

Marriotts Ridge High School
PTSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm October 4, 2007
MRHS Counseling Center
AMENDED and approved at 11/6/07 meeting

Attendees: Mary Brindisi, Rosalie Bowen, Jennifer Burgy, Susie Cruz, Bill Eikenberg, Karyn Littlejohn, Kathy Martin, Barbara Mayer, Chloe Meade, Cindy O'Brien, Pat Saunderson, Lynn Schenning, Mollie Shea, Deb Stout, Tom Walker, Barbara Wrobel, Will Schwarz

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, a motion by Mollie Shea was made to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and passed with no discussion.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Back to school night was a success and the format of the evening was good. It is suggested that our PTSA minutes be put online for those who wish to see what is happening in PTSA. Karen Chase (Publicity) sends one e-school bulletin to Gay Burdick to send out from PTSA. This cuts down on the volume of eschool bulletins and helps coordinate our activities. The grant for school departments is out and science has already responded. Mr. Sageman had included refreshment cost in his grant request and will be removing that cost as hospitality will cover this. Folly Quarter PTA has contacted various PTAs about participating in a joint presentation of a community seminar on the book "Choosing Civility" with Dr. Forni as the proposed speaker. The total cost is \$4,500.

MOTION: Barbary Mayer made a motion to contribute funds to this community event. Mollie Shea seconded. Discussion ensued: Seems to be a great deal of money for this event and could take a lot of our budget; evening programs are difficult as far as attendance; question as to how much research Folly Quarter did start this ball rolling; question as to if Dr. Forni has spoken in county and what was the attendance; Pat Saunderson said it is a good book with a good message; the time/date for this event are not yet determined; it is possible that MRHS could host this as our contribution; it was suggested that the Horizon Foundation be contacted regarding their possible participation. It appeared that there were many questions without answers.

MOTION: Lynn Schenning moved that no action be taken at this time. Motion seconded and passed without further discussion.

Jennifer Burgy concluded her report by sharing that MRHS PTSA now has non-profit postage status.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: Barbara Mayer has been in touch with her committees. Lynn Schenning is present and will update on the SAT prep course. Karyn Littlejohn could not be here but Jennifer Burgy will give her report later in the meeting (**NOTE: KL did arrive at meeting after this report was given**).

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SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT: Mary Brindisi attended the Booster meeting. The Boosters have plans for a 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run scheduled for November 3. Mary reported that the Howard County Times had an article about the Hitching Post. She said that the Booster members in charge of the Hitching Post are looking to slow down and anyone interested in this job should contact Suzanne Katsman or Barb Soscia. It was also reported that the Booster Club says that Howard County Schools are looking into the possibility of some type of student and/or family passes for school athletic events. All gate proceeds go to County not individual schools. Mike Williams (County Athletic Directory) has said their MIGHT be an increase in adult fees for next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Eikenberg reported that the check from Howard County for \$150 to go towards the After Prom party has been received. He stated that the Council dues have been paid, the bond/criminal insurance have been paid, per directions of board at last meeting \$14 was moved to cover the overage cost of magnets. Bill updated the board on the bank switch over saying that the new checks are coming and the old ones ARE good until the end of the month. After bank allowance, the cost for our new checks should be \$14.95. He also reported we have received \$670 in donations (which is over the amount budgeted). The Treasurer report will be filed for audit.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mollie Shea had no correspondence to share. Jennifer will give information to Mollie regarding thank you's for donations for the Pasta Dinner.

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

Amy Tich reported that council would like to remind everyone to sign up for Eschool News. She mentioned a PTA President and Principals luncheon scheduled for October 16, 2007. She reported that Council will again be having the coat drive, the book drive and the end of the year school supply drive. She mentioned that there is a Boy Scout at this school (Nathan Tresnak) who plans to spearhead the coat drive as part of his Eagle Scout project. Homewood is again asking for help with their staff appreciation activities. Jennifer Burgy will investigate this need further. Council reminded that Howard County Library has a free homework help online available. It was also mentioned that our Bylaws will be up for review this year.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Chloe Meade reported that Spirit Week was a big success. The Powder Puff game and Homecoming were all well received. She said the motivational speaker was well received by the students. Jackie Meisel said that over 1002 tickets were sold to the Homecoming Dance. She reported that many colleges have been or will be coming into the Counseling Center. She said that year books are now available in Room 220. She reported that October 17 is a Senior Breakfast; October 8 is a CrabFest; JukeBox 3 is coming up in October; Romeo and Juliet is coming in November. She further reported that the National Honor Society is planning its induction of new members. There are funds remaining for homecoming which will be divided among the classes.

