

Bull Run Middle School PTSO

November 20th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Call to order by Principal Phythian

- This was the first joint meeting of the PTSO and the Principal's Advisory Council
- In attendance: Jennifer West, Mia Abeles, Melissa Bays, Matthew Phythian, Megan DePaoli, Amy Rhoades, Bronwyn Hershberger, Christine Stephenson, Lynette Sample, Preston Lazer, Netia Elam, Mary Johnson, M. Chopra, Debbie Wilmer, Brooke Campbell, Brandon Campbell, Mercedes Garcia, Elizabeth Acevedo, Willy Straubhaar, Georgette Driskill, Jessica Elbert

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

Principal's Report

- All A honor roll recognition has been occurring this week. Perfect attendance recognition is coming in January.
- Parent survey will be sent out at 8pm tonight: everyone is asked to complete the 5 questions in the survey. The goal is to gauge baseline data on Project-Based Learning and gather feedback.

Teachers' Report

- Teachers are grateful for the teacher appreciation lunch on 11/4 and eager to support the Holiday Giving luncheon

Key Priorities

- Holiday Giving Program
 - Requests have been sent to 31 businesses, with donations already received from Piedmont Tire & Auto (\$500) and Bruno's Bounce House (\$200). 6 community members have donated, including 4 BRMS staff members. The deadline for receipt of donations is December 10th to allow time to prepare for the event on December 12th.
- School Donation
 - At the conclusion of the Holiday Giving, PTSO will be able to determine a budget for our school donation. We are committed to filling in the gap between what is raised from the community and the \$5000 goal.
- Rescheduling Winter Dance, new date TBD
 - The December 12th date has been cancelled due to volunteer availability. February 20th and 27th were proposed: there is a girl's basketball game in the gym on the 20th and the 27th is just one week before Multicultural Night, so the board will consider February 6th as an alternative and confirm.
 - January 9th is our new tentative date for BINGO.
- Holiday Treats
 - December 12th, this will be offered for students and teachers alike. Volunteer sign-ups will be coming. Pies and Cider or a trail mix/treat bar for staff.

Old Business

- Ghostly Gala Update:
 - About 320 students attended for a great event
 - Total raised: \$3,435 after expenses
 - Ticket Sales: \$4450
 - Concessions: \$685
- Update on other fundraising
 - \$85 from Kona Ice
 - \$754 in concessions at all October games
 - 40 Orders from recent Jersey Mike's Spirit event
 - Skate N'Fun Zone brought 70 students, a great mix of students including mostly 6th graders. For our next event, we'll share the digital waiver in parent reminders to minimize time in line. Waivers are good for one year.
- Teacher appreciation lunch was provided on 11/4 during staff development
- New Events Added: Spirit Events at Foster's Grill, Haymarket Ice Plex
- Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: Popcorn Fridays - a potential if volunteer interest exists, Bingo, Dances

Open Questions and Feedback

- Suggestion to provide admissions cost in reminders and communication about spirit events. Specifically, Haymarket Iceplex is \$10 for admission and \$4 for skate rental.
- BINGO:
 - Prize recommendations:
 - Fidgets and squishy toys like nee-doh, candy, gift cards (Chick Fil'A, Starbucks, Chipotle, Roblox), legos/lego logics, raffles (50/50), bigger prize for the final BINGO.
 - Callers: Mr. Haupt was nominated, teachers could potentially sign up for 1-2 rounds to minimize lift.
 - Parents have experienced insufficient sound at BINGO events elsewhere. Recommend ensuring the sound system is loud enough and display the numbers on a big screen.

Upcoming Events

- Foster's Grill Haymarket "Dining For Dollars": All day on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th
- Jersey Mike's Spirit Events Dec. 12 for teachers & staff (lunch) and Dec. 13 for families. Continuing in '26 with Jan. 16-17, Feb. 20-21, March 13-14, April 24-25, and May 22-23
- Haymarket Ice Plex Ice Skating December 14th from 4:30 - 5:50
- Chipotle Spirit Night January 10th
- Skate N'Fun Zone Spirit Events January 13 & March 17. Goal is 50+ skaters each time
- Holiday Giving trip

Adjournment: Closing and confirmation of next meeting: Next meeting is Dec. 18 at 6pm