

March PTSA Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2011

Submitted by: Maria Smith

In attendance: Karen Brandon, Vanessa Christman, Meg Hagenbuch, Elizabeth Luff, Denise McDermott, Jennifer McNicholas, Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Jackie Petragnani, Lavinia Pritchett, Donna Shelle, Maria Smith, Mike Stein,

- Meeting called to order by Meg Hagenbuch at 7 pm.
- Approval of February minutes.

Administrative Report: Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- Course selection starting up online, students are very comfortable with computerized system.
- Grades were not up as of Friday, but may be up presently.
- Next School Board meeting may include proposal to change March 4 from an In-service day, (*school board regulates these whole days off for students, professional development for teachers*) to an Act 80 Day. State requires these half days off for students, and as professional development for teachers.
- There are concerns that PSSA test scores do not reflect accurately the student body abilities, since SAT scores have gone up, and PSSA scores have decreased. Concerned students are doing their best. Remedial classes, tutoring, or other resources may have to be channeled into improving these scores to accurately reflect students' knowledge, and to also avoid being downgraded by the state, and therefore being required to commit even more resources to this issue.
 Dr. Nesbitt pointed out our PSSA scores are not equal to neighboring districts; however, our SAT scores are equal or better. Concern is that students do not understand the importance of the PSSA, and do not try to do their best. Students are viewing the SATs as more important.
 The administration will be talking with students prior to the March PSSAs, (March 14, 15, 16 - see website for more information).
 Teacher representative Kim Zeoli reminded us that the PSSAs are also used to evaluate effectiveness of teachers and curriculum, so it is important the tests be accurate and taken seriously.
- At the April meeting the administration will be asking for parents' support in encouraging students to follow dress code. As weather warms, avoidance of distracting clothing, (such as short shorts and tank tops) is advised.
- Discussion about including BLAST information and the concussion monitoring program will be updated in an e-newsletter.
- Staff appreciation Day was much appreciated, especially with complications of snow days and rescheduling.

Faculty Representative: Kim Zeoli

- Discussion of faculty with new babies and PTSA cards and gifts.
- Spring sports start soon. Boy's volleyball session Tue. and Thur. nights with Mr. Schaefer coaching.
- Haverford Environmental Club looking for hammers, (if you donate one you will receive a birdhouse), contact: Mr. Trembicki
- Dancing with Staff: Wed. Feb. 16. Mr. Hulse will be appearing with his wife, along with faculty from the elementary, middle schools, and the high school.
- Sign up for Mr. Haverford starts Feb. 21.
- Reynolds family house burned down, (4 students in district). Contact Ms. Alderfer in Counseling Office to donate gifts

Officers' Reports-Treasurer: Jackie Petragani

- See attached report with corrections: Expenses, bank fees should read 30.00 not 1873.00 with adjusted Expense Total.
- Membership received \$1100.00 this month. BLAST income up a few hundred Dollars. BLAST expenses include deposit for inflatables and new monopoly money.
- Interest income is estimated, because not all bank statements were received prior to this report

VP and Membership Chair: Mary Spada not present, no report

Recording Secretary: no report

Correspondence Secretary: no report

Co-Presidents: Meg Hagenbuch/Vanessa Christman no report

Committee Reports-Directory: Karen Brandon

- Karen and Mike Stein plan to meet re: PTO manager

PTSA Education Grant:

- Kelly Di Santo not present. Mike Stein reported. Some questions and discussion about what this program is and how it operates. It used to be Community Scholarships. Perception was it was merit based. It is not. Name change reflects that. About 20 scholarships of \$500 are given away each year.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Lavinia Pritchett/ Katrina Coleman

- Successfully completed with a couple of receipts left to turn in.
- It went smoothly, despite a winter blizzard causing rescheduling!

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Spada not present, no report

IDC Representative: Girija Nagaswami, no present, no report

BLAST: Jenn McNicholas

- Still in need of volunteers. Some discussion of ways to get more people involved, for example, list on website names of committee heads may encourage people to call people they already know to work on their committee. Ways for teachers to volunteer was also discussed.
- Fundraising was discussed. Denise McDermott reported on the Applebee's fundraiser. Discussion followed about coordinating fundraising efforts to avoid hitting up businesses twice for the same cause. Theme baskets from senior homerooms were discussed. Ways for teachers to volunteer was also discussed. The car show may take place in the Fall as part of Haverford Township Day, so its proceeds would help.
Next year's BLAST (anticipated revenue about \$900).

Website: Mike Stein

- The BLAST page is up-to-date. The education grant information needs to be updated. Discussion ensued about a plea for contributions toward the Education Grant, BLAST, and Crimson and Gold Fund.

New Business:

- Vanessa Christman mentioned that originally the PTSA was to have a student representative at its meetings. Could this fulfill some community service credits for some students?
- Karen Brandon shared her experience at last week's presentation at Lynnewood School about concussions and integration of students back into classroom. During the discussion it was mentioned by Kim Zeoli that May 17th was a professional development day, with some slots still not filled. Perhaps a presentation about this topic could be offered for one of the workshops?
- A couple of people mentioned it would be desirable to have microwaves available at lunchtime for kids bringing lunch to heat up their food. Are there safety issues? We should ask Dr. Nesbitt how to deal with this.

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder that there is no March meeting.

Important upcoming dates: Next PTSA meeting 4/11/11