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QUESTION From Board Member: It was reported that the parking lot lights were not on when parents arrived to pick up students from Homecoming Dance. It was discussed that the lights were turned off by accident and it took some time for them to power back up. Additionally, there are restrictions on the usage of the lights because of concerns from the nearby residents. But Mr. Saunderson will look into the lights and the AC in the school.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Pat Saunderson reported that Back To School went well and it is in the Administration plans to work on tightening up the timing for future events. It has been a decision to keep the presentation part as exclusive to the Marriotts Ridge High School community. He reported that the Homecoming Dance was a success with 1002 tickets sold. No issues reported at the dance! ☺ He reported that there is a Senior Breakfast planned for October 17 with a guest speaker. On that same day, the freshman class will be on a field trip. The sophomore and junior class will be taking the PSAT exam. There is a Dessert with Administration planned on October 17 at 7PM. Pat Gordon will be the school board representative. National Honor Society is kicking into high gear and they plan a morning induction ceremony with a breakfast. The counseling center is arranging for many schools to visit including Princeton and Tufts. They plan to connect with other schools to see about joint scheduling with some bigger schools. It was reported that we had 5 semi-finalists in National Merit. Ray Sydnor – motivational speaker – was very well received with great comments coming from the students regarding this presentation. This was funded by PTSA. The school will send a thank you and get the signature of Jennifer Burgy on this note. Retests for HSA are upcoming. The sophomore and junior class will take the PSAT Exam on October 17. This will run until about 11:30 AM and then regular classes for the rest of the day. There is no make up for this exam. Scores should be mailed out towards the end of December. Students have received test books as practice exams. There is a club fair planned for Thursday, October 4. Additionally, Administration is looking at changing the student drop off procedure in the morning. When a decision is made, an Eschool bulletin will be sent out.

WILL SCHWARZ: Mr. Schwarz reported on the many activities of the Counseling Center. He reported that October 1 was “Ranking Day” and seniors had or would be receiving their class ranking. He said the Counseling Center has had all 9th grade students come by to introduce themselves to counselors. He explained the Counseling Center’s open door policy and said that policy also applies to parents with the “warning” that student issues could preclude drop in visits on occasion. Mr. Schwarz explained all the materials available in the Counseling Center for all students including college information. Several board members had questions regarding the college application process and how transcripts and information was handled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hospitality: Request for hospitality for the Dessert with Administration. The Culinary Science Department will prepare food.

SAT Prep: Lynn Schenning reported that the Saturday Class is done. Climate (AC) was an issue and Mr. Saunderson will look into this issue. Wednesday class is ongoing (October 3 is the last night). No official numbers on attendance are available yet. The Saturday class is not as popular as it was last Fall with perhaps 20 kids. Lynn is looking into doing another class in February.

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Directory: Committee is working on getting information from data clerk and getting the list of “no inclusions”. It is possible it will go out with first quarter report card.

Reflections: Chairman not available for this meeting.

Newsletter: Cindy O’Brien reported that the deadline is approaching and there are currently two articles submitted.

Staff Appreciation: Mollie Shea inquired about storage space available for hospitality items including centerpieces, tablecloths, etc. Pat Saunderson stated that the Booster president and the PTSA president had met to discuss the storage room. It is resolved that this room is for the use of all parent/volunteer organization. Shelves have been placed in the room to facilitate storage. When items are brought to school for an event (i.e. food or drink items) they can be brought to the front office and directions will be given to the proper location for each event. Pat Saunderson took this opportunity to share the feelings of MRHS staff and say “Thank you to the PTSA for the excellent show of support at the recent hospitality event.” Mollie Shea asked if she can utilize the ESchool News to update parents on upcoming Staff Appreciation events and request help and/or donations. This was agreed to and COULD be combined (if timing works) in the planned PTSA weekly ESchool News updates.

Newsletter: Cindy O’Brien said that Print Shop must be allowed ten days turn around for the newsletter. Concerning content the printed version will refer to a link on the website which will contain complete lists of things like Honor Roll rather trying to list all that type information in the hard copy.

E-Script: Barbara Wrobel stated that the E-script deposits in this budget are actually April monies. She reported that Safeway has changed its computer system so when you re-register your “last year” school is your default school unless you change it.

Publicity: No report at this time. Karen Chase has a conflict on some Tuesdays, but contact her at any time with information.

After Prom: Innisbrook had a slow start but is doing well. The committee is thinking that next year they may not send the brochure home. There is a delivery date of October 22 for products. ***They will need volunteers to help with this.*** The Pasta Dinner did not do as well as hoped making about \$800. Approximately 200 people were fed.

Membership: Susie Cruz is pleased with Membership results. Last year at this time we were about at \$8350 and currently at \$11,070. Last year our member numbers were 656 and this year we are at 1076. Additionally forms most likely will be translated into Korean for future membership drives.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 PM**

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Martin
MRHS PTSA Recording Secretary