

Marriotts Ridge High School
PTSA Meeting
December 13, 2010
7:00 PM
1st Floor Staff Lounge

Tim Ferrell called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

In Attendance: Tim Ferrell, Laura Muth, Jennifer Burgy, Barbara Ohnmacht, Patrick Saunderson, Iris Chao, Kim McKay, Barbara Chilcoat, Anita Koehler, Mr. Li, April Robbins

Minutes from the November 8, 2010 Executive Board Meeting were presented. Motion to approve as written (Muth), second (Chilcoat). All in favor. Minutes approved unanimously.

Mr. Saunderson introduced the visitors, Iris Chao, from the Office of International Student and Family Services, and April Robbins a MRHS parent involved in the MAAAC (Mustang African American Awareness) Club.

Administration Report: Patrick Saunderson, Principal

1st Quarter Recap

• **Attendance** ... our First Quarter school average was 97%, well above the state standard of excellence (96%). Hopefully, we are well on our way to another great year ... we have now led all Howard County high schools in attendance for five years in a row, reaching the 96% threshold each time. We are the only high school to achieve the excellence standard for more than two years in a row. This fact just confirms what we said about the value placed on education in this community ... keep up the good work! On a side note ... as I told our students on the Morning Announcements when I caught wind of it beforehand ... there is no such thing as an official Senior Skip Day ... they are not excused absences. If you got fooled on that one, I have pool passes for sale in my office.

• **Academics** ... Of our 1305 students (that's right ... we have grown from 577 students the first year to over 1300), 975 earned First Quarter Academic Honor Roll, achieving at least a 3.0 GPA with no more than one C allowed. Over 150 students earned 4.0 status. In total, 75% earned Honor Roll status, far surpassing our average from past years of 65%... that is simply outstanding! In addition, over 96% of our students achieved Eligibility (2.0 and no E grades), allowing them to participate in extracurricular activities.

Our students are also doing very well in terms of the Maryland High School Assessments. At this time, over 99% of our seniors have completed the HSA requirements and are ready to graduate ... all of our students did very well on these tests with our Biology students leading the way for all of Howard County with a 99% passing rate last June.

We were notified that Marriotts Ridge has 15 National Merit Commended Students and 5

National Merit Finalists ... Congratulations to Da An, James Chen, Brian Kim, Brian Tich, and Erik Van Till.

• **Athletics** ... The Fall Sports Season was amazing!

Boys and Girls Cross Country, under the direction of Coach Rich Malt and Coach Jason Conley, made it all the way to the state championships, finishing well ahead of many other teams across Maryland.

After winning the Howard County Championship, Varsity Girls Soccer lost a heartbreaker in the Regional Championships, ending an incredible season. Girls Head Coach Robin Grey was selected as National Soccer Coaches Association Maryland Coach of the Year – Small School Division.

Our Regional Championship Volleyball Team, coached by Ms. Amanda Olsen, ran through the playoffs, finally finishing as State Finalist!

Coach Mark Dubbs' Golf Teams were County Champions, District Champions, and completed their season with a 3rd Place finish at the State Championships.

Finally ... the best of the best ... Varsity Boys Soccer, under the leadership of Washington Post All-Metro Coach of the Year Kevin Flynn, won a second consecutive State Championship in a thrilling game at UMBC.

Several of our fall athletes won All-County, All-Metro and All-State honors. Mike Glazer was Howard County Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Alexandra Price was selected as Howard County Girls Soccer Player of the Year and was chosen as a 2010 National Soccer Coaches of America Association High School Scholar All American ... one of only 37 nationwide. Congratulations to all of these athletes!

• **Arts** ... Our students in the arts have done so much and been recognized in so many ways during First Quarter that it has been hard to keep track of it all. Hopefully, I will remember most everything ...

First off, how could we not mention *Jukebox VI*, our annual extravaganza featuring over 100 students ... WOW ... what else can I say!!!!

Our second theater production, *The Real Inspector Hound*, was a fast paced “whodunit” ... audiences loved it ... we could not believe the many talents of our performers.

