

## October 2011 PTSA Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2011

Submitted by: Maria Smith

**Board Members:** √Karen Brandon, √Vanessa Christman, Donna Conneen, Kelly DiSanto, √Meg Hagenbuch, √Raelyn Harman, √Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, √Jackie Petragnani, √Lavinia Pritchett, √Maria Smith, Mike Stein, √Kim Zeoli  
(√=present)

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Luff, Celia Mooney, Christina Mariani, Bill Derbyshire, Wendy Ward, Dave Fowler, Robin Hartley, Jennifer McNicholas, Rosalind Realer, Bill Rasco.

- Meeting called to order by Vanessa Christman at 7:02 pm.  
Corrections to minutes: Spelling of Raelyn Harman, not Harmon, & Brad Seigerman, not Brett.
- Approval of May minutes – Meg Hagenbuch & Raelyn Harman

**Administrative Report:** Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- ❖ Proud to announce that HHS has 4 National Merit Semi-finalists based on PSAT scores and 5 commended scholars.
- ❖ Dr. Rotelli at the last school board meeting mentioned that SAT scores went up by one point in math and writing. The average was 79.4%, 539 average for math, 526 average for reading and 525 average for writing. Our SAT scores for 4 yr. college students were: 567 – math, 553- reading and 554 - writing. Nationally SAT scores came down one point due to the increase in students taking the tests.
- ❖ Last week an Activities Fair was held for the freshmen in the gym. There are presently 70 clubs. Clubs are student led with teacher chaperones. Clubs are not faculty driven. Eighty freshmen joined Ultimate Frisbee with a total of 160 students. Dr. Pollard heads this activity. Clubs include: robotics, (who are selling LED bulbs for \$20); ping pong, photography, geopolitical, anima, chess, etc. If a student wants to start a club they can, with of course permission from the principal.

❖ **Questions to the Principal:**

- 1) *With the LED light bulbs being sold by the robotics club as an example, is there a centralized way for the school and the community to be integrated in order to inform parents and the community?* There is a goal for the clubs to have a combined website for the advertisement of activities; however it is difficult to manage with its constant change. Someone in the audience suggested a computerized marquee sign, in front of the school to publicize events, clubs and fundraising events.
- 2) *Who updates the school calendar on the website?* Dr. Nesbitt, his administrative secretary, Courtney, and the technology teacher. There are several calendars: individual school calendars, district calendar, music

calendar, athletics calendar and a facilities