

Bull Run Middle School PTSO

January 15th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: 6:00 pm, Bull Run Middle School Library | 6308 Catharpin Rd. Gainesville, VA 20155

Call to order: Welcome, Opening Remarks & Attendance/Sign-In

Attendance: Matthew Phythian, Megan De Paoli, Jennifer West, Mia Batson, Melissa Bays, Amy Rhoades, Lynette Sample, Sharon Cottrell, Amber Briggs, Michael Williams, Silvana Straubhoor, Willy Strabhoor, Debbie Wilner, Bronwyn Hershberger, Gabriel Smith, Lauren Smith, Kanitha Ymea, Preston Lazer, Christine Stephenson, Jamie Arredondo, Ellen Slobodnik

Reading of minutes from November meeting: Minutes available at brmsptso.com

Principal's Report: Congratulations and thanks for the PTSO Bingo night. Heard this event was a huge success. Coming to end of second quarter, so report cards are coming out soon. Reminder of changes to grading policy impacting 8th graders through High School.

Teachers' Report: No report today.

Key Priority

- Candyland Dance, scheduled for February 6th, 7-9pm with doors opening at 6:45.
 - PTSO is seeking volunteers, especially with decorating. Sign-Up Genius coming for set-up, clean-up, chaperones, and traffic control volunteers.
 - Price point has previously been \$15 and we'd like to keep this the same, but increase the price for sales at the door to \$18 or \$20 to help offset higher costs, with vouchers available via school social worker for students who cannot purchase a ticket. Ticket includes DJ, photo booth, cotton candy (unlimited), dessert bar, punch. Cash concessions will be available.
 - Parent feedback on price point: Could something, like a \$1 for concessions be included with door ticket? Are refunds available, especially with flu season. \$20 does feel like a lot, but it makes sense.
 - Other feedback: Would like to see more healthy options beyond candy and chips at school events.

Old Business

- December events summary: Holiday Giving & Holiday Treats
 - We reached our goal of raising \$5000 in support of Holiday Giving thanks to generous teachers and community members, so were able to donate in line with our commitment without depleting PTSO resources. This puts us in an excellent position to support other school priorities through giving this Spring.
- Basketball Concessions have been popular and appreciated by attendees, with sales totaling \$2,567 for the season so far.
- Spirit Nights
 - Haymarket IcePlex: \$118.20
 - Jersey Mike's: awaiting quarterly total
 - Chipotle: \$208.90
 - Foster's Dining for Dollars: \$188.35

- Urban Air: \$287.91
- Skate N'Fun Zone: we're on track to raise \$1000 via our 4 Spirit Nights, but this will depend on attendance at the remaining events.
- BINGO Night
 - BINGO was a fantastic event with a strong turnout of 237. Final costs are being reviewed, but preliminary accounting shows we raised roughly \$1900.
- Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity: Candyland Dance (2/6),
 - Multicultural Night, Friday, March 6th. Last year was a huge success, with students representing 42 different countries and a higher turnout than expected. Parent help is greatly needed.
 - Ideas to build excitement/engagement:
 - Trivia during morning announcement
 - Students decorate flags
 - Poll students for ideas
 - Involve student advisory council

Open Questions and Feedback

Upcoming Events

- Jersey Mike's Spirit Events: Jan. 16 for teachers & staff (lunch) and Jan. 17 for families. Feb. 20-21, March 13-14, April 24-25, and May 22-23
- Candyland Dance: February 6th

Adjournment: Closing and confirmation of next meeting: Next meeting is Feb. 19th at 6pm