Several MRHS students were featured at the United States Department of Education in Washington, DC ... the artwork of Jane Yoon, Katherine Chorosinski, and Brianna Hanlon was displayed with the work of 30 other students from across Maryland. In addition to the artwork of these three students being included in this exhibit, the MRHS String Quartet, comprised of Brian Kim, Woojin Han, Hannah Moock, and Youn Jae Kim, performed at the exhibit's opening ceremony.

In other news, Kayleigh Decker, Zoe Hamburger, and Brian Kim were named MD Distinguished Scholars – Talent in the Arts.

Many, many of our students received Junior and Senior All-State Band, Choir, and

Orchestra honors. Over 50 of our students received these all-state honors ... the largest group from any school in the state. Congratulations! Six students ... Cody Quattlebaum, Catherine Woodcock, Brian Gilbert, Luke Spence, Kayleigh Decker, and Brian Kim ... earned All-Eastern (12 states along the East Coast) honors! Amazing!

Finally, representing the hundreds of students, staff, and families involved in the Fine Arts Program at Marriotts Ridge High, Ms. Sally Livingston, Theater Arts Teacher Extraordinaire, was selected as 30th Anniversary 2010 Recipient of the Howard County Arts Council Howie Award for Excellence in Arts Education. A well deserved honor ... fantastic news!

• **Activities and other Achievements** ... Our SGA and the other 40+ student groups and clubs have also been active this year. Some of the highlights ...

The SGA, under the direction of Ms. Jen Skahill and Ms. Bernadette Allman, sponsored an awesome Homecoming Spirit Week! This group also organized the Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive that collected over 6,000 pounds of food for the Maryland Food Bank. Working with the National Honor Society (Mrs. Rashid and Ms. Rizzo co-sponsor this organization), the SGA also organized the MRHS Toys for Tots Drive that collected over 1500 holiday toys for needy kids. Congratulations also to the 100+ students that were inducted into the National Honor Society this year ... well deserved ... keep up the good work!

The Red Cross Blood Drive Club ran another successful Blood Drive, continuing the streak that started years ago. There will be at least one more Blood Drive Day this year ... keep any eye on Today's Topics ... we need your help!

The MRHS World Languages National Honor Societies inducted 39 students ... congratulations to these students ... knowing additional languages is so valuable in today's world!

The MRHS Science National Honor Society also inducted more than 30 students ... great to see so many kids achieving these high standards!

Our FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Chapter is alive and very strong. Faith Katsman is serving as FBLA State President this year and Vivian Tu was named National FBLA Eastern Region Secretary.

The MRHS "It's Academic" Team competed a couple of weeks ago ... they were great and the POMS performed wonderfully ... the show will be aired on February 12. We will let you know about time and channel soon.

Finally, Our Peer Mediators, working with the SGA and many other groups, sponsored Mix it Up Day. This national initiative recommends that kids sit with other students with whom they might not normally hang out with during lunchtime. This effort gives students an opportunity to get to know kids from different groups, sports, grades, ethnic and racial groups. Very nice opportunity ... the group leaders were excellent and the response was pretty positive!

While our school is accomplishing all kinds of wonderful things, we also deal with the

normal challenges faced during the high school years, such as stress, drug and alcohol use, cyber bullying and behavior at school events.

Throughout society, stress has become a larger problem for all of us. There are so many demands and things to get involved in that we can get overwhelmed very easily. We, as a staff, are trying to be very aware of any warning signs and ask that you join us in making sure that our students are challenged, but that they also find time to recharge their batteries whenever possible. Talking with your son or daughter about school activities and maintaining strong and regular communication with teachers and counselors are the two greatest keys to success in finding a successful balance in high school according to a recent national poll of school administrators. We have done some research on a recent movie, *The Race to Nowhere*, a very well regarded documentary about the issues faced by students in high achieving schools, and are trying to find a way to bring it to Marriotts Ridge in February ... stay tuned.

