

## **Morris Brandon PTA General Meeting**

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

9:00AM, Zoom

### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

**Presenter:** Karen Bain  
**Start Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:23 AM

### **II. Approval of Minutes** from Meeting on January 18, 2023

**Motion to Approve:** Margaret Bond  
**Second:** Lindsey Porter  
**Minutes Approved:** Yes

### **III. Treasurer Report**

**Presenter:** Karen Bain  
**Discussion:**

Current revenue is \$147,753. Expenses of \$89,330. Resulting net revenue of \$58,423. We still have a few events coming up for the end of the year including Teacher and Staff Appreciation, but we expect to stay on track through the rest of the school year.

### **IV. Presentation of 2023-2024 PTA Slate**

**Presenter:** Lindsey Porter  
**Discussion:**

Karen introduced incoming PTA Co-President Lindsey Porter who presented the slate for the 2023-2024 school year. Lindsey explained that in March, the Nominating Committee met to find and place people in roles (chair and char elect) for the 2023-2024 school year. Luckily, we had a lot of parents interested and willing to serve in PTA roles next year (approximately 150 on the slate). Over the next month, Lindsey and incoming PTA co-President Brittney Goepp will be reaching out to the incoming chairs to help facilitate their transition into new roles. Lindsey called for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 PTA Slate.

**Motion to approve:** Lelia Pratt  
**Second:** Karen Bain  
**Slate approved:** YES

### **V. Introduction of Speakers** Margaret Bond

**A. Presenter:** Lelia Pratt – Incoming President of the Morris Brandon Foundation  
**Discussion:**

Lelia is heading up the Morris Brandon Foundation next year. She came on today to demystify the role of the Foundation, explaining that the Foundation is one of those groups that is always operating in the background but doesn't have a lot of face time with the community.

- The Foundation was started in 2006. It is a nonprofit 501(c)3 with the mission to promote and enrich the education of Brandon students. It started as a way to raise more funds and have more autonomy than is permitted under the national PTA guidelines (of which our PTA is a part), meaning that the Foundation has a little more flexibility with not as much oversight as a PTA.
- The Foundation provides support for curriculum, faculty and staff, and facilities/grounds, with funding primarily from the Bee Fund annual fundraising drive (which, depending on the year, usually raises between \$200-\$250K which is a significant source of support for the school.) The Foundation also receives funding from what is raised at the school Auction (which occurs every other year).
- The Foundation is comprised of the following positions - officers (President, Past President, Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, etc) plus current PTA Presidents, immediate past PTA Presidents and a few at-large members. In addition, there are generally five nonvoting faculty members (Principal plus four other faculty selected by the principal – ideally one other administrative person, a teacher to represent Main Campus, a teacher to represent the Primary Campus, and a teacher that represents our Specials programs).
- Being the largest elementary school in APS with two campuses adds complexity.
- The Foundation covers things like
  - Workbooks for every student (not always provided by APS) such as Wit and Wisdom, Foundations, Eureka Math
  - Online annual subscriptions for apps such as Brain Pop and Quaver Music
  - Teacher/administration training and associated fees required to maintain our IB Status and keeping that program going (not all elementary schools have that status)
  - Professional development like in-house trainings, conferences, certification training and associated fees
  - A small amount set aside for each teacher to reimburse out-of-pocket costs related to setting up their classrooms
  - Facilities and grounds expenses - one of the biggest expenses is repair and maintain the turf fields at both campuses as well as maintain a reserve fund for their replacement every 5 or so years. (Turf fields were provided by Foundation and are not maintained by APS.)
- The Foundation also has money set aside for when things rise, teachers can apply for grants. For example, we paid this year for the fifth-grade teachers to attend the Jekyll Island trip and cover the cost of the trip (\$300) for those which cost was prohibitive
- Some years, like this year, (when there is more money from the Bee Fund than

budgeted/expected) the Foundation uses money to make improvements, i.e., there are plans to install more carpet in Main Campus media center and paint walls and freshen things up a bit

- The Foundation meets monthly and is required to have a quorum to vote on matters. They don't always approve all requests that come in but try to help out where they can.

**B. Presenter:** Clay McDaniel – Morris Brandon Go Team

**Discussion:**

Clay McDaniel came on the Zoom to explain the purpose of Go Team, which is a forum to bring together teachers, parents, and community members along with Principal Bland to collaborate on key items at the school, most notably the school budget. Somewhat formal process, part of which is to work on our priorities as the school. Mr. Bland decides on budget and Go Team decides whether the budget aligns with priorities. Go Team does not discuss individual staff or students but focuses on the big picture; they help Principal think about tradeoffs especially when resources are scarce.

Go Team meetings open to the public and to public comment. The next Go Team meeting, tomorrow afternoon, will be the last one of this school year.

They serve as a liaison with the government – they are officials – systems in place to provide flexibilities to our school if we need to use them. System is designed to be flexible with avenues to implement change specifically as it pertains to Morris Brandon. Our school's population has become more diverse over the past 5 years, and how resources get allocated has also changed. We are lucky to have Principal Bland who is skillful in navigating these changes. Please reach out the Go Team if you have any questions.

Prior to conclusion of the meeting, Lelia Pratt came back on the Zoom to remind folks that Go Team voting is currently underway (closing tomorrow), and explain that the Foundation does not have a formal process like Go Team – but officers are posted on website so if anyone is interested or wants to get involved to please contact someone.

A question was then raised from the audience related to the costs with turf for both campuses and whether outside organizations who utilize the fields contribute to the cost to maintain the fields. Lelia explained that the school does have a contract with Northside Methodist Church who in turn pays us a rental fee to use the fields. This helps defray a small portion of the cost the Foundation incurs. She also explained that there are other informal, smaller groups that use the fields and typically make a donation to the school as a thank you.

Another question was raised about whether the PTA cover non-funding related topics at the school. Margaret explained that the PTA funding primary goes toward community events like Jamboree, other important event like Teacher Appreciation, and numerous other projects like such as the school's website. She explained that the Foundation does heavy lifting in terms of curriculum, teacher training, capital improvements, and that when the PTA does have an excess, they generally make a donation to the Foundation to use as they see fit for such initiatives. A follow up question was then raised about curriculum, i.e., if a group of parents want to suggest a different curriculum, what is the best way to channel those suggestions. Margaret

suggested they go directly to Principal Bland, who is very receptive to new ideas and parent concerns.

Following this discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

<b>PTA Executive Committee:</b>	
Jay Bland, Principal	Dana Giacone, Secretary
Kate Nails, Program Administrator	Anna Logue, Parliamentarian
Karen Bain, PTA Co-President	Lelia Pratt, Parliamentarian
Margaret Bond, PTA Co-President	Brittany Goepp, PTA Co-President Elect
Amy Jones, Foundation President	Lindsey Porter, PTA Co-President Elect
Catie Haynes, Treasurer	Evan Carter, Treasurer Elect
Ashlee Portis, VP Communications	Drew Bolton, VP Communications Elect
Jenn Thomas, VP Events	Shannon Konn, VP Events Elect
Caroline Lombard, VP Fundraising	Octavia Tolliver, VP Fundraising Elect