

Marriotts Ridge High School
PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm November 6, 2007
MRHS Counseling Center

Attendees: Mary Brindisi, Rosalie Bowen, Jennifer Burgy, Susie Cruz, Mary Ann Eikenberg, Caroline Kessler, Bill Eikenberg, Kathy Martin, Barbara Mayer, Chloe Meade, Jackie Meisel, Cindy O'Brien, Lynn Schenning, Mollie Shea, Amy Tich, Nancy Czarnecki (Teacher Rep)

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

All present introduced themselves, explained their position on the board.

After review of minutes which were distributed in both hard copy at the meeting and electronically earlier, one amendment to minutes was made to remove a "duplicate" committee report carried over from the previous months minutes. A motion by Mollie Shea was made to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and passed with no further discussion.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Many of the department grants monies have been dispersed. A thank you was received from the math department. New proposals will be discussed during the New Business segment of the meeting. Some committee chairman resignations have occurred. The Executive Board will meet to discuss any action needed after this meeting session is adjourned.

Update on Homewood School ARL requests for assistance for teacher appreciation. Giant Grocery Story gift cards were provided by MRHS PTSA. Both groups expressed their appreciation.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: Barbara Mayer reported on the Booster Club meeting. The Booster Club expressed minor concern about school events where PTSA sends a card. The concern was that the Booster Club did not participate in sending a card on their own. It was resolved that one card would be sent from both groups. Administration will continue to notify PTSA of particular events and Mollie Shea said she would continue to check in with Ms. Burdick and check Mr. Saunderson's "Notes From the Ridge."

Additionally, the Booster Club expressed some concern regarding the contacting of corporate sponsors. The concern is that the same groups may be "hit up" many times from different groups all at Marriotts Ridge. The Booster club will come up with a list and have one "point of contact" person.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Eikenberg updated the board on the finances for the PTSA. Two checks from wrapping paper were returned for "insufficient funds" but cash payments were received to correct this. Membership has more checks coming in but the payment should be sent to State PTA shortly. The money for the PTA County Scholarship will be sent to county this week. The Audit Report is completed. No major issues were discovered during this process. A motion was made by Mary Brindisi to accept the audit as presented. Motion was seconded and passed with no further discussion. The Treasurer report will be filed for audit. The Audit Report will be included in MRHS PTSA minutes.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kathy Martin explained that the Yahoo group suffered a "computer glitch" and a meeting reminder was mistakenly sent out. This was a Yahoo issue and has been resolved.

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mollie Shea reported that a card was sent to Sara Evans as congratulations on the birth of her baby. Discussion of the award Pat Saunderson recently received ensued. As the announcement had not been formerly made by county or school, it was decided to hold off on the card for a short time.

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

A school safety presentation was provided at the Council meeting. There is an upcoming leadership training session in December. The Howard County Library Homework Help/tutorials was discussed. The coat drive just ended and was successful as usual.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: All three student representatives were present for this meeting. The following information was shared:
Ross McGinnis drive is ongoing. A video was provided for the students to watch in English and is available on the achieves on the school website. The front office is still accepting donations. The Art Department is working on a mural for dance studio. Romeo and Juliet production is underway. The Sunday matinee will have a tea. A tea cup hand made by the Art Department will be given to all those who purchase a ticket. There will also be teapots for sale. The National Honor Society induction will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2007. Right now it is not certain which students will be attending the ceremony. The National Honor Society has begun its tutoring program here and at Mount View. The Senior Crabfest and Senior Breakfast were well done and appreciated by the students. The students had an opportunity to be measured for cap and gowns, register as voters, a senior picture. There was also a guest speaker. Winter sports are starting now. The Guidance Department provided a program to Juniors on the Naviance Program.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Mrs. Bowen reported that there will be a dessert reception after the NHS induction on Thursday. She discussed the International Family Night recently held at the high school . Approximately 40 people were in attendance as well as translators. The event was about 2 ½ hours.

NANCY CZARNECKI: Ms. Czarnecki attended the PTSA meeting as staff representative this month. She thanked the board for the podium provided by a department grant and said the speech class, in particular, was thrilled. She reported that a poet in residence spoke to 100 students. This year the senior classes were the ones attending the presentation. This is changed each time to eventually cover the entire student population. She discussed county AP courses and shared information on the literature courses. She discussed HAS exams which have been the topic of news reports lately. She said that the HSA Exam was “staying put” but some things about it would change. Students would be able to do a project to fulfill this graduation requirement if they have taken and failed the exam two or more times. MRHS has interventions in place to help students in this area.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Staff Appreciation: Mollie Shea has sent out an E-School announcement seeking help for the conference dinners later this month. She has received several responses and is using another list as well to obtain food donations and volunteers.

