

February 2012 PTSA Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2012

Submitted by: Maria Smith

Executive Committee: √Karen Brandon, √Vanessa Christman, Donna Conneen, Kelly DiSanto, Meg Hagenbuch, √Raelyn Harman, √Jenn McNicholas, √Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, √Girija Nagaswami √Jackie Petragnani, Lavinia Pritchett, √Maria Smith, Mike Stein, √Kim Zeoli (√=present)

Guests: Chris Fritton, Pres. Haverford Education Foundation; Beth Mastencola – Administrative Internship; Gary Moyer-Assistant Principal

Attendees: Celia Mooney

- Meeting called to order by Vanessa Christman at 7:00 pm.

- Approval of January minutes – Raelyn Harman & Jackie Petragnani

Administrative Report: Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- ❖ Proud to announce we officially have four National Merit Finalists.
- ❖ Last Thursday, for the course selection meeting we had 300-400 in attendance.
- ❖ Tonight we have incoming 9th grade parents for course selection process. It was emphasized to them to start thinking about the direction the 9th graders want to take in college; i.e. math, science, arts, business, or a trade.
- ❖ 11th graders will be taking the PSSA tests on March 12,13,14, which focus on math and reading. A good night's sleep and breakfast are encouraged for the testing. For students not successful on the PSSA's, enrichment seminars in reading and math will be provided. Freshmen & sophomores have a longer homeroom and assemblies. Seniors arrive in the afternoon.
- ❖ An *Allergy Understanding Policy* recently went into effect since there are many students in the building with allergies. Some students are allergic to peanuts, latex or perfumes. All adults and students are encouraged to be aware of what they are eating, carrying or wearing while in school. Adults and students have been asked not to use aerosol sprays or spray perfumes in any open location. If they are seen using aerosols the containers will be confiscated.
- ❖ An early reminder regarding *Dress Code Policy* has been addressed with students before the warm weather is here. Homeroom teachers are to enforce appropriate attire.
- ❖ *Twitter* is the social media platform at this time. Encourage teens to be appropriate with posts and to use the private settings. Remember that future employers, etc. do look at *Face Book*. Use a trusted relative to see what is on your child's *Face Book*.
- ❖ Mr. Haverford will take place middle of April. It is a Senior Student competition. It is always a sell-out. It was proposed that these monies be split between the Prom Committee and BLAST costs.

- ❖ Dr. Nesbitt and Vanessa Christman left early for the orientation of the incoming 9th graders.

❖ **Questions to the Principal:**

- 1) *Who is in charge of Back to School Night and College & Career Fairs?*
The school principals and guidance department.

Faculty Representative: Kim Zeoli

- ❖ Portal open Feb. 21st for course selections. All forms need teacher and parent signatures to be in by March 1st. Usually 80% are in within a day. Electives are popular and get taken by upper classmen first.
- ❖ *QUESTION :Do Honors Math & Science students have to keep both as honors classes?* No.
- ❖ The Math Department now has its own brochure. A Math Center is open Monday-Thursday and students can call 7:30-8:30pm Monday-Thursday.
- ❖ Valentines Day's is tomorrow and "Singing Valentine's" are very popular for students to buy each other. Categories are: Friend/More than a Friend or Boyfriend & Girlfriend. It is a fundraiser for chorus.
- ❖ In out Math League Competition we are 8th in the State right now. There is another test tomorrow.
- ❖ The Central League Writing Competition starts March 2nd, see Mrs. Hopkins. for scholarship information. Students are given a topic at the competition and they write of the top of their head. April 12th is the final.
- ❖ The play "The Whiz" is March 23, 24 &25.
- ❖ Ms.Vindler & Ms. Blake created a Bereavement Support Group.
- ❖ The Haverford Education Foundation is holding a Summer Camp for grades 4 to 8th this year in creative courses, such as acting and ceramics. There are employment opportunities for high school students.

Open Forum Discussion:

- 1) *Emphasis was placed on Career Day for the need for more women in Software Development. It is a flexible field for women.*

Old Business-Membership:

- A thank you to Jennifer Maguire, mother of a sophomore, who spoke at the Back To School Night: 50% explaining the BLAST and 50% emphasis on the PTSA. We got 10 people for the BLAST signed up and two for the PTSA, with one check for the PTSA.
- The way membership was transitioned to using the computer for signup has the main impact on decreasing the membership response. We need to keep the Summer Membership Drive and mailing. We only had 86 Freshmen Families signed up.
- A thank you to Karen Brandon for making a flyer for Back to School Night.
- The PTSA cannot put our meetings on the school calendar.
- Need to be available for the summer walk through for incoming freshman and discuss or have a handout for Membership and the BLAST.

- Need to contact the Middle School PTSA coordinator to pass on Membership information.
- Can the PTSA do a quick presentation on 8th grade awards night on looking out for the Membership and Volunteer mailing in August?