Another issue that we all want to be consistent about is drug and alcohol use. Without telling families how to run themselves, we want to make our position on these issues clear. We will do whatever we can to help our students avoid situations where bad decisions could be made that could have both short and long term negative effects. Due to taking drugs and/or alcohol recently, several MRHS students have become extremely sick, been suspended, or even arrested. Let's learn as much as possible about the different types of drugs that high schoolers are experimenting with so that we can be as aware as possible. Find the December 2010/January 2011 issue of Reader's Digest or try going to www.readersdigest.com to check out the "Little. Legal. Lethal." article. From www.talkingwithkids.org, we highlight the following ways that families can address these issues in their homes – listen carefully when kids want to talk about their feelings or concerns, establish a clear family position on drugs and alcohol, be a good example, discuss peer pressure and what makes a good friend, build their self-esteem, and repeat the message consistently. Staff members have participated in several training sessions related to abusive uses of household products and other things sold over the counter ... working with our PTSA, we hope to bring similar workshops to our community in the next few months.

Next, there have been several instances this fall when students have been involved in verbal or physical confrontations because of cyber bullying that has taken place. In most of these situations, a student has decided to use the internet or texting to spread rumors about another student, often someone he/she has had a good friendship with in the past. Other causes are miscommunication, misinterpretation, and jealousy. Please help us to educate our students about better ways to resolve conflicts. Our guidance counselors and peer mediators are available to help ... I applaud the students and parents who have tried to avoid such situations by bringing them to the attention of the school before these issues multiplied. Just talking with kids, listening to them, monitoring their on-line activities, and discussing alternatives are all good ways to help our kids to avoid becoming bullies or being bullied.

Staff Report: Iris Chao, International Student and Family Services

- Boyang Li, a junior at MRHS, has requested that Ms. Chao sponsor a new club at MRHS, the Asian Awareness Club, and she has agreed. Assistant Principal Mr. Thomas approved formation of this club.
- Ms. Chao shared a PowerPoint presentation about the MRHS sister school in China.

President's Report: Dave Brown

• Friends of Education Award

The Howard County Board of Education has established the Friends of Education Award to recognize and show appreciation to those who have made exemplary contributions to public education and to increase awareness of the importance of community involvement to the achievement of the school system's mission and goals.

Who does the award recognize?

The Friends of Education Award recognizes an individual, business, or organization for an innovative or unique contribution that:

- Directly supports the school system's mission of excellence in teaching and learning.

- Supports student achievement and/or safe schools.

- Is significant in its scope. In the case of organizations such as PTAs, the contribution must be beyond the normal scope of activities.

Who is eligible? Any member of the Howard County community or any group, organization, or business located in or serving Howard County may be nominated for the Friends of Education Award. The Awards Nomination Packet is found at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/public>. The deadline is Jan. 28

• HC Drug Free

HC DrugFree Program Confronts Teen Drunk Driving

HC DrugFree, a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower the Howard County community to raise drug-free teens, will hold a program addressing drunk driving. The program is free, open to parents and teenagers, and requires no registration.

Branded D.U.I.: Teen Drinking and the Law will screen the film, "Branded D.U.I.," which presents the experiences of 11 young Maryland drivers and the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol. The film includes stories of drivers who caused fatalities, went to jail and lost their driver's license. After the film, Howard County Juvenile Master William Tucker and Howard County Police Officer Mark Heron will discuss underage drinking and related topics.

Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

Mt. Hebron High School

9440 Old Frederick Road, Ellicott City, Md.

For more information about the program, visit www.hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040.

Treasurer's Report: Laura Muth

- Treasurer's Report submitted electronically and is attached to this document.

- The 5500 tax forms were filed prior to the November deadline.

PTACHC Report: Barbara Ohnmacht

Homewood School has requested that the other high schools in the county donate gift cards to them (Homewood) so that they can be distributed to needy families in their community. Homewood has no PTA/PTSA to raise funds for these items. Motion: To purchase two \$25 gift certificates/cards and deliver them to the Homewood Pupil Personnel Worker (Muth), second (Ferrell). Discussion followed. Mr. Saunderson indicates that MRHS currently "sponsors" a student at Homewood, who previously attended MRHS. It was confirmed that any cards donated would not necessarily benefit the other two families at Homewood with students from the MRHS community. It was

suggested that we consider five gifts of \$10 each instead of two for \$25 (Koehler). Friendly amendment accepted. Motion to purchase five \$10 gift cards or certificates and get them to the Homewood Pupil Personnel Worker. 8 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

eScrip (Cathy Lein): No separate report, see Treasurer's Report for funds received during the month of November.

