

Bethpage High School
PTSA Meeting
September 13, 2011



The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Helen Sacklow. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presidents Report: The new Executive Board was introduced:

Co-Presidents – Lisa Mastanduno & Helen Sacklow Vice President – Mary Dunphy
Treasurer – Mary Ann Koenig Recording Secretary - Christine Reilly Corresponding Secretary – Ilyse Cuozzo.

Helen and Lisa welcomed everyone back to school and to the meeting - especially the new 9th grade parents. They thanked all for their help and support last year. If your child is new to BHS this year, we hope you will choose to be a part of your child's education by participating in the PTSA. Note that students are also encouraged and welcomed to join the PTSA as well as parents. We have monthly meetings - usually 1st Tuesday of the month. We had just under 600 members last year and are hoping to do that well this year too! Our membership fees are \$8.00 for adults and \$3.50 for students. Please be aware that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and have some fun along the way! Committee sign-up sheets will be sent around tonight.

Budget – Our 2011-2012 budget was presented for approval. A motion was made to accept the budget and was seconded.

Thank –You Cards – The Corresponding Secretary, Ilyse Cuozzo, read thank-you notes from last year's scholarship winners Dan Conway and Jillian Skuza.

Homecoming - Homecoming is set for 10/22 this year with the game scheduled for 1:30. Volunteers are needed to help sell PTSA merchandise – even if you can only come for an hour – your help is needed. We are looking into selling something different this year. The Dad's Club also needs volunteers to help out in the Hut selling food.

Textile Recycling – For those who don't know, PTSA has a textile recycling bin located by the pool. The blue bin has become a fundraising vehicle for us. Any old clothing, drapes, blankets, rugs, handbags, sneakers, and other textile items can be dropped off and we receive 13 cents a pound. That adds up and each month we get a check from anywhere from \$35 to \$113. Note: They don't accept books!

Welcome Back Breakfast – This Friday, 9/16 PTSA will be proving our teachers with a Welcome Back Breakfast that includes coffee, tea, hot fresh bagels and cream cheese platters.

Ninth Grade Orientation – On 8/24 the PTSA provided refreshments for the Ninth Grader Orientation. We served water, juices, cookies and muffins to all incoming freshman.

Safe Halloween – Two years BHS PTSA ago started a Safe Halloween Party for the children of Bethpage. It has been a huge success with a terrific turnout. The party will held on Friday, 10/28 this year from 6:00-8:00 pm. Any parent wishing to help out is welcomed. You will need to come in costume. A sign-up sheet is being passed around.

Principal's Report – Mr. Spence welcomed all to the meeting and introduced himself to the new parents. He wants all to know that his office has an open-door policy and he is always accessible to parents and students. If you have concerns, feel free to contact him. The January Regents are back this year due to private donations which is a great thing for our students. BHS has instituted a new Algebra II/Trig review class for all seniors who didn't pass the June Regents. These classes are offered 1st and 9th period typically when seniors are free and so far 35 kids are taking advantage of it. There was lots of work done on the High School over the summer and it shows as our building is in great shape. They hope to have the conversion to Natural Gas completed by the Winter. We have a new food vendor this year. All 9th Graders will meet with their counselors this month to do an intake form so they can get to know each other. The Pep Rally is set for 9/23. Once again the district is offering students free access to Peterson's Online Test Prep for SAT, PSAT, SAT II, ACT and AP tests. Please encourage your children to use this great resource. BHS welcomed 13 new staff members this year – some are leave replacements, some have moved up from the Middle School or Elementary. Parent Portal is up and running. Back to School night for High School is 9/15 at 7 p.m. Grades 9-12 will all be attending assemblies about the use of iPods, Phones, rules, etc. and encourage to work to their highest ability as well as looking out for each other. BHS had a great year last year as far as high scores on Regents, AP tests, etc. This year we will continue to offer Challenge Day on 12/7 and 12/8 for the 10th Graders. The Senior Seminar CORE group raised over \$20,000 to furnish/redo 2 children playrooms at NUMC. New to our school this year is a Peer Mentoring Program where 20-25 seniors have been trained over the summer and will be teamed up with students who need support. They will meet throughout the year and possibly attend events together. A group of Teachers have also been trained by Long Island Mentoring and will be teamed up with 11th Graders. The 21st Century and Guidance Dept. will be offering programs where professional will come and talk about their careers after school to students. Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested in speaking to the students. Mr. Spence reminded us that the Academic Center is open to all students. Help is available for English, Social Studies, Math and Science. The room is 223 and the schedule is posted on the BHS homepage right at the top. There are so many opportunities for all students to get involved in clubs, etc. – please encourage them to do so. Tomorrow is picture day for 9-11th graders during their gym class.

Teacher's Report: - Ms. Samlick has returned as our teacher rep again this year. She is also the SPEC Advisor and one of her new initiatives is to get more kids involved in the Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach. The Teachers are very happy about the new computers – they are really fast and work better with the Smartboards. Next month she will speak about the Teacher Mentoring Program.

Dad's Club: Has been in existence for 55 years - it isn't just for football - it helps many sports, clubs, Wrestling Tournament and Honor Society Dinner as well as awards 9 scholarships. Membership is underway - fee is \$10.00 per family. We are selling mini calendars for \$3.00. Volunteers are needed for Homecoming and every home game. First meeting is 9/21 at 7:30 in Conference Room.

Moms/Dads for Music: First meeting will be 9/20 at 7:30 in Chorus Room. Membership is under way and they are always looking for new members. Fee is \$6.00. They support all music programs in all five schools. Money is also used for scholarships and trip to Hershey, etc.

New Business: We will research new items to sell at Homecoming and report back next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Reilly, Recording Secretary