

Bloomfield High School Home and School Association Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2016

Meeting called to order by Joanne Christiansen, HSA President, at 7:04pm

For your convenience, all underlined links in this document are “clickable” and will take you to the respective page/email if you are connected to the internet.

Flag Salute

Welcome/Intro:

- President Joanne Christiansen welcomed all to first meeting of 16/17 school year
- Acknowledged new BHS parents/guardians, as well as those with students in other grades
- Introduced board (Jen Vigna – Vice President; Bridgit Burton Brown – Secretary)
- Noted that the treasurer position is open; welcomed attendees to speak with her for more information; acknowledged Josie Domingo’s service in the role

Secretary’s Report – Bridgit Burton Brown:

- Minutes from May 2016 meeting approved
- Shared that thank you notes were received from several scholarship winners; read one letter
- Provided financial report; HSA checking account balance, as of 09/12/16 is \$4,143.15.

BOE Report – Catzel Bumpus:

- Several capital improvements to Bloomfield Schools took place over the summer (ex. new roofs, kitchen upgrades); some work is ongoing
- District welcomed new staff for 16/17 year, including an assistant superintendent, science and social studies supervisors, and new assistant principals to BHS
- Technology rollout to students: BMS 7th graders and one 8th grade section received Chromebooks as part of phase one; in 2017 program expands to include 9th graders at BHS, plus additional classes at BMS (Note: Chromebooks are returned at the end of the school year)
- Encouraged parents to access PowerSchool and Naviance for updates on grades and other items
 - o PowerSchool: <https://ps.bloomfield.k12.nj.us/public/> (get access id/password from student’s school)
 - o Naviance: <https://succeed.naviance.com/auth/signin>
- Invited parents to upcoming BOE meetings; Sept 13 and Sept 27, 7:30pm in the Admin building

Principal’s Report – Mr. Chris Jennings:

- Many improvements to the school during the summer, including removal of “out of commission” boilers with no disruption to buildings; excited about space that was freed up
- 300 Chromebooks provided to BHS; 9th graders will use them in school; teachers receiving training on how to integrate technology into lessons
- BHS welcomed two new assistant principals:
 - o Liz Petrangeli: responsibilities include organizing how assessments are managed in the BHS community; will work to ensure better/easier practices for sharing/interpretation of results. BHS grad; previously a BHS teacher and subject supervisor; replaces Cyndie Schirm
 - o Sebastian Powell: responsibilities include overseeing scheduling process and related topics; will be admin liaison to HSA. Paraprofessional at Forest Glen early in career, taught abroad in Costa Rica, also has experience as an elementary principal, assistant principal and athletic director; replaces John Pierce
- Student schedule updates ongoing; parents may reach out to counselors or to him, if needed
- BHS “Core Values” (posted in front of school): Addresses what ideas are the “backbone” of BHS. With input from teachers, students and administrators, developed statements that represent BHS community
- Free/Reduced Lunch: free reduced lunch status from last year in effect until Oct 15; 16/17 application is online <https://www.heartlandapps.com/Terms.aspx?host=bloomfieldk12njus.heartlandapps.com&apply=1>; a letter sent home on how to access it; a hard is copy available, if needed
- Emergency cards: will send home after schedule updates are complete; will also be available online



*We value our diversity.
We accept responsibility.
We strive to be better every day.
We are problem solvers, not problem finders.
We believe in family, friends and community.*

We Are Bengals!

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- “Remind” account for BHS parent notifications: Mr. Jennings hopes it will be an easy way to get info to parents. To sign up, text @2ckg2 to 81010
- Back to School Night: September 29 at 7:00pm
- PSAT/SAT Tests on October 19:
 - o 10th and 11th graders will take the PSAT and seniors will take the SAT. (Seniors will be registered for SAT on September 30 in their English class.)
 - o No cost to parents; funded by Bloomfield Educational Foundation grant.
 - o Schedule for the day: 10:15 start time for freshmen; 10th/11th/12th graders start at regular time; seniors will be dismissed at the end of the test
- General PSAT/SAT info:
 - o can count toward for school assessment requirement for graduation if PARCC score does not help them meet "testing" requirement for HS graduation; see graduation requirements: <http://bhs.bloomfield.schooldesk.net/Portals/Bloomfield/BHS/Graduation%20Requirements.pdf>
 - o There will be an information night for 11th grade parents to talk about process/help for preparing for the SATs which they will take in the 12th grade; date TBD
 - o SAT prep courses to be provided for juniors via grant from Bloomfield Educational Foundation; dates TBD, but expect winter class to prep for spring test; more to come on how to register students via a US Mail letter sent to students’ homes
- PARCC scores: should be received by beginning of October; see letter on PARCC results: <http://bhs.bloomfield.schooldesk.net/Portals/Bloomfield/BHS/PARCC%202016%20Parent%20Letter%20English.pdf>
- Senior Class Parent Night - October 6: will serve as an introduction to Senior Year and college planning; counselors will send details via Naviance by the end of the week
- Encouraged parents to review the BHS/district online calendars for important dates:
 - o BHS: <http://bhs.bloomfield.schooldesk.net/Calendar/tabid/69906/Default.aspx>
 - o District: <http://bloomfield.schooldesk.net/Calendars/tabid/69663/Default.aspx>
- Mr. Jennings' contact info: cjennings@bloomfield.k12.nj.us; 973-680-8000 x4382

President’s Report – Joanne Christiansen:

- HSA Membership: \$10 per family; Must be paid member to be eligible for senior scholarship
- c/o 2017 “Bengal Bag” Tricky Tray:
 - o Oct 21, 6pm, BHS Main Gym; tickets are \$20; 210 person limit; can bring your own food
 - o looking for donations, baskets, gift certificates; typical value of gifts: \$75-300
 - o http://www.bhsbengalhsa.org/resources/TrickyTray_tix_BHS%20Class%20of%202017.pdf
- Junior class is working on ideas for a fundraising event; currently selling T-Shirts; Grace Perrotta (BHS student) is the contact
- Project Graduation
 - o did not do one in 2016; declining participation over past few years; previously, needed 250 person minimum in order to do event
 - o Lori Ruggiero volunteered to help assess interest/coordinate event for Project Graduation, so please look out for information

Old Business

- Bengal Blankets still available at \$30 each; excellent for use at games, picnics, etc. Email Jen Vigna at jvigna373@verizon.net to purchase one

New Business

- Bloomfield Educational Foundation (BEF) sent a “thank you” to HSA for purchasing an ad in their gala program book; BHS benefits from grants provided by BEF
- Senior Class Parent meeting on October 17 at 6:00pm (just before the regular HSA meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm