

BEYE PTO MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2010

I. Introductions

Maggie Testore called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Maggie introduced Ben from **Trader Joe's Oak Park**. He reminded guests of the store's location: Harlem Avenue and Ontario, handed out coupons and invited the group to help themselves to snacks and drinks near the entrance.

II. Moving On To Julian: Dr. Victoria Sharts

Dr. Sharts introduced three Beye School alumni, who were later joined by another, to speak about their experiences at Julian and to answer questions.

There were approximately 10-15 Beye School fifth graders. All of them had already had a tour of school. In addition, there were four 4th graders in attendance.

Important dates:

Parent Orientation: Monday, March 22 at 6:45 PM. The evening will include tours of the classrooms with Julian teachers in attendance to answer questions. Discussions will include the "team" format that both District 97 middle schools use and the curriculum taught.

5th Grade Picnic: Thursday, Thursday, May 20. Open to all incoming 6th graders and their parents at Julian.

Dr Sharts then explained some of the things incoming sixth graders will see and experience:

"Team" organization: Sixth graders are grouped into four teams. Two teams have three team teachers each and the other two teams have two teachers. "Core Subjects" shared by team teachers are **Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science**. This "topic sharing" enables the teachers to show connections across different subjects pertaining to individual topics. These teachers' classrooms are all located in the same area of the building to facilitate easier movement between classes for Periods 1-3 and last period. The **Vice Principal** for next year's sixth grade will be **Mr. David Benson**. He will move up with the students each school year throughout their time at Julian.

Advisory meets Mondays & Thursdays. There is no grade given, but is rather an opportunity for classmates to get to know one another, focus on community service and positive behavior. Community service projects this year included PADS lunches, Holiday Adopt a Family, greeting cards for veterans, and a penny drive for Haitian earthquake victims.

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) reinforces anti-bullying and treating each other with respect. All students spend the first week of school directly experiencing how to act in each setting at Julian (lockers, hallways, office, etc) through role-playing and games with teachers and staff. It is also a great chance for 6th graders to become familiar with the entire building.

Electives: Sixth graders take three Electives. Two are mandatory:

- **Exploratory:** A yearlong rotation between Spanish, Music, Art and CMT (Computer Modular Technology). The rotation is designed to give students exposure to a subject they may not otherwise select on their own.
- **Physical Education:** Students have five minutes to change into uniforms in the locker room. Each student is assigned his or her own locker with a combination. They then report to their assigned location: volleyball, field hockey, floor hockey, badminton, dancing, etc. At the end of class, students get five minutes to change clothes again.

The third Elective is selected by the student. Parents and students will have the opportunity to sign up at Parent Orientation or online at the Julian web site. Some of the choices include:

Speech/Drama/Debate: Taught by one teacher throughout the year and correlated to CAST, Julian's drama club.

GTD (Gifted Talented and Differentiation): Focuses on critical thinking and problem solving.

Orchestra, Band and Chorus Meet every day in their own wing of the building.

Lunch Each grade has its own, regular period with about 15 minutes to go outside if the weather permits.

Club and Extracurricular Activities are increased from the elementary school level and meet before and after school. A flyer was distributed outlining each activity that is offered and is available in the Julian office.

Julian's Daily Announcements are available online: <http://ical.op97.org:8000/julannounce/>

Student schedules are usually available the first week of August if all fees are paid in full.

Dr. Sharts asked the sixth and seventh grade Julian students to offer any advice for incoming students.

- Dial the first two numbers of the combination on your locker to save time between classes.
- Walk on the right side of the hallway to avoid getting bumped.

Dr. Sharts then opened up the meeting for questions from both parents and fifth grade students.

Question: Since many papers and projects at Julian need to be typed, is there a Typing class?

Answer: There is no formalized typing program at Julian, but students get exposure through CMT (Computer Modular Technology) class.

Q: Does Julian allow fifth graders to "shadow" Julian students?

A: Not currently, but for those fifth graders who missed orientation and special circumstances, arrangements can be made to get a tour of the building.

Q: What is Julian's dress code?

Girls: All skirts and pants must be to the knee straps on tops must be three fingers wide. Leggings are allowed with skirts, but skirts still needs to be to the knee.

Boys: No oversized jerseys.

All: No hats, sunglasses or flip flops

Q: Is there a lot of homework?

Homework depends on your teachers and how much you get done in class. One student noted, "There is almost never a night when we have no homework at all."

Q: How much time is there between classes?

Students are given three minutes to switch classrooms.

Q: Will there be another opportunity to tour the building?

No, but the station role-playing for the first week of school really helps new students become familiar with all areas of the school.

Q: Is there a specific time frame for online sign up for Electives?

The link will be posted to the Julian web site after Parent Orientation and will be "up for a while".

<http://www.op97.k12.il.us/julian/>

Q: How long is lunch?

Lunch is a regular period.

Q: Do Elective options fill up?

Not generally.

Q: Do any students take the bus to Julian?

No students in the Beye School area get bussed to Julian.

Q: Is there a GTD Math class?

No. There are two levels of math for sixth grade. Both levels are taught on all Teams.

Q: How are students differentiated (within the class and team) by ability?

There are many different strategies utilized by teachers. Julian has made this a focus area in the recent past and has seen improvements. Teachers are also very available either by telephone or email.

