**oulevard PTO Meeting Minutes November 19, 2014**

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**In Attendance***: Mrs. Longo, Beth Day, Kate Bennett, Tony Peebles, Marcie Mennes, Naomi Hollander, Nicol Coxon, Megan Hanger, Stacey Hunter, Megan Bhatia, Matt Morelli, Erin Zelin, Lauren Rollins, Victoria Fagan*

1. **Call to Order:** Beth Day officially called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM***.***
2. **Approval of Minutes:** October 8, 2014 meeting
3. **Guest Speakers: Alex Liston Dykema, Shaker School Board, and Jenny Kaffen, Test Mania Committee** 
   1. There is currently an effort to opposed the increase in state testing requirements in Shaker Heights (and various other Ohio schools). More information can be found on the [shaker.org](http://shaker.org) website: under PTO council there are links to the Test Mania mission statement and Facebook page, plus sample letters and contact information for state legislators.
   2. Some grades this year will have twice as much time spent testing this year than last year.
   3. For the 2014-15 testing calendar, visit [shaker.org](http://shaker.org), go to the “Parents & Students” drop down menu, select “Testing Program,” then select the link in the upper right corner to “2014-15 Assessment Calendar.”
   4. Some of these tests, including the PARCC which will replace to OAA in grades 3-8 starting in February and again in April, are taken on computers. Students’ computer skills are a big issue here, completely separate from the material being tested.
   5. Additionally, test scores could be affected if a computer “crashes” or has other issues during test taking. A recent article in the Shakerite noted this has been an issue at the high school.
   6. Some methods are confusing and different than tests used thus far; some questions may have more than one correct answer to “bubble in,” and no partial credit would be given for only one correct “bubble.”
   7. Test Mania does NOT oppose the Common Core, but would like to delay testing on it to allow time to work through “kinks,” as well as increase reliable access to computers required for test administration.
   8. The school report card will be based on this test.
   9. The Common Core is new, and so far, few tests are available for assessment. The PARCC was the first, and as more become available there may be better options.
   10. We can also ask legislators to come up with menus of tests to choose from, hopefully some that will “kill two or more birds with one stone” to reduce time spent on testing.
   11. We can also ask they consider the appropriateness of tests for each age group.
   12. So far, hundreds of letters have been sent to Columbus in opposition to increased testing requirements.
   13. Colleen Longo added the following on how this applies to Boulevard more specifically:
       1. Ten years ago there was the OAA and little other testing. Now progress measurement is much more data driven. Testing requirements are being added without taking any other requirements away.
       2. We don’t want to lose important educational elements that can’t be tested, such as Exhibition.
       3. Overall instructional time lost is minimal, though what is included in this time may have changed. Extra support is affected- not special ed, but extra help for those who need it. They may have extra tests and lose time in class.
       4. January-March are often big teaching months when teachers can pack a lot in, but recent testing schedules interrupt this.
       5. For grades K-2, the quantity of testing has been the same, though the burden is put on the test-giver as tests are often given one on one. Some but not all can be given by teachers’ aides.
       6. The Ohio Reading Guarantee works as follows: The OAA is given in October. If a student is proficient (score of 392) or above, they then take the PARCC in February. If below proficient (391 or lower), they retake the OAA. A school’s average must be 400 or above to “pass.”
       7. Currently the PARCC is scheduled to be administered on paper for odd-numbered grades (3,5,7), and online for even-numbered grades (4,6,8).
       8. The MAP is a test started last year that has a lot of potential, and which we are novices at using. This online test directs students to more difficult or simpler questions based on how they’ve answered questions so far. It may identify each student’s strengths and weaknesses. Teachers current rely on the AIMS test for this, but may be able to use the MAP test to fulfill both purposes in the future.
       9. Teachers are not talking about stress and frustration due to increased testing with students.
4. **Principal’s Report- Colleen Longo**

* 2015 is our first IB self-study year, which is a reflection of how we’ve done in our first cycle as an IB school. IB gives us 100 standards to work toward, though we’re not expected to have mastered them all. There is a rubric to complete, and we will score ourselves on the various elements. Parents will be surveyed and students interviewed. We will write a 5-year plan and submit a large packet with this information. A reauthorization visit will occur in spring 2016.

1. **Teacher Reports**

* Halloween was fun, thanks to all the parents who helped.
* Conferences went well, no attendance percentages available yet.
* Report cards will be sent home soon.
* Ms. Becerra will be back next week.

1. **VP Reports**

* VP reports without recent events were not given due to time taken by testing discussion.
  1. **Communication- Barb Horrigan**

-Will send out teacher gift rules to room reps.

* 1. **Educational Enrichment- Naomi Hollander**

-*Volunteers are needed to read for book bunch. Please contact Megan Hanger to volunteer.*

*-Staff appreciation breakfast will be the Thursday before winter break.*

* 1. **Financial Management- Nicol Coxon**

-Coupon book sale brought in about $1,300 profit ($1,200 less than budgeted).

-Pumpkin sale brought in $700 profit ($200 more than budgeted).

-Dewey’s Pizza fundraiser Nov. 3 brought in $450 ($500 budgeted for other events, this is one of several). Thanks to all those who attended or ordered take-out!!!

1. **Treasurer’s Report- Tony Peebles**

-Tony distributed financial report, see below.

-Treasurer request: please have event chairs fill out financial report for all events involving income or expense, i.e. revenues, receipts, check request to be submitted. A form for this was distributed.

1. **President’s Report- Beth Day and Kate Bennett**

-Please check out Test Mania’s Facebook page.

1. **Old Business:** NONE
2. **New Business:** NONE
3. **Adjournment:** 8:35 PM

Boulevard PTO Treasurer’s Report

September 2014

Balance brought forward

September 30, 2014  **$16, 543.67**

Receipts

10/7/14 Boulevard Boutique 807.00

10/15/14 Boulevard Boutique 50.00

10/18/14 Boulevard Boutique 125.00

10/30/14 Pumpkin Sale & Boutique 1,337.50\*

Total Receipts- October 2014 $2,319.50

Expenses

Cleveland Museum of Art-Art to Go 225.00

Shaker Heights SD-Copy Paper 752.80

Pam Thornton-Teacher Appreciation 75.38

Naomi Loges-Art Supplies 119.67

Caitlin Kempton-Childcare for Meeting 40.00

OSU Keep Books 10.00

WRHS Migration Suite Case 364.20

Secor Nursery-Pumpkins 400.00

Tanya Lee Stone-Author Presentation 1,250.00

ABC Lettering-Tshirts 1,288.00

Cleveland Museum of Art-Art to Go 300.00

Cleveland Museum of Art-Art to Go 225.00

OSU Keep Books 10.00

Total Expenses –October 2014 $5,060.05

Ending Balance October 30, 2014 $13,803.12

\*Per Boutique chair, $236 of this amount was for T-shirts sold.