

September 14, 2009

Haverford High School PTSA

Meeting Called By: 7pm by Brigitte Gdovin

Type of Meeting: September 2009 PTSA

Opening

Brigitte Gdovin

Discussion: Introduction of PTSA members and denote the purpose of the PTSA. Brigitte reviewed the purpose of the PTSA and answered questions from those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Lisa Marks

Minutes were read and approved.

Administrative Report

Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

Welcomed all those in attendance and hoped that they all attended the meetings for the remainder of the year. He went on to talk about the students at Haverford High School and how some of them had wonderful summer experiences in Europe, New England, and University of Pennsylvania this summer.

- **Scheduling**
 - Noted that the computer scheduling was overhauled this summer. Did a walk-in instead of the having students call into the school. The walk-in alleviated the problem of phone tag between the school and students in selecting other courses. In the future, this new method will be followed. The global call was also well received. There was a problem with the computer one day and there was a mix-up as many parents didn't get the global call announcement. Overall all went well.
- **New Technology Policy**
 - Kids are connected! The old policy just working so the school decided to adopt a technology zone, which is the cafeteria. Students can use technology in the zone only – this includes cell phones, laptops, ipods and the like. Technology in the classroom is still prohibited. So far, so good! Giving the students the opportunity to use in the cafeteria allows them to communicate with parents. Please reinforce “delayed” response, so they don't feel pressure to respond right away. The zone is also approved for study halls and the librarian is also re-evaluating rules for the library.
- **T. V. Studio**
 - A brand new television studio was added this summer. The studio was funded from grants, PTSA, and many fundraisers. Two classrooms were converted into one. There are now classes for students to learn about the technology and how to use it.
- **Woodshop**
 - Will be moved back to high school. Bids were received and a contractor was selected. The work should be finished by the end the school year. All woodshop classes will be in this new location. Robotics had to move due to the workshop; however, it is still in the basement.
- **Tile Into Gym**
 - New tiles were installed going from the gym from lobby area near the auditorium. The tiles are the school colors. They are bright and beautiful.

Administrative Report continued

Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- **New Website**

- The entire school district website was overhauled this summer. Noted that parents can register to get updates automatically. This is a valuable place to get all teacher information.

- **PSSA**

- Math – 65% of the kids did well.
- Reading – 75% of the kids did well
- IEP – didn't do well enough – received notice that the school is on the state's warning list
 - The IEP program is being reviewed.
 - Made changes to reading and math labs
 - Math was changed last year and hopefully the school will see the results in this year's results.

- **Recycling**

- Doing a better job; however, need to have more information promoting recycling. It is hard when students put all trash in recycle bins. Looking to have student clubs promoting recycling and will be doing more with plastic, bottles, etc.

- **H1N1 (Swine Flu)**

- Promoting washing hands for 20 seconds (which seems like a long time) – most kids don't do it. There are alcohol dispensers in cafeteria – encourage the kids to use it!
- It is unclear if the school will be getting the vaccine. Haverford High may give vaccines to students.
- The school is a Point of Dispensation (POD) – a drill was run and they believe through the exercise that they could vaccinate 500 kids in 45 minutes.

- **Introduction of Assistant Principal**

- Dr. Steven Quinn was welcomed to the meeting. He is the 10th grade principal and the athletic director. He has worked in the business sector for At&T as well as in education most recently at Springton Lake Middle School.

- **Introduction of Faculty Representative**

- Kim Zeoli was introduced as the new faculty representative.
 - This is Kim's third year at HHS. Prior to HHS she was a teacher in Cherry Hill. This is her tenth year teaching.
 - Kim talked:
 - Talked about her background and her position now as a math teacher. She is excited to be the faculty representative. She loves HHS – it is a big family and she loves it here!!
 - She thanked the PTSA for their gifts (as she had a baby last year).
 - She attended the BLAST last year had a lot of fun – it was more than she expected!!
 - She talked about the upcoming Activities Fair for 9th grade students – this is an opportunity for them to see all the clubs at HHS and learn about them.

Administrative Report continued

Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- **SAT/PSAT**

- Deadline for upcoming SAT was on the 9th
- October 30th for the December 5th test
- February 4th for the March 13th test
- PSAT – sometime in October – maybe the 9th

- **National Merit Scholarship**

- Four (4) students are semi-finalists. They will apply and move into finalist round. This is a great achievement as these students are eligible for many scholarships.
- *Question from attendee: what is the deadline for PSAT and should students be encouraged to take this test?*
 - *Answer: the deadline is in October as this is more flexible since the registration is different. Yes, students should take the test. Normally take this as Juniors to get a feel for the SAT test.*

- **Math Center**

- This center is there to provide students with a means to receive tutoring. It is open throughout the day. Students can ask permission to go to the center for one-on-one help with math. This is for all grades and the goal is to help raise the math scores. Students do need to receive permission to go to the center.

