

Marriotts Ridge High School
PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm December 4, 2007
MRHS Counseling Center

Attendees: Mary Brindisi, Rosalie Bowen, Jennifer Burgy, Susie Cruz, Bill Eikenberg, Caroline Kessler, Karyn Littlejohn, Kathy Martin, Barbara Mayer, Jackie Meisel, Lynn Schenning, Mollie Shea, Dan Sageman (Teacher Rep), Pat Saunderson

President Jennifer Burgy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

After review of minutes which were distributed in both hard copy at the meeting and electronically earlier, amendments were made to correct the typo of HSA from HAS (referring to high school assessments) and to correct the name of person receiving a card to Farah Evans (from Sarah). A motion by Barbara Mayer was made to accept the amended minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and passed with no further discussion.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Thank you messages were received from both Homewood and ARL for the support from MRHS PTSA. Mr. Higdon also thanks the PTSA for the support enabling him to provide the speaker to the History classes. The latest newsletter is out with the boards thanks to Cindy O'Brien. Ms. Miers-Bond asked her students to submit artwork for directory cover if they were interested. There were no submissions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Eikenberg updated the board on the finances for the PTSA for the previous month. Treasurer report is attached with a beginning balance of \$17,701.39 and an ending balance of \$13,458.52. State and National dues have been paid for Membership. The Howard County scholarship was paid to the county PTA. The Treasurer report will be filed for audit.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mollie Shea reported that a card was sent to Farah Evans from the PTSA.

PTAC DELEGATES: Following is a link to the county wide minutes.
<http://ptachc.org/Aminutes/mostrecent.htm>

Tom Walker reported that a significant amount of time at the PTAC meeting was taken up with a discussion of the Mt. Hebron facilities issues. Fall PTA workshops were discussed. The coat drive has ended and was considered a success.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Two student representatives were present for this meeting - Caroline Kessler and Jackie Meisel. The following information was shared: Shakespeare Tea was well attended and seemed to be well received. The students truly appreciate the honor roll ice cream and the record should note their thanks to the school administration. The NHS Ceremony was well done. NHS students are always looking for community service ideas. Anyone with suggestions to share can contact Mr. Higdon. NHS students are also tutoring. Students should sign up through guidance if they are seeking assistance. Scholarship information for students is available in Guidance office. The blood drive last week went well with some scheduling issues. Cap and gown orders are underway. The Fall Sports award evening was held recently and was well attended.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Mr. Saunderson reported that the teachers were VERY appreciative of the support shown during the conference week. The meals/food provided were great and much appreciated by staff members. He reported that the Romeo and Juliet play was outstanding sharing that it was a different type production than the earlier Jukebox and very well done. Additionally it provided many opportunities for many students to participate. A trailer for the show was available on the school website. There are concerts upcoming for the music and dance groups prior to the holiday break. He reported that students are being measured for caps and gowns for the first graduating class from MRHS. Seniors have picked out graduation announcements and those will be available later in the year. Guidance is posting seniors names and the colleges where they have been accepted. The school recently held its "honor roll lunch" and administration is pleased with the numbers of student earning this recognition – but would, of course, be pleased to see more. Student behavior is looking good. The majority of students are doing what is expected with a few needing additional guidance. Plans are to start a new program called "What's Happening at The Ridge". 50 random students will go to the Commons and chat with SGA and Administration about school, the honor code and a few other topics. Administration is looking into some type of recognition of students along the lines of "Student of the Month". More details on this if/when the idea progresses. Mr. Saunderson reported on the new county policy of beverages in school gyms and stadiums. Some discussion of options when concessions are not open. Upcoming school events include Evening Intervention; Mid-Term Mania. Possible evening of parent workshops with several options for parents to chose from. Funding from Parent programs MIGHT be a possibility.

Mrs. Bowen reported that next week some students will be participating in the 2007 Maryland Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Survey. These participants are randomly selected and results are confidential. Mrs. Bowen also noted that there is an upcoming Jazz Cabaret.

DAN SAGEMAN: Mr. Sageman attended the PTSA meeting as staff representative this month. He is the Science Instructional Team Leader. He thanked the board for the grant money to assist in the school science fair. He said they are still seeking judges and anyone interested could contact Mr. Sageman. Mr. Sageman had a handout detailing the Science Department staff members, listing the new courses for this year, giving information regarding Science Fair, discussing the use of Technology in our classrooms, and sharing award and special recognition information for our school's science department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Susie Cruz reported approximately \$11,690 in membership this year which is a significant increase from last year's numbers. A few more memberships have come in so final numbers will be slightly higher.

After Prom Party: Work is underway for the organization and planning for this important event. The committee is still checking out options for location and more details will be shared after the next committee meeting.

Booster Club Liaison: There is some discussion of co-sponsorship of a Family program with parent workshops and perhaps fundraisers like jewelry. Additional discussion of a co-sponsorship of some type of technology night. No firm commitments on these ideas yet.

Staff Appreciation: Conference dinners were well received with lots of community support. Molly Shea attributes this participation in part to E-School news alerts and informal e-mails. About 70 staff members were able to participate. Planning for the February event will begin shortly. A specific thank you to all who contributed was sent out.

Newsletter: Next newsletter will go out December 14, 2007.

Reflections: After consultation with the Dance teacher, several entries were received. Four finalists were chosen and will move on to the county competition.

Directory: Directory is still in the works. Some discussion regarding other schools and their use of their own forms or a contractor to work on this project to possibly speed up the timing for future years. Additional discussion regarding plans by PTSA to sell copies after it distribution to PTSA families. Jennifer Burgy will send the list of volunteers to Mary to start plans for the sale of the extra directories after the holiday break.

SAT Prep: Plans are in the works for the winter dates which will be February 7, 14, 21 and 28. The cost will be \$185 per student and we must have a minimum of 20 students. PTSA receives \$20 per student enrolled through our school.

Publicity: A reminder was given to the board that we have a person to handle publicity for our events. Her contact information is **Karen Chase at Karen.chase@unilever.com** or 410-531-9818.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manor Woods Elementary is holding a book collection for *gently* used books. Any unclaimed books will go to charity. There will be a collection box in the front office through the end of January.

MRHS PTSA scholarship discussion took place. The board reviewed some information from other schools regarding their scholarship programs. A motion was made to approve the formation of a scholarship committee consisting of Jennifer Burgy as chairman and Barbara Mayer and Lynn Schenning as members. The motion received a second. No further discussion and the motion was passed.

MRHS Blood Drive took place recently. Some parents and board members felt that there were some issues with the scheduling and the Red Cross administration of this event. Mr. Siskind is looking into this event with plans to see how it can be improved in the future.

- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:57 PM**

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Martin
MRHS PTSA Recording Secretary