**Briar Woods HS PTSO**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting due to Covid-19 Virus**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm

**In attendance:**

Leslie Moore, Nina Yeskis, Sian Baumann, Shelia Alzate

**Minutes:**

June Meeting Minutes were approved

Special Meeting/Election Minutes for Treasurer approved

Special Meeting/Election Minutes for President approved

**Sheila Alzate – Principal Update**

* New staff members/teachers have been in to meet with the Administration and their departments.
* Working on permission for an in-person teacher retreat for August 31st. 9am to noon. This would be traditionally followed by the PTSO Welcome back luncheon. Due to Covid 19, not sure any of this will be allowed.
* This is a marathon not a sprint! The Administration will work to supply teachers with agendas, guides etc. to meet the new needs of virtual and eventually hybrid teaching. Work that is educationally founded that show results.
* The idea was to create, in a virtual setting, a positive inclusive climate for our students. This year will focus on personalized learning to advance all students
* Teachers are learning various platforms to enhance learning.
* Teachers have been spending the summer researching how to enhance this year’s virtual learning.
* One teacher took courses to be certified as a virtual instructor.
* 9 new teachers have joined BWHS
* Schoology is the new app that LCPS will use this school year.
  + To communicate with parents to avoid a flood of communication. Parents/guardian with multiple students were overwhelmed with copies of the same communication.
  + Schoology will allow direct postings by Principals.
  + Schoology has a master schedule.
  + Lessons on how to access and use Schoology will be posted
  + Schoology interfaces with google
  + Schoology does not replace Parent Vue
  + Phoenix is the official gradebook, and must be updated every 6 days
* In the survey that went out, was there a recurrent theme or themes?
  + Feeling that Students were left to learn on their own
  + Content mismatch on what they were being graded on and what was being presented
* Response to survey
  + Develop a common platform across all departments and within each department. Example: by the end of English 9 all students will have mastered these skills, have completed equitable assessments
  + At the beginning of Classes there will be diagnostic assessments to see what material is already mastered and what needs to be mastered. This will help teachers understand what knowledge is being brought to the class.
  + A focus on what needs to be mastered. Example retake of test only for portion of test not passed.
  + Teachers must complete 4 modules on the new initiative. This initiative includes grading policies, testing policies
  + Currently putting together, a power point for Teacher orientation and Back to School night. PTSO is invited to submit slides.
  + BWHS buildings are on closed status, essential employees only at this time
  + Scheduling is open for meetings in building no general public access

**Leslie Moore - President’s Update**

* The draft budget for the 2020-2021 school year reflects significantly reduced funds from ACT/SAT practice testing and Kaplan classes.

BWHS PTSO is in a strong cash position, so the draft budget is negative $5000.

* A Kaplan check from spring 2019 is outstanding.
* Back to school lunch/teacher welcome, proposed cookies for new teachers on in-person day and Panera gift card for all teachers. $2000 approved unanimously.
* Signature transfer for all BWHS PTSO accounts was completed, and a new debit card will be issued from the bank.
* Treasury audit was completed
* Logins for the Square account and the PayPal account will be transferred from Debbie Norberg
* The BWHS PTSO will pitch membership to teachers on the August 31st meeting through a video slide presentation. Information for presentation to Leslie by August 25th. Presentation to Sheila by August 27th
* The BWHS PTSO payment website needs to have clearer instructions on how to add extra donation Sian will look at payment site and update.
* BWHS PTSO will supply BWHS facemasks for new teachers or any that did not pick them up last year
* There are masks leftover from the original production, motion was made to buy them from the company and then sell them. Motion passed.
* Yearbook distribution was great!
* Underclassmen pictures for this year will be done the same as Senior pictures.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:53**