Membership (Lori Ferraro): Total membership is 858 and we will be receiving \$47.58 from Whilhides for the Poinsettia sales we sold 10 plants.

Directory: The Student Directory has been printed; Mr. Burdick will pick it up from Print Shop tomorrow. Tim Ferrell will follow up with Michelle Richards to confirm the distribution process, and ask her to get those details to Mrs. Gay Burdick for inclusion in Today's Topics. It was recommended that Mrs. Richards also indicate that the Directories are being distributed, one per household, to PTSA member families, and they are for sale for \$5 each in the Hitching Post.

Staff Appreciation (Kim McKay): The November conference staff appreciation lunch was a Mexican fiesta. Due to professional development, the staff attended in groups rather than all descending at once.

Reflections: No Report

After Prom:

- **(Cathy Lein)** Attached is the spreadsheet for the HOLIDAY BAZAAR. I believe this is a final #. I will turn in the receipts/checks/cash to Laura for deposit. The total is \$387.58. This idea is great and I have spoken to several people about this type of fundraiser. The timing was too last minute AND people have way too much to do for Thanksgiving. A "Spring Fling" in late March would be a good idea. Charge per table (\$50) and admission (\$3/per person). I attended the one at Liberty High School. They had 107 vendors and thousands\$ of shoppers. Also, we can get one in the works for late fall next year.

- **(Jane Jones)** the minutes will have the summary of the information-gathering trip to Port Discovery that Jennifer B and I took. Then two weeks later we visited the YMCA in Ellicott City for the purpose of information gathering. At this meeting (12/13), I hope that the officers will decide which venue will be the best for the after prom. I would like to let Port Discovery and the YMCA know the week of the meeting.

Here is the information from the YMCA:

We would have full use of both gyms. Many schools use one gym for games and then set up inflatable challenges in the other gym. I heard that a school last year used an inflatable mechanical bull (which I think that kids would love!). We would have full use of the small room to the right as you walk in the front door (might be good for coat-check). We would have use of the teen room upstairs, which has one ping-pong table, one foos-ball table, one air hockey (current one is scheduled to be replaced) table, and one pool table. We could bring in other ping-pong tables if we thought that might be needed. There is a nice sized open area upstairs that can be used for food or other games.

The Y would staff the rock-climbing wall area. We can set up water volleyball in the pool areas (not clear on if therapy pool or just big pool), but we have to provide our own volleyball equipment; they don't have that. We can open pool for whole time, part time, or not at all. We have use of larger exercise room at front of building for a movie or other games. We have full use of main hallways for food or prizes or whatever we might need to put there. We do NOT have use of main locker rooms with sauna (can use smaller ones that leads to pool). We do NOT have use of fitness equipment. For an extra \$500, the YMCA will bring in their own cleaning crew Sunday AM to clean up (that sounds like a good idea). Other schools have also brought in casino games. Cost would be approximately \$4200 (+\$500 for cleaning), based on contract Mt. Hebron had with YMCA last year with pool open only 1/2 time. There is no kitchen available for use. Parking is plentiful and YMCA much closer to home than Port Discovery.

- Motion to hold After Prom at YMCA (Burgy), second (Muth). Discussion followed: A Chair and sub-committee Chairs are desperately needed. Anita Koehler offered to Chair Registration/tickets sub-committee. Tim Ferrell offered to Chair inflatable sub-committee. Robbins, Muth, Brown and Burgy all expressed their desire to help. All in favor, motion passed.

