

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

BQMT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 3:36PM

Attendee	Present (P)	Absent (A)
Principal Heck	P	
Assistant Principal LoGuidice	P	
Parent Michelle O'Reilly	P	
Parent Kesha Rodriguez	P	
Parent Cindy Balsam-Martz	P	
Parent Zohra Jamal	P	
Parent Patty Monaco	P	

Principal's Report

Spring Musical "Grease" is coming up this weekend (3/18-3/20)

- The class of 1950 and 1960 has been involved with this event and has donated the photos which are displayed in the lobby.
- In addition to reserving 50 tickets for the matinee performance on Sunday they will take the cast to Bischoff's after the show.
- Friday, March 13 will be dress up like 1959 day and the production will do a Grease sing-a-long during lunch time in the student center.

The THS Varsity Basketball team:

- Is doing very well, they will play next Tuesday, March 22 against St. Anthony's and are currently in the final four.
- He had luncheon with the basketball champs on Monday, March 14, 2016.

The THS Robotics team:

- Championship held today and they surpassed Bergen Academy's. Their final presentation is scheduled for April and if they make it through, it would be appropriate to have some positive press coverage for a change.
- Mr.Heck bought and paid for the team to have jackets.

Upcoming events:

March 31, 2016 – Pep rally

April 1, 2016 – Iron Chef Competition

April 7, 2016 – College Fair (AM) & the Senior Class Fashion Show (PM)

(Mr.Heck was not aware of any Orchestra Concert being held on this day).

April 20, 2016 – Career Day (60 Alumni have been invited and confirmed attendance)

Follow-Up Action Items:

PARCC Testing

- Dates & Delayed Opening Schedule (Math 4/19, 4/20, 4/21 & Language Arts 4/26, 4/27, 4/28) are pending approval by the Superintendent & Board of Education at tonight's meeting.
- Schools Goals for this year's testing:
- Improving and changing the testing atmosphere
- NJDOE requirements are that 95% of the students take the exam. THS had 88% take the math and 90% take the Language Arts portion. So in total the school had a shortage of 5%.
- The district is working on ways to motivate, teachers, parents and students to take the PARCC
- They are still being encouraged to take both the PARCC and HESPA
- This year, as is done for the PSAT, the school is asking for delayed openings which will run between 3-6 days, which fall on a Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday.

CBM Question: Who is the legislative contact for concerns about PARCC

- Heck Response: The superintendent Barbara Pinsak, has a contact/liaison they work with.
- Kesha Response: Anyone of the folks listed on the Education Committee, who sits in either the Senate or Assembly are the ones to reach out to.

Heck: Has been getting questions from parents/students on why the test has to be taken every year? What's the point of taking this over and over?

- His response to them is that it's a standardized test that tracks performance of the student and teacher. It's another assessment opportunity to test the common core. What he believes they should look at is if you've taken the test over a 3-yr period then it shouldn't count after that. For students who choose not to take it they will be allowed to come to school but sit and read a book.
- The opt-out option is still the right of the student and parent, although it's not the desired outcome for the district. Montclair had 78% participation rate, Ridgewood had 80% participation. It's still just a snapshot. We can accomplish all the grades and students with the delayed openings. The minimizing of students will allow the schools wireless to work better, since their less cell phones in the building drawing from it.

Donation:

THS is proud to have received a very generous donation of a "3D Laser Cutter," from the Martz Family. This is a significant technological device that supports the making and creating of objects for engineering and robotic projects. It does engraving and will complement the 3D Printer we currently house in room 222 (Mr. Montserrat's Room), which can now be designated as a "MakerSpace." These MakerSpace rooms are ones that the most elite high schools, i.e., like BAC and colleges have to support STEM projects, but in reality they can be used for any class requiring a new object or creation.

National Honor Society

- Mr. LoGuidice has nothing to report as he hasn't had any more discussions since Mr. McHale spoke with subject supervisors.

Community Outreach

- Ms. O'Reilly has gone out to the Rodda Senior Center and invited them to the Sunday Matinee of Grease. Whether they attend or not is up to them.
- Generation RX presentation has been scheduled for Friday, March 18 @ 1:30PM. It's a discussion about the effects of prescription drugs.
- Today a DUI presentation was made to the 10th Graders that have just completed their Drivers Ed. The presenter was well received and did a wonderful job.

School Safety

- Ms. O'Reilly brought up the concerns about all of the Bomb Threat (Swatting), the interest of students going home and perhaps if they were marked absent/truant it would deter them from doing that.
 - Mr. LoGiudice Response if the parent picks up they cannot be truant.
 - Mr. Heck said the conversation about swatting came up during a countywide emergency management meeting he attended. The decision to leave or stay in is dependent on how specific the threats are. He felt they could stay in on the 3rd one because it was not specific and went countywide. They've been advised that if it's a Hoax threat it's considered that keeping the students inside is safer than sending them out into potential danger. During the last one the students stayed in class and the dogs were brought in to search. In all the years that bomb threats have been called in, the police have never found one thing. Most calls are hoaxes.

(Swatting began with Students who were gaming and the loser would call the police to have the winner's house searched for weapons, drugs etc. all the while watching the police enter and interrupt the gamer on the other end.)

- So far they have caught one person in TX and that's because he was dumb enough to post something on social media about what he did. Heck's goal is to notify parents with ROBO calls, text, emails before the kids get to them.
- He says that parents need to understand students are still being taught during a Shelter-in-Place exercises and that information was disseminated at PTSO meetings. During every incident an Incident Command Center is created, all resources are at the Command Center, all personnel is spoken to and receives direct information. Parents need to understand that when the police are involved it takes time to clear the building.

New Business

- MO Question: Rumors – Cutting the football team?
 - Mr. Heck Response: There has been zero communication with him about this. What has come up as it relates to the football is the safety concern as highlighted in the movie "concussion" This also goes to soccer, but parents should know that doctors/trainers go to every game. What we need to ensure is that our helmets are top quality. The conditioners in them get old and need replacing. Coaching techniques have changed and must be adhered to. We have a freshman Basketball and Volleyball.
- PM Question: What Division is we now playing football in? Will our students be traveling to i.e., Paterson, Jersey City?

- Mr., Heck Response: not sure but the basketball team for example always gets escorted by Teaneck police.
- MO Question: Now that the weather is getting better, do we need to worry about fights? One was reported to her that happened this week.
 - Mr. Heck: Said yes a student from Englewood HS went after one of our students.
- ZJ Question: Following up on PT Conference discussion about grading policies.
 - Mr. LoGiudice: Explained that some teachers no matter what, will always score the student no higher than 9 out of a perfect 10. It's a culture that some have developed mostly our more seasoned staff. The intent is to enforce the fact that students can always do a bit more. It is not an official grading policy for the district.
 - Suggestions made by parents in attendance is that they should err on the positive, so that they student can compete with high grade inflation that goes on in other districts, making them more competitive. Students need to advocate for themselves let their guidance and assistant principals know what's going on.
- CBM concerns about the bars in the dance studio needing repair?
 - LoGiudice said a work order must be submitted and that D'Angelo would handle the repair of that and/or replacement if necessary.

Next & Last Meeting: May 18, 2016

Meeting Adjourned: 4:33PM Minutes respectfully submitted by Kesha Rodriguez

BQMT Meeting 3/28/16

Meeting begins at 5:21pm

1) DAT Report: Mrs. Francis reported that the next DAT meeting would be this Thursday, March 31st.

2) What's New at BFMS:

Women's Day was a HUGE success at BFMS. Ms. Williams mentioned that this year the assembly had a different format which focused more on the Guest Speakers and less on BFMS songs/dances. This year girls were given the opportunity to go to a wide variety of different workshops including: Coding, Virtual Surgery, Catapult making, etc. New to the day this year was also a "Women's Power Brunch" where women who attended were invited to brainstorm ways to help empower our female students. The feedback from the girls was outstanding. All women received a "STEAM" shirt to wear to the event.

3) Upcoming events:

* Men's Day: Mr. Deubel mentioned that Men's Day will be June 13th. BFMS will look to follow a similar format to that of Women's Day format once a theme is selected.

* Pasta Night is March 31st and being organized by our 8th grade committee. The BFMS cafeteria will turn into an Italian restaurant. 8th grade volunteers will serve and seat guests as 8th grade parents and teachers prepare the dishes. We have reached out to some local business for food donations (La Famiglia, Vitale's, etc) with success.

* The annual BF vs. TJ basketball game is in the works. The tentative date is Wednesday, March 18th. This year's game will be hosted at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

4) Grade Level Liaisons – none of our grade level liaisons received any correspondence this month from the BFMS community.

5) Appetite for Success Liaisons:

Mrs. Greaux-Gist has a forensic technologist who would be interested in being part of our program. She also made mention that after Wrestlemania 2016 she will have a representative from the WWE as well. Mr. Howell has arranged for former New York Giant Super Bowl Champion, Lee Rouson, to speak with all four grade levels on March 31st. Mr. Howell is still waiting to hear back from an architect he contacted. Mrs. Williams suggested that BFMS create an Appetite for Success bulletin board to display photos and other memorabilia as further advertisement for the program. Mrs. Greaux-Gist suggested the school look to partner with a local business as she does at her job. She felt it would be a great connection for the students and the school. Mrs. Williams commented that she had done this at her previous school as well.

6) High School Transition Night:

Teaneck High School will be hosting a High School Transition Night on April 26th at 7pm. Mr. Deubel mentioned that this would be a great opportunity for 7th and 8th grade families to receive more information about the high school. This was part of a discussion last month and Mr. Deubel mentioned that the BQMT's work and suggestion doesn't fall on deaf ears.

