

PTSA Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2010

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves providing student's grade and PTSA positions if a committee chair. Many freshman parents were present.

Student Report: No student report

Minutes of May, 2010 meeting: Reviewed and approved

President's report: Joan thanked the folks who worked in the summer to get organized for the school year: volunteers who copy various forms and information pamphlets, assisted at the PTSA table during the Block Party and Volunteer Orientation, donated to or helped at the teacher back to school breakfast and Maria Robles who organized the breakfast. Additionally, Joan thanked: Carolyn Hemenway who updated and reformatted the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) booklet which was sent to freshmen families; Maureen Becker who filled in for Sheryl Cosing at the volunteer orientation; and Susan Sather who brought our PTSA meeting refreshments.

Congratulations to Mr. Butler who received the 2010 Robert R. Spillane Leadership Award.

Treasurer's report (Jody Wolfe): The audit was completed in the summer and the proposed budget will be voted on in new business. The starting PTSA balance for the 2010-11 school-year is \$12,456. The proposed income is \$13,400 and the proposed expense is \$14,110. The PTSA donated a set of classroom clickers to the school for a total price \$1,186.

VP for Communication (Maureen Becker): The first newsletter will be mailed in October around the time of homecoming week (October 18-22). PTSA Class Reps. will work with the assistant principals to prepare Keep-In-Touch emails targeted to each sub-school. These keep-in-touch emails will be in addition to the general keep-in-touch email we currently receive.

VP for Programs (Susan Sather): There will a parent education program in the beginning of PTSA meetings. The school support staff (counseling dept) will tentatively speak at the Oct. meeting and Lisa Ehrhardt is scheduled to provide a diversity workshop at the November meeting.

Membership (Lesa Schmidt): We have 253 members so far and have collected \$800 in donations. PTSA members receive discounts for the Nationals games. Membership payment through PayPal is working well.

Academic Boosters (Kim Shoop and Joan Lynch): FAQs were sent to all freshmen. Academic Boosters is doing a survey among freshmen families to see if the FAQs booklet was helpful and how to improve on it next year. Please respond to the survey.

This year we are charging for the directory (due to printing costs). Trish Smith raised \$3,000 for advertising in the directory. Joy Pool is designing the directory. Students' will be listed alphabetically for each grade.

The next academic booster meeting is at 9:30 am on September 30, 2010. Academic Booster committee is looking for volunteers to solicit food donations for the honor roll breakfasts.

PSAT tests are on October 13. During the time of the test, there will be a college application essay workshop for seniors. Other such workshops will be held later in October and November.

Volunteer Coordinator (Sheryl Cosing): We have about 80 volunteers. The volunteer form can be downloaded from the PTSA website.

Reflections (Joan Burkhart for Paula Parker): The reflections theme this year is “Together We Can.” The due date for entries is mid-October.

Reward Programs (Christine Stout): PTSA participates in the Reward Program with Harris Teeter, Safeway, and Giant. We are trying to get the program started with Bloom. The enrollment into the Reward Programs is very low. Please spread the word about the program. Up to three schools or organizations can be designated on each card, so you can spread out your reward donation.

ANGP (Micki Moravitz): ANGP has already started working. A planning meeting is on September 29, 2010. There are still some committee positions to be filled and urge any parent (not just seniors) to get involved.

New Business: The PTSA adopted the audit and voted to accept the proposed budget

Principal’s Report (Bruce Butler): Mr. Butler introduced the new Assistant Principal for 9th grade (Mr. Dana Walker). Mr. Walker is from Chicago and has been in FCPS for a number of years. He has taught in Carson, Liberty, and Thoreau MS.

Mr. Butler presented the vision and plan for the school and some school statistics. The vision is to be a good school where students demonstrate superior performance and where the faculty understands how students learn and implement instructional programs based on knowledge.

The current school enrollment is as follows: 9th grade – 628, 10th grade – 538, 11th grade – 497, and 12th grade 404. The enrolled students represent 57 spoken languages around the world. In 2010, we have 245 diploma candidates. More than 60 percent enroll in IB and honors/AP classes.

The test scores and other measures show that the school did reasonably well last year. Newsweek ranked SLHS as 201st among more than 1,500 high schools. However, we didn’t do as well with some subgroups of the student population where the scores dropped. The same subgroups showed improved performance in middle school and elementary schools with significant gains in their test scores. The school is analyzing the data to better understand how they can help these subgroups improve their performance.