Newsletter: Cindy O'Brien reported that the newsletter is completed and at the printer. Jennifer Burgy will check with printer on schedule. Jennifer said she was considering an insert congratulating Pat Saunderson on receiving the Distinguished Educator of the Year Award. The board concurred that this was an excellent idea.

Reflections: The chairman of this committee has resigned.

Directory: No real update on this project. The file is still not completed for PTSA use yet.

SAT Prep: Lynn Schenning reported that 56 students participated in the course. 12 students signed up through other means so PTSA does not get money for those students. Lynn reported that the calendar is very tight for the spring and it will be difficult to schedule a spring class. Additional difficulty for scheduling this next class is the availability of the instructor.

Hospitality: The Coffee and Conversation with the school board member was not well attended. The Culinary Arts class provided the food for this event. The next event will be the NHS Induction Ceremony. Administration is providing food. PTSA has been asked to set up and decorate. The program starts at 12:30PM on Thursday, November 8, 2007. After the ceremony, there will be a reception in the commons.

There was discussion regarding which students are invited to attend the ceremony. Chloe Meade (Student representative) agreed with board member Lynn Schenning that last year the sophomore students who attended were not particularly interested in the event. Discussion continued but it was eventually determined that this is more of an issue for Administration to consider. Mrs. Bowden agreed to pass on these thoughts.

Membership: Susie Cruz is continuing to process Membership forms and will update with final membership numbers at a future meeting.

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:

Jennifer Burgy reported that we have received new grant requests. The science department, the social studies department, the world language department and the media center all submitted grant requests.

SCIENCE: A grant request was submitted for \$300 to cover the cost of prizes/awards for science fair scheduled for January 23, 2007. Mollie Shea made a motion to accept and approve this grant request. A second was made. No further discussion and the motion was passed.

WORLD LANGUAGES: A grant request was made for \$300 to cover the cost of verb conjugation work books for the French class. These books will be kept in school and used repeatedly. Barbara Mayer made a motion to accept and approve this grant request. A second was made. No further discussion and the motion was passed. NOTE: PTSA needs a copy of the receipt for our records.

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SOCIAL STUDIES: A grant request was made for \$300 to help cover the cost of a presentation by Mary Ann Jung who will portray Emilia Earhart. There is a presentation given for the freshman classes each year with different historical figures portrayed. The presenter then helps the students prepare their presentations for the History Fair. Barbara Mayer made a motion to accept and approve this grant request. A second was made. Not further discussion and the motion was passed.

MEDIA CENTER: A grant request was made for \$300 to cover the cost of purchasing additional copies of book titles to support the student book club. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the Media Center is not on the list of “ten” departments for the grant requests. Additionally, it was pointed out that the Book Club is an after school activity. As such, the request should properly be presented to the Booster Club. Jennifer Burgy said she would inform the Media Center of this decision.

PTSA SCHOLARSHIP: Jennifer Burgy reported that our PTSA has been working on the Scholarship program. Jennifer has requested information from other PTSA’s regarding their requirements. Jennifer said she would send information regarding her findings to the board in advance of the December meeting so the board could make some decisions.

DIRECTORY: Jennifer Burgy reported that the Booster want to know if we will be listing the Corporate sponsors in our directory again. Discussion ensued regarding this issue and whether it represented any conflict or competition with the After Prom Party Corporate sponsors listing. Mollie Shea made a motion that our directory contain PTSA roster, the sponsors, and then corporate sponsors. A second was made. No further discussion and the motion was passed. It was noted that other years we have solicited artwork from students for this book and it was agreed that we should do so again.

PARENT CONCERN: Jennifer Burgy reported that a parent shared a concern with her. At least on teacher gave a test/quiz on the afternoon following the PSAT exam. Students did not perform well on this test/quiz and the parent wanted this information shared with Administration.

OLD BUSINESS: Jennifer Burgy reported that she went back to Folly Quarter PTA with our questions regarding their request for assistance in the Dr. Forney – Choosing Civility – presentation. She shared that the Horizon group had now been approached requesting their assistance in this presentation. No further action is required by our board at this time.

- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Martin
MRHS PTSA Recording Secretary