

May 2011 PTSA Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2011

Submitted by: Maria Smith

In attendance: Vanessa Christman, Kelly DiSanto, Meg Hagenbuch, Raelyn Harman, Jennifer McNicholas, Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Jackie Petragani, Maria Smith, Mike Stein, Inge Webster, Kim Zeoli

- Meeting called to order by Vanessa Christman at 7:02 pm.
- Approval of April minutes.
- Final meeting of the school year.

Administrative Report: Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- ❖ Congratulations on a successful and safe Senior Prom & Blast.  
At 5am there were still 300 students in the West Commons. Concerns voiced: Jersey shore signs, cowboy hats, and other decorations were taken by the students. It will be advertised next year to, "Please appreciate decorations and do not take them, because they are recycled and used over again." Lists of items to be addressed next year are: clean-up and storage. Thank you to all for an amazing evening!
- ❖ Senior Project will not be a course, and expectations will be different next year. It will be a project within any senior course. The tight budget has changed or eliminated programs. For the following year, the State has stated that the college application counts as a graduation project, since it takes extensive organization, coordination, an essay and is time consuming. Outcome based education is not the priority now. The Keystone and PSSA tests expect students to show rigor in mastering algebra, reading and writing.
- ❖ Who decides that this is the Senior Project? During the first three weeks of school the senior will declare what the project will be in a course of choice and the teacher will approve. Examples include: a survey and letter to a government official, an American Literature project, a wood working project, etc. Senior Project is a Pass or Fail grade.
- ❖ American Studies will no longer be team taught. Team teaching with 50 kids requires more teachers. Class size will be 24-26 students and the course will be two separate entities: American Literature and American History - Levels 1, 2, 3. In the future, an AP U.S. History course may be proposed. Met with juniors regarding these changes today.
- ❖ Calendar changes: finals are June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and make-up day will be Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. For students who are on a planned vacation and miss finals can make them up the Monday after exams or any day in the summer.
- ❖ It is a very busy time, especially for seniors. It has been a very good school year.

- ❖ Vanessa and Jeff to review calendar for 2011-2012. No snow days can roll back the last day of school.
- ❖ Regarding the possibility of a microwave in each cafeteria, the issue of cleanliness after each use needs to be considered.

Faculty Representative: Kim Zeoli

- ❖ A \$500 senior vocational scholarship is available for Vo-Tech students. Students are to see Miss Vinemore in Guidance for more information.
- ❖ Senior Survey, which is mandatory, is due tomorrow May 17<sup>th</sup> by 3pm.
- ❖ The Easter Food Drive was a success. There is a currently a Spring Clothing Drive happening. Please send all clothes to the Main Office. The collection will go to a church in Kensington.
- ❖ We are in need of Senior Project volunteers for Blocks 1, 3, 4. Contact Courtney Spinelli to sign up.
- ❖ June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7-10 pm is the Freshman Dance. Dress code is no hats, no sneakers or jeans. Girls are to wear a dress and boys a shirt, tie and nice shoes. A DJ and food are provided. No outside students are allowed. The cost is \$10 in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.
- ❖ A Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am to 1:30pm. See Mr. Weiss to schedule an appointment.
- ❖ The Diabetes Walk took place today in the gym due to inclement weather.
- ❖ The Haverford Football Team is sponsoring a rap concert for Best Buddies on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The cost is \$5.00 for students and \$10 for adults.

Officers' Reports-

Treasurer: Jackie Petragani

- ❖ \$19,000 in dues collected with \$6,000 in donations for a total of \$25,000.
- ❖ \$5,000 into reserve for the Blast.

Vice President & Membership Chair – Mary Spada, not present, no report

Recording Secretary: Maria Smith - No report.

Corresponding Secretary: Donna Shelle not present, no report.

Co-Presidents: Meg Hagenbuch/Vanessa Christman – No report.

Committee Reports –

Directory: Karen Brandon – not present, but will be returning next year to this position.

PTSA Education Grant: Kelly Di Santo

- ❖ Ten scholarships were given out this year. The annual fundraiser only brought in \$2,200. The budget is \$5,000.
- ❖ 131 students applied. Kelly brought in outside people to review the applications from the Relay for Life Committee. Courtney Spinelli has the instructions sheets and certificates.
- ❖ Kelly will return next year in this position. Do we need a change of scope?
- ❖ Discussion regarding the PTSA Education Grant not getting enough donations. This is probably reflective of the economy. People are giving more to the Haverford Township Education Foundation especially with their fundraisers.
- ❖ Criteria need to be reviewed for these grants. These grants are available for the well-rounded students who go on to higher education at community/state colleges, or trade schools, with an average GPA, who have had jobs and could not participate in sports or music activities. Community service is also evaluated.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Lavinia Pritchett, not present, returning next year.

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Spada not present, no report

IDC Representative: Girija Nagaswami not present, returning next year.

BLAST: Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ It went very well. We had a lot of student help for set-up.
- ❖ The break down needed more volunteers. The help from maintenance was great. Need a clean-up coordinator for next year.
- ❖ An appreciation luncheon and gift cards will be given to the maintenance crew.
- ❖ 485 attendees.
- ❖ The budget was right on line
- ❖ Emphasized the need for a new co-chair to train.
- ❖ Suggested to increase the optional donation from \$20 to \$25.
- ❖ Part of the \$35 directory money goes to the Blast.
- ❖ Can \$20 for the Blast be rolled into the graduation fee?
- ❖ Ideas for the senior class to assist with fundraisers, bake sales, candy sales, competitions between homerooms, etc. were mentioned as ways to generate Blast funds. It was mentioned that the senior class already does fundraising to help decrease the cost of prom tickets.
- ❖ It was suggested that someone from the Blast committee attend the Middle School PTO meetings to explain and advertise the Blast. Advertise to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students to come through the walk through at

Back to School nights and even put it on the middle school sign up sheet in order to get more volunteers.

Website: Mike Stein

- ❖ Lillian Mittleman will replace Mike as website manager. To start training beginning April 2012.
- ❖ Karen Brandon & Mike will be co-experts in setting up the PTO Manager Registration system. Karen will manage for two years and we need someone to shadow her.
- ❖ The cost of the PTO Manager system is \$300 per year. (After the meeting, the price clarified as \$200.)
- ❖ Mike stated a motion for approval from the budget to purchase the PTO Manager at \$300 per year. Vanessa seconded the motion authorizing the expenditure as approved.

New Business:

- ❖ Officers for 2011 – 2012 needed for the following positions: Co-chair, Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary.
  - Meg Hagenbuch to take the treasurer's position as a contingency plan.
  - Jackie Petragnani to take the Co-president position.
  - Raelyn Harman to take the Corresponding Secretary position.
- ❖ Haverford Township Community Center and HHS - Victor Donnay and Miss Dinger are invited to visit the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- ❖ Thank you to all of this year's volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment.
- ❖ Exec Board meeting to be scheduled by Vanessa during the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Have a great and safe summer!

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Important upcoming dates: Next PTSA meeting 9/12/11.