SAT Prep (Barb Chilcoat): The next SAT Prep class has been moved from April to January due to conflicts in spring sports and AP exams. It was deemed that there is not enough interest to hold both classes. Chair is currently in the process of promoting the January class dates. The ACT Class fee is \$399, \$40 of that amount is donated to MRHS PTSA; regardless from what school the student attends.

MRHS PTSA Scholarship (Tim Ferrell):

- The essay question for the 2010-11 MRHS PTSA Scholarship was selected. “What about your education experience at Marriotts Ridge High School gives you a deep sense of thankfulness and gratitude? Write a ‘thank you letter’ to the Marriotts Ridge Community. Feel free to include specific examples of your personal experiences with a teacher or other staff member, or your peers, life lessons learned (either good or bad) or anything else for which you are grateful.”
- The formation of the Scholarship Committee was tabled until the January meeting. Barbara Ohnmacht and Dave Brown have both volunteered to serve on this Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM

Treasurer's Report, Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA, As of December 13, 2010

	Actual 12/13/2010	Actual Year to Date	Budget 2010-11
Balance, July 1st		6,713	6,713
Receipts:			
Corporate ACH Rebate	29	1,609	4,000
Membership Deposits	565	8,025	9,300
Afterprom Revenues	- 0	2,258	30,000
SAT Prep	- 0	1,250	1,000
Donations	- 0	950	2,235
Boosters	- 0	- 0	50
Directory Sales	- 0	20	- 0
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	594	14,112	46,585
Disbursements:			
State & National Dues	- 0	2,538	3,400
PTACHC Dues	- 0	170	170
Insurance & Bonding	- 0	204	180
Administrative Costs	- 0	- 0	250
Directory Costs	- 0	- 0	500
Communications ~ Newsletter	- 0	- 0	185
Staff Appreciation ~ MRHS	- 0	- 0	2,000
Staff Appreciation ~ ARL	- 0	100	100
Staff Appreciation ~ Homewood	- 0	100	100
Correspondence	- 0	- 0	50
Academic Recognition	- 0	- 0	1,000
Academic Dept. Grants	- 0	3,600	3,600
Scholarships ~ PTACHC	- 0	100	100
Scholarships ~ MRHS	- 0	- 0	2,250
After Prom Event	- 0	919	30,000
Student/Family Programs	- 0	1,000	2,000
Reflections	- 0	- 0	150
Hospitality	- 0	- 0	150
Saturday's Facilities Charge (SAT)	- 0	200	- 0
Contingency	- 0	- 0	400
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	- 0	8,931	46,585

Balance as of
December 13, 2010

594	11,894	6,713
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VENDOR ~ COMPANY	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	TABLE FEE	15% Over	TOTAL
Longerberger Baskets						
Cookie Lee Jewelry	Julie Ullman/Linda Isberg	410-804-7037	jewelrybuycookie@aol.com	\$25.00		\$25.00
Tastefully Simple	Jennifer Ebert	410-259-8628	Jebert02@gmail.com	\$25.00		\$25.00
Pampered Chef	Jennifer Ebert	410-259-8628	Jebert02@gmail.com	Inc		
Gotta Bling	Wendy Vlahos	410-489-2978	wendy.marumoto@gmail.com	\$25.00	\$155.00	\$180.00
Silpada Jewelry	Kate Lynes	410-984-8845	silvergem@comcast.net	no show		
Chocolate Pretzel	Kate Lynes	410-984-8845	silvergem@comcast.net	no show		
Arbonne	Terry Laubach	410-804-7037	mtlau@msn.com	\$25.00		\$25.00
Miche Purses	Tiffany Haugh	443-865-2889	haugh3@umbc.edu	\$25.00		\$25.00
Wilhides/Poinsettia	Lori Ferraro/Laura Muth	410-245-7196		na	\$47.58	\$47.58
Crochet Scarves/Hats	Sherry Kenyon	410-730-5683	pa1147@verizon.net	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$35.00
Childrens books	Michael Crawford		hapileart@verizon.net	\$25.00		\$25.00
Career Clothing	Jennifer Ebert	410-259-8628	Jebert02@gmail.com	inc		
				\$175.00	\$212.58	\$387.58