



Board of Directors Update

April 23, 2018



Remember! This Saturday, April 28, is our PTO's 5th Annual Shrimp & Grits Block Party!

We hope you will make every effort to join us on Paris Avenue in downtown Port Royal to enjoy good food, good fun and great times. Last year the PTO donated about \$25,000 to Bridges Prep for improvements to our new school media center when it's built, and in the past they have financially supported our student technology. We are so thankful for all their hard work!

Facility and construction update! For a lot of good reasons, we decided to keep the mobile classrooms at Boundary Street next school year and not to continue at Greene Street. We will have K-2 at Celadon, Grades 3-7 at Boundary Street, and Upper School (8-11) in temporary modular classrooms at the new site off Robert Smalls Parkway (SC170). Last week we learned the SC Department of Transportation has signed off on our project and we are finalizing our bank loan – all great news! The modular phase of the project has been approved and is being advertised for bid pricing, and bids are due May 1.

Budget Workshop this Thursday, April 26, 4:30 p.m. at the Main Campus Gym. This public meeting is for the Board and its accountant to go through the final budget proposal prior to adopting it in May.

Questions? We've got answers ... One of our goals with these Board of Directors' newsletters is to answer questions that come up in the public comment segment of our monthly meetings. Here are some recent ones:

- 1) Concerning the next school year budget, please take a look at allocations for textbooks and workbooks. Some parents have had to buy workbooks for their children because there weren't enough for students to take them home.

Answer: Bridges Prep receives a basic allocation to buy textbooks and workbooks, and we do our best to stay within that funding. However, we will work next school year to double-check with the administration to see if any teachers have shortages of necessary textbooks for their students.

- 2) Security and safety – does the full school participate in active shooter drills?

Answer: Yes, we conduct active shooter drills along with the other required drills for students in all our facilities.

- 3) When there is a safety or security concern, the school should inform parents right away, not three days later.

Answer: The Board and administration do our best to inform parents and stakeholders as soon as possible and practical, with the most accurate information. When an issue involves student discipline, there are privacy matters that govern how much we can share. Safety of our students is always topmost in our minds, and we involve law enforcement with any concerns.

Dee Matthews, Chair