina predicts that the cost of printing the directory will increase as our student body grows.

Dennis Kay asked that each Committee Chair send their budget request to Libby Black, Leslie Clark and himself by 9/25/09 so that a budget can be compiled for approval at the October meeting. Rachel Becker announced that BFHSA will be getting an additional \$2,464.50 as our share of the proceeds from the Frühlingsfeier Silent Auction.

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Development

Other fundraising activities at the school now include the sale of a Macy's discount coupon and a Barnes and Noble book fair to benefit the *Riverbend Review*. Walgreens and Rouses are selling items imprinted with the Ben Franklin name but the school is not making money from these sales. Christy Read announced that the school was discussing having a promotional night with Reginelli's restaurant. Other ideas for fundraising include signing up for donations through a Target credit card, using Good Search on the Internet and talking to Winn-Dixie about possible promotions.

Alumni Association

Dennis Kay announced for Min Yang that the Alumni Association plans to make a contribution to the Homecoming event and to host a Faculty Appreciation Dinner on 12/12/09.

Directory

Isabel Medina announced that the Student Directory was complete and showed a copy to the group.

Career Day

The Faculty is submitting some ideas for Career Day.

General Membership Meeting

The General Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2009. Dennis said that Michelle Cullison agreed to speak and he would like to offer her an honorarium. Dennis asked for approval to offer her an honorarium up to \$100. Isabel Medina moved to approve the honorarium, Gerald Schumacher seconded the motion and it passed with a voice vote. Jeanetta Phinney suggested the woman from the Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse as a speaker and will research her name. Dennis suggested this speaker for our General Membership meeting in the spring of 2010.

New Business

Dr. Rusnak announced that the school will be the recipient of the **2009 National Blue Ribbon School** award.

Ashley Thuy-Nguyen offered kudos to Suezanne Calvert for her help during the Open House.

Upcoming Events are scheduled as follows:

09/28/09: College Night

10/2/09: New Parent Social, in the courtyard of the school, 6:00 p.m.

10/20/09: BFHSA General Meeting

10/29/09: Admissions Open House, 6:30 p.m.

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Adjournment

Dennis Kay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Isabel Medina moved that we adjourn and it was approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.