

Marriotts Ridge High School PTSA

Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2011

Staff Dining Room, MRHS

In Attendance: David Brown, Dr. Addie Kaufman, Stacie Gado, Barbara Ohnmacht, Troy Osten, Anita Koehler, Barb Chilcoat, Shelley Bivins, and Margie Ford

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by David Brown.

The November 2011 minutes were approved with a motion by Troy and a second by David.

First item discussed was the PTSA Scholarship. David asked for a chair. Barb Ohnmacht chaired last year and will try to find a new chair. The committee must consist of three teachers/guidance counselors and two parents to conduct interviews and vote on student essays. A rating form exists. There were only 7 applicants last year vying for a \$1,000 scholarship. Applications are due in March. Lisa Coster offered to be a parent reviewer.

Principal's Report – Dr. Addie Kaufman

- MRS Hosted 16 Korean officials – equivalent to admin office staff. Dr. Kaufman went there three years ago and developed a relationship. Together they discussed how to get parents involved; Korean culture is opposite from ours in terms of parent involvement.

- Graduation gown change – The central office is asking about changing to one color, not Dr. Kaufman. After much discussion and input, it has been determined that MRHS wants to remain the same with two colors – male/female.

- Due to poor student behavior and inappropriate attire, break was taken away on December 8. It returned today.

- Dr. Kaufman attended a leadership youth celebration by LeadershipU, part of Leadership Howard County, which is based on a service project in which students work the summer between their sophomore and junior year. MRHS had three students participate. Students can apply in their sophomore year.

- This is the start of MRHS concert and dance season.

- Note the student of the month leader, which is voted on by students, and athlete of the week.

- Wellness snacks have been offered at break for academic performance, national merit scholars, Juke Box, and the fall play. The students really enjoy them!

- Dr. Kaufman and David attended the family & community partnership meeting and found that MRHS has some gaps, i.e. the free & reduced meal plan (FARMS); and after school help with academic intervention. A new club has been started to address the latter.

President's report

- The tailgate lunches during conferences were appreciated.
- The by-laws were submitted & approved by the Maryland PTA. The Reflections project can now move forward.
- School improvement data was covered in partnership meeting mentioned in Dr. Kaufman's report. SGA asked that PTSA pay for MRHS Festival inflatable – David believes Boosters usually pays. PTA may be able to contribute.
- Need new date for April meeting due to spring break

Treasurer's report

- A handout was provided, showing final balances for November 30, 2011.

Committee Reports

SAT/ACT Preparation: January SAT class – 8 slots left. The Princeton (PRA) test – 2/25/12. We need to determine if this conflicts with Atholton's date. ACT is gaining in popularity and the class runs April – May.

-Membership: To date there are 784 members and applications are still coming in. It will surge again in spring due to scholarship push. Students applying for scholarships need to be part of a member family.

-Afterprom: Discussion postponed.

Teacher Reports

Ms. Margie Ford, Student Services (SS) – There were more than 200 recommendations for college applications sent out by Dec 1, 2011, plus 1,500 transcripts.

- 9th grade – SS has held three meetings to date, including intro to Naviance program
- 10th grade – SS has held two meetings to date, including personality inventory & reintroduction to Naviance
- 11th + 12th graders – in September – PSAT, SAT, Naviance. Still offering evening hours once a month - 2 counselors available. Princeton Review will be offered again in Feb. 2012.
- On 12/19/11, the catalog of classes is coming out.
- Future plans – utilizing Naviance program to send documents electronically to colleges and universities on a secure site next year.

Ms. Stacie Gado, World Language ITL – co-chair of Go Green Team – goal is to become a Maryland Green School – handout provided with details. Can PTA provide some prizes for staff? To be discussed after a formal request is made. The Team needs donated toilet paper and paper towel rolls, plus egg cartons, plus empty cereal boxes, and empty ink cartridges.

- The Natural garden may tie into this, in honor of a student who passed away last year. It's awaiting central office approval (legal, grounds).
- Eco Fest Carnival, 2/11/12 – MRHS – Cafeteria, Commons, Gymnasium. Need a parent volunteer to coordinate event with feeder middle and elementary schools.

Thursday, December 15, 2011, is the World Language Day which will include a NHS induction, covering five of six languages (not including Chinese, which is too new to the

curriculum). A Q&A session will also be held with a German foreign exchange student plus others who spent time abroad.

Students are prepping for national language exams. The goal is to increase the number of students taking AP exams.

County-wide Poetry Alive will be held after the New Year.

It was agreed that the April meeting date will be moved from April 9 to April 16, 2012. Lisa motioned, Barb O. provided the second.

Next meeting is January 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m. MRHS Teacher's Lounge