Q: How are Teams assembled?

There are two Teams with two teachers and two Teams with three teachers. Administration tries to have each team mirror the other. Seventh and eighth grade Teams have four teachers because of specialization.

Q: What is Julian's average class size?

There are 26 to 27 students per class.

Q: How are IDs used?

IDs are used to identify students, as library and lunch cards, and to get a gym uniform loaner. Some teachers will also take IDs as collateral when students borrow materials. A replacement costs \$5. Students often keep their schedules inside the plastic sleeve and attach their flash drives.

Q: How has Beye succeeded in preparing students for middle school?

A:

- The fourth grade rotation between Mr. Manus, Mrs. Robinet and Mrs. Rajashaker got students comfortable with switching classes.
- Beye did a good job teaching appropriate behavior in school.
- Assignment notebooks from fourth and fifth grades helped organize homework in one convenient place.

Q: What can Beye School do better?

A: There is not much to improve upon. Keep the fourth grade rotation in place.

Q: How long does it usually take to get to know the building?

Students typically become comfortable the first week of school. The different colors for different floors helps a lot.

III. New Business **PTO Board & Committee Chair Updates**

Special Events: Michelle Brandt

Fun Fair raised \$5244, compared to \$1800 last year. There were several opinions on why it did better: higher ticket prices, borrowed (instead of rented) games and bulk purchases of prizes. A huge **Thank You** goes out to everyone who helped before, during and after to make the event a huge success. Please take the time to complete the survey, so that we may improve on the event even more next year: <http://beyeschoolpto.org/website/index.php?s=fun+fair>

Teacher Appreciation Week:

Lunch Friday, May 7. Volunteers are needed.

Talent Show Thursday, April 8. Rehearsals will be held every Thursday before the event.

End of the Year Picnic Wednesday, June 7. Volunteers are needed.

Fundraising: Megan Evans

Oberweiss Evening sometime in May.

Flower Sale May 14. Orders are due April 16. Forms are available on the PTO web site:

http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/documents/flower_sale2010/2010%20Beye%20FlowerSaleOrderForm-self-totaling1.xls

Manna Sale There will be one more held this school year.

School Supply Sale Pre orders will be taken before the end of this current school year.

Fifth Grade T-shirt sale made a profit. There were 54 sold and there were arrangements made for those students who could not afford one. Profits will go towards the Fifth Grade Celebration at the end of the year.

There are two open positions on the committee this year: **Manna Sales and Directory Ads.**

130th Anniversary: Mr. Ellwanger

The 130th day of school is Friday March 26. The day will be devoted to the history of Beye School and what it was like to live and go to school in 1879. Stations will be set up throughout the building with demonstrations and displays.

Gospel Brunch Sunday May 16

All School Photo will be taken in May

Beye Night at Fitzgerald's Thursday April 15. **Beye-In Parties** will be sold.

Programs: Byron Lanning

Chess Tournament was held last Thursday March 11. The Beye Team finished fourth out of seven teams. Not a bad showing, considering the team is very young this year.

Next year's **Programs** schedule may include One-On-One volleyball

Byron will also renew the PTO's website domain

Parent Involvement: Rita Janssen-Singh

Family Beye Family, PTO's welcoming program for families new to Beye, was a success this year and will be done again in 2010-2011. Buddy families who participated this year will be asked to help again.

Beye Community Data Base a resource for parents to share talents, abilities and interests will be tested using the Executive Committee next year.

Treasurer's Report: Kate Ulrich

Due in large part to the non-budgeted \$5,390 contribution for the new swing set and a \$1,000 shortfall in expected membership contributions, expenditures exceeded earnings by \$12,811 over the originally budgeted \$6,400 for the 2009-2010 school year. Thankfully, the bank balance can absorb this loss, because of prior years' fundraising.

Additionally, several fundraisers exceeded their budgeted goals: Fun Fair, smencils, chico bags, Chicago Wolves game, Penguin Sale, Directory Ads and Cleaners 2 U.

Kate stressed the importance of staying within budget for the remainder of this year and Vice-Presidents paying close attention to each committee's budgets and spending for next year.

Nominating Committee: Michelle Brandt

Next year's slate to be voted on at May's meeting is as follows:

- Co-President – Maggie Testore & Laura Derks
- Fundraising – Maria Nitsche & Marlon Smith
- Special Events – Laurie Myers & Victoria Brown-Wipf
- Communications – Michelle Brandt & Jenna Russell
- Programs – Marcia Laporte & Lisa Kitzman
- Secretary – Andy Kaczowski
- Treasurer – Kate Ulrich
- Parent Involvement – Bethany Graham-Colber & Christopher Moore
- Teacher Liaison – TBD

Congratulations and thank you to all of those parents who have stepped forward to help. Vice-Presidents are strongly encouraged to fill their Committee Chair spots by June to ensure a smooth transition to 2010-2011 school year.

IV. Principal Update: Jonathon Ellwanger

Mr. Ellwanger demonstrated a Smart Board. Two of which will be installed in fourth and fifth grade classrooms, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the 130th Anniversary Committee. Additional funds from the committee's efforts will purchase Smart Pads: smaller versions of the boards, one classroom set of I-Touches and two projectors.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next General Meeting is Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 PM in The Commons.