- **Question and Answer Session**

- Question or Statement: There is a rumor that the radio station doesn't have a budget because of the new T.V. station – there is a Facebook page discussing this topic – is this true?
 - Dr. Nesbitt's Response: This is NOT true. These are two separate entities.
- Question: There was a question concerning the Athletics department and coaches – are they trained? Are they instructed to talk to the athletes the same way? Forms are getting lost and some have private information...
 - Dr. Nesbitt's Response: Yes, all coaches get clearances as do the referees – anyone hired after 2007. These individuals are also evaluated by Dr. Quinn. There are coaches meetings. Any concerns should be addressed with the coach and teacher. If you think it is not being addressed correctly, go to Dr. Quinn.
- All clubs have "booster organizations". These are parent volunteers – raising money to purchase gifts and fund banquets.

Officer's Reports

Officers

- **Treasurer's Report (Jackie Petragnani)**

- Handed out the budget for this year.
- This was created based on history – it is broken into income and expenses
- Membership Dues: 1/3 earmarked for B.L.A.S.T.; 2/3 for operating expenses
- Discussed the costs of printing the directory – it appears that a vendor may be able to do this for the PTSA for a price within and/or below the estimated cost. Nothing is confirmed as yet.
- Everyone should have gotten a mailing! There was some confusion on the mailing – some got the email and joined at that time. When they got the mailing they were confused.
- Extend the deadline to become a member since the directory cannot be produced in time for Back-to-School Night.

BUDGET APPROVED!

- **Vice President & Membership Chair (Meg Hagenbuch)**

- 260 families as of today; 10 of which were received via snail mail.
- There are 1850 students in the school with 1586 families – last year about 60% joined the PTSA.

- **Recording Secretary (Mary Spada)**

- **Corresponding Secretary (Donna Shelle)**

- **Co-Presidents (Katrina Coleman and Brigitte Gdovin)**

- Get to know the websites

- **Directory (Judy Donnelly)**

- 100 freshman so far have become members.
- Christina Potter, President of the HMS PTSA was in attendance and noted that maybe we could come to their late spring meetings and talk about the HHS PTSA – enlighten the eight grade families.

- **Community Scholarship (Kelly Maguire – wasn't in attendance)**

- Sixteen (16) students received scholarships last year. Approximately \$500 each and they were awarded on merit only.

- **Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Katrina Coleman)**

- Luncheon will be in January.

- **Volunteer Coordinator (Mary Spada)**

- **IDC Representative (Mike Stein reported)**

- Parent and teachers from each district and they meet once a month for 1hour/1.5 hours. The meetings are in the evenings. HHS is looking for a representative.

- **BLAST (Judy and John Donnelly)**

- This is a safe after prom event for all seniors as well as friends they invite to the prom. You can attend the BLAST if you are a senior and don't go to the prom too. It has been happening at HHS after 15 years. There is dummy money, raffles for great prizes (IPODS, cash)! It gets the kids off the street – it saves lives. There were 430 kids that attended last year.
- BLAST Open House 1st week in October.
- Need Co-chair!!!

- **Website (Mike Stein)**

- Talked about the website and how it failed during the onset of the membership drive but once the server was changed, all went well.

Old Business

- **Annual Car Show**
 - Tried it for the first time in May.
 - \$15 a car/80 cars/48 trophies from sponsors (e.g. Springfield Ford, C&M, and others), The winners were selected by people's choice.
 - It can only get better – food, fun, and
 - Need more volunteers!
- **2009 Scholarship checks were sent out**

New Business

- **BLAST (Judy & John Donnelly)**
 - Need Co-chair for the BLAST
 - Will be at Back-to School Night with a table to get people of sign up (Front Entrance)
- **PTSA – donated \$100 to Charity Water in**
- **PTSA was approached for free seminars (can talk about this next meeting)**
- **Prom Party Expo (Judy & John Donnelly)**
 - This is a fundraiser for the BLAST
 - Vendors will showcase their goods (jewelry/gowns/party) – over 40 vendors and this year looking to have more variety.
 - First week in March – Friday evening.
- **Top 50 High Schools (Philadelphia Magazine)**
 - An attendee asked about the absence of HHS
 - Dr. Nesbitt noted that he did contact the magazine and it was a mistake.
 - The magazine will review and ensure this is noted in the next issue.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm