

## Minutes of February 11, 2025 Bryant PTSA Meeting

**Attendees: Matt Hunt, Marika VanderSmith, Michael Polin, Alison Bettles, Anna Bonnett, Alex Jones, David McKnight, Leah Rutman, Tiffany Courtnage**

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

- Anna made a motion to adopt the January meeting minutes. Michael seconded. Minutes unanimously adopted.
- Marika discussed upcoming events
  - The Open House was canceled due to the snow day and will now be Feb 27
  - Hunger Service Projects are upcoming later in March
  - Art Night is April 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Science Night is currently tentatively scheduled for May 14 or 15 but group agreed that we should try to move it up since that is very late in the year
- Partner Updates
  - Dr. Marshall Update:
    - § Marika and Mat met with Dr. Marshall. Marika shared that Dr. Marshall is looking at funding a counselor position next year instead of a social worker. She shared that teachers and staff feel a counselor would be helpful to have for the school and could provide preventative interventions as opposed to emergent support. The staff will discuss and vote on this on March 5. Marika noted that this position is not funded by the PTSA and this would come out of the schools budget.
    - § March 5 is the meeting where school teachers and staff will discuss the budget for next year. Dr. Marshall would like to meet with Matt and Marika on Feb 27 in advance of that discussion. The Treasurer team will try to look at proposed budgeting for next year in advance of that time to determine a tentative staffing grant that could be available. The group discussed that it would be good to have the treasurers attend the budget meeting as well. Dr. Marshall has also said they will ask for PTSA funding for reading and technology teachers and that Ms. Aliverti would like to be restored to .8 (from .6).
    - § The group discussed the ongoing conversation with Dr. Marshall about the lack of IXL access this year. The group agreed that paying for an IXL

license when the district provides required math software doesn't make sense unless the teachers would use IXL a lot in their classrooms. Alex confirmed that he doesn't think there would be room for teachers to use both the district software and IXL in the classroom since there is not enough time. The group agreed that we should ask Dr. Marshall to talk about IXL and math extension at the general meeting in March.

§ Dr. Marshall did not have an update on the sub staffing issue that was discussed at the last meeting

§ A potential playground remodel was discussed with Dr. Marshall. She shared that different parents have been trying to get this to happen since 2007. Marika was given all historical materials and it looks like up to \$50,000 in grant money may be available from the City. Marika will reach out to the Neighborhoods department at the City to get more info and will talk to Amy Schoenfelt to understand other potential funding sources, including whether a trust is still available that names Bryant as a beneficiary. The group also discussed that to make this project happen would need to form a committee. The group also discussed that if the BEX levy passes, it could provide some funding.

§ Enrollment is currently projected at 483. Dr. Marshall is optimistic that the school will be allocated another teacher so we can get rid of the split classroom next year.

- LASER

§ The group agreed that we need to engage LASER to understand whether they plan to lock the playground gates during summer time. The group discussed asking for them to unlock the gates during field trips. Matt will reach out to discuss.

§ Laser will provide childcare and pizza for the general membership meeting next month

- Presidents Update

- Yearbook: More photos are needed. Will send out this in the blast and also ask room parents to post in their Whats App groups
- Financial Review committee: Have identified 2 volunteers for this. David will coordinate directly with them.
- Nominating Committee. Have identified volunteers. Soliciting nominations is underway.

- Treasurers' Report
  - Financial Update is in the materials.
  - David shared that trying to get a better understanding of whether additional matching funds will be received.
- Advocacy
  - Leah shared that bill increasing school funding are moving through the legislature but there is still an opportunity for us to express support. She will be asking room parents to push out this info since often times the Blast timing does not align with legislative deadlines.
  - Today is election day so we will know soon whether the BEX levy passed. It does have some dollars allocated to Bryant.
  - There is a group advocating at the school board meeting tomorrow for HCC services to continue. We expect this to be a hot topic at our March general membership meeting
- Volunteer Update
  - Anna shared that have found volunteers for the nominating and financial review committees. Also soliciting volunteers to help with auction support and blast. They are making an effort to reach out to groups with younger children (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> grade)