

Bryant PTSA meeting minutes
September 9, 2025

Item	Presenter
Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions of new board members, new committee members - Meeting dates are on the PTSA website. 	Matt Hunt /Marika Vandersmith, Co-Presidents
Upcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ice cream social, which is a 4th grade fundraiser for Islandwood, will be on 9/13 - Curriculum night for all grades but 5th will be 10/9. 5th grade curriculum night will be held on 9/18, due to needing to get info about to parents earlier because of Islandwood - In Service day (no school) will be on 10/10 - Annual Campaign will run from 10/13 to 10/24 	Matt Hunt /Marika Vandersmith, Co-Presidents
Teacher Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff are doing well even with the loss of Ms. Aliverti over the summer - The group discussed possible ways to honor Ms. Aliverti's enormous contributions to the school. Unfortunately, District policy does not allow for renaming the library in her honor. The idea of creating a free Little Library outside the school was also discussed, but the group noted there may be District limitations on that as well. Finally, soliciting donations for a reading based charity was discussed. - The school's enrollment was discussed. 480 students was the projection at the end of the school year, but actual students now is 445. Bryant lost a full classroom of kids, mostly to Decatur with the District change to not sunset HCC. Bryant had one teacher eliminated in spring. Could have another position eliminated in October but have been tentatively told will not lose staff because fact that sudden loss of students was due to HCC decision by the District. 	Alex Jones, Teacher Liaison
LASER Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LASER reps could not attend tonight - Have not had in depth discussion with LASER staff, but have met with LASER Board and they have indicated they are very open to working with PTSA to ensure they have access to LASER space for community events. 	Matt Hunt /Marika Vandersmith, Co-Presidents
Presidents Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was an issue with the website recently which highlighted the need to move to new platform. Matt is exploring a move to Square Space. No additional cost is expected - Islandwood fundraising had an overage from last year. That class would like to transfer the money directly to the current 5th grade class and maintain the PTSA grant at \$6K as budgeted. Another option is to include that transfer of funds in the income for this year and use it to offset the Islandwood PTSA grant. Since the budget was approved with a \$6K grant line item and this is only about whether the money is 	Matt Hunt /Marika Vandersmith, Co-Presidents

<p>transferred directly to the PTSA or a restricted account, no further approval or vote is needed. Marika and Matt will discuss with the Islandwood parent leads (Mo Bhak) and report back on recommendation of how they would like to handle this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chess Club is now part of ASE and is no longer being run as a club. This means that will need parent volunteers if want to still hold a chess tournament. This is a large fundraiser and could be used to fundraise for the PTSA (instead of chess club restricted account) if we would like to support the event. Chess Club also have money in their restricted account that could be used to hire someone to handle the technical aspect of the event. Marika will follow up with ASE chess lead to discuss approach. 	
<p>Principal Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff and students are doing well after the sudden loss of Ms. Aliverti. School is working with Ms. Aliverti's family to organize a memorial that will be open to community. Targeting a date in Oct/Nov. - Bryant lost multi lingual and SPED headcount in budget but numbers were higher than expected. Have been awarded a emergency SPED assistant until new budget comes out. Expect restoration of real position with final budget - Have hired a new librarian but will only be at .5 time (as opposed to .7). Students will still have library once a week. Will need to leverage community support to continue things like Global Reading challenge. Char would like to repurpose the additional .2 headcount for lunch room support. - Highly Capable materials have been purchased for the school. - 5th grade classrooms are very large. Board asks if there is anything we can do to support those teachers, such as funding extra classroom support. Dr. Marshall says no and notes that the PE teachers Mr. D and Mr. B will be pushing into those classrooms to support math differentiation. 	<p>Charmaine Marshall, Principal</p>
<p>Treasury Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget approved at the end of last year has remained unchanged. But we have adjusted income upward. There was \$59K in unspent funds in 2024-2025 that can carry over to this year. Unspent funds were primarily for field trips, IXL and staffing grant. - One of our B of A accounts was hacked. This was not an active account. It was the account where we connected to Giving Fuel. No money was taken and account is frozen. Will need to reset all connections to Giving Fuel and are switching to a different payment processor that is easier to use as part of this work. There is no difference in cost in payment processors. 	<p>Maggie Dreifuerst, Treasurer</p>
<p>Annual Campaign and Fundraising Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slides in the meeting materials show annual campaign details - Due to decrease in enrollment recommend raising the 'ask' of families to \$600 from \$550 to maintain budget. Goal will remain the same at \$225,000. Also will try to revamp online interface this year to make 	<p>Michael Polin and Hilary Hoover, Fundraising Chair</p>

<p>extra giving easier and to make clear that can submit for employee match (which makes up 18-20% of funds). Group agrees with \$600 ask and agrees that can be more direct in our communications that we need people to give that to hit funding goal and budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss ways in which can promote this at curriculum night. Agree that slides will be prepared for the teachers and will find one teacher advocate per grade to present. 	
<p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinating with Roosevelt, Eckstein and potentially other local schools to hold school board candidate forum. Trying to do it before ballots are mailed on October 17. - Plan is to hold at Eckstein or Roosevelt but board is supportive of Bryant being a back up - Will tape so we can post to You Tube for those that can't make it 	<p>Leah Rutman, Advocacy Chair</p>
Adjourn	