Special Presentation by Chris Fritton

The Haverford Township School District Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit organization that is separate from the school district. They have their own board. They fund program and projects in the schools. Their function is simply to raise more money and then spend it in the schools. It was started in 2004. There are 100 mini grants that any teacher or school organization can apply for to help with special projects/programs or speakers for the arts, music, history, social interactions, bullying, etc. There are mini-grants for up to \$500 dollars. There is the S. Virginia Murphy Grant for special needs children. Oakmont PTO was given \$10,000. The HTSDEF has provided monies for the HHS Radio Station. Raised over \$100,000.

They are helping with the Summer Academy to provide educational courses in the arts, music, baking and technology. Beth will be the principal of the Summer Academy. It will be advertised on the website. You can apply to teach a course. It will be 4 weeks, 9-1 after the Fourth of July – Monday through Thursday only, and will take place at the Middle School. We are trying to arrange bus transportation.

Our fundraising efforts are displayed by: our brand of the gold envelope mailings that we do. We have staff tributes, in memoriam contributions, Senior Tributes, Solicit Alumni, they so the SAT/ACT Boot Camps –we make a small amount from them, April 28th is the Twilight Run.

We have a Wish List that we would like to present to the PTSA. Since the District can't send anything home, we need help getting information out and we would like to help you get your information out too, a collaborative effort. We would like you to help us with periodic emails through your PTSA site encouraging teachers to apply for mini-grants. It is a very simple, short application. Can we be on your Home page? We have been around for 8 years and not a lot of... There is a representative from each school on our race committee. PTO/Membership is struggling – maybe consider a \$1 volunteer donation for our dues sign-up to make people more aware of them and get them out there. We have a Face Book page. With the State cutbacks the Foundation sees themselves as being key for financial help to the schools. There is an Alumni Club we can share information with for you. We started in 2004 with \$5,000 and now we have \$200,000. We are an all volunteer and we meet 10 times per year. It is a great way to say Thank You to your teachers at holiday time or at the end of the year! How can we help each other?

Officers' Reports-

Treasurer: Meg Hagenbuch – not present.

❖ Spent only \$300 on luncheon.

Vice President & Membership Chair – Donna Conneen not present. No report.

Recording Secretary: Maria Smith - No report.

Corresponding Secretary: Raelyn Harman

- ❖ No correspondences. Card for Pat Cutillo to be sent out.

Co-Presidents: Vanessa Christman & Jackie Petragani present – No report.

Committee Reports –

Directory: Karen Brandon

- ❖ Call or email Karen if someone is in need of a Directory.
- ❖ To look for a way for PTO Manager to make reminders for parents to pay for membership. To add a column in PTO Manager to mark if people paid.

PTSA Education Grant: Kelly DiSanto-not present. No report.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Lavinia Pritchett not present.

- ❖ Please ask volunteers to pick up their casserole dishes.

Volunteer Coordinator: Donna Conneen not present. No report.

IDC Representative: Girija Nagaswami present.

- ❖ The last School Board meeting was regarding the budget. There are no cuts this year.
- ❖ Bond rating dropped from AA.
- ❖ Discussion on Catholic schools closing, full impact unknown.
- ❖ Middle School construction is almost completed.

BLAST: Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ A photo session for accepting the \$5,000 from *Nationwide* is set for Feb. 22nd at 3pm. Raelyn is going to contact *the Patch* and *the Delaware County Times*. Jennifer McNicholas' daughter will do an article for the school newspaper per Ms. Chaga.
- ❖ Raelyn to get donation letters out to *The Rotary Club* and *PECO* and *Enterprise Rental*. Dr. Nesbitt was given a letter for *Greystone Yearbook Company* and the *Jolston Ring Co*. She also spoke with the Admin. Assist. for *Borough Construction*. *Iccabucci* cannot do a big donation but is interested in helping somehow. Sponsor a raffle for a free tux. Someone suggested contacting the *Mens Warehouse* for some type of donation.
- ❖ *Nationwide* will donate \$20 to the PTSA for anyone who does a free quote with them. Ask Dr. Nesbitt to include in his newsletter. Do a picture with the check and do a blast email from Mike.
- ❖ The BLAST Community Walk Through will be at 9pm this year instead of 10pm, because people said it was too late.
- ❖ All areas have chairpersons covered.
- ❖ The Prize Committee has met.
- ❖ The Food Committee meets in March.
- ❖ We are \$10,000 short in funding. All senior homeroom teachers were emailed.
- ❖ Another Chairperson meeting will be in March.
- ❖ We still are in need of chaperones and card dealers.

Website: Mike Stein not present.

- ❖ Working on BLAST donor update to the webpage.

New Business: none The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Next PTSA meeting 4/16/12.