Good of the Order/ Open Forum:

* Gym Décor – a banner will hopefully be created in time for the Pep Rally for Marking Period 3 Honor Roll students (Welcome to Benjamin Franklin Middle School).

* Essay Contest- Mrs. Williams spoke about the school-wide essay contest. Students wrote essays in Social Studies class pertaining to the topic of “Breaking Barriers” which was based on a few of Jackie Robinson’s principles. The school will be selecting winners based on a rubric created by Mrs. Williams. In addition, Mrs. Williams has submitted numerous essays to Scholastic for possible publication.

* Paint Night – the first BFMS Paint Night will be held on April 1st in Maywood. Tickets are \$40 a person and guests are invited to attend.

* A discussion began about the need/importance of summer assignments. Several members voiced their concern over the value of the assignments if they weren’t graded and returned in a timely manner. Some members felt that it was a positive way to keep kids working over the summer months but others wanted to see it used as a great assessment tool. Mr. Deubel agreed to have a discussion with teachers prior to the assignment being distributed for this summer.

6:38 meeting closed

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BQMT Meeting
Minutes – March 9, 2016

Attendance:

Ms. Louann Harbaugh
Ms. Debra Benitez
Ms. Theresa Brown
Ms. Rachel Ramos
Mr. Joshua Brown

Ms. Benitez reviewed the findings of the BQMT Food Service Youth Advisory Committee meeting which took place on February 22, 2016. Students said they didn't have enough time to eat lunch. They discussed the design and ways to speed up the process. They wondered if parents could help during lunch. Ms. Ramos is available on Wednesdays.

The committee discussed implementing "A Week Of Awareness and "Words Can Hurt." They would like parents to help with this. A robocall will be going out to parents advising them of Awareness Week and to reinforce the message "Words Can Hurt." Teachers will be added to robocalls.

On March 19th, the PTO is having a movie event at Teaneck Cinema. Participants will see the movie, "Allegiant" and receive popcorn and a soda for \$10.00. It is a fundraiser for the 8th grade. It will be announced in the weekly robocall and in the morning announcements.

Ms. Harbaugh said that 8th grader, Suresh Bhiri is being mean to the other students. She would like this addressed.

The 8th Grade Committee has discussed the possibility of selling Thomas Jefferson Middle School T-shirts for Spirit Week.

The 8th Grade Committee has also discussed having a TJ vs. BF Basketball Competition. Ms. Brown will discuss this further with Mr. Wilson tomorrow.

The committee discussed possibly launching a Creative Design Contest for 2016/2017.

Presently, the School Store is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Ms. Ramos asked if it could also be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with student volunteers. The 8th graders could do this for community service that could be applied to their high school community service hours requirement.

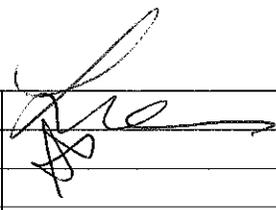
One of the committee members mentioned that there is a very large pothole near the parking lot entrance that needs to be fixed. Also, there should be signs at the parking lot entrances saying "School Personnel Only," and "Time Restrictions Reserved" by the visitor parking spots. Parents also need to follow the rule of "One Way Only" when picking up by the Salem Street entrance. It was suggested that we change the entrance for 5th and 6th graders to the Hartwell circle. There are only 1 or 2 teachers at the Fycke Lane entrance to supervise.

The next BQMT meeting will take place on April 20, 2016

BQMT Minutes

March 1, 2016

Present:

L. Abrew	
A. Jackson	
A. Yopez	
S. Turhan	

School Updates:

1. Update- School Safety Meeting- February 4, 2016
 - a. Marisa King, Supervisor visited to share the curricula material that can be used to address social skills/ character education needs. Samples will be sent over for review
2. Yearbook Meeting- rescheduled to Wednesday, March 23
 - a. All staff will get 1:1 training and passwords received- Liz Vazquez
3. PTO Scholastic Book Fair- week of 3/28/ Family Fun Night 3/29
4. FLIPS planning for April Meeting
5. Autism Awareness Activities- April 22
6. Update on playground funding/ PTO fundraising/ grants
7. Friendship Week (all school Activity)- April 2016
 - a. Guidance Outreach will work with all teachers to address social skills, friendship and play as a proactive approach to address "end of the year" behaviors that often occur
8. Update on Solar Panels- L. Abrew
9. Installation of SMART board, Room 29
10. BQMT 16-17/ Request parent participation at the May Open House
11. First Grade Visits/ Open House- May 26
12. Pre- School Application will be available- May 28
13. Career Thursdays, May 2016

Reports/ Concerns for Team:

- N/A
- Main Office- Needs end of the year office supplies (Moving up Supplies, paper)

Reports from DAT

- Not Available

-MLK

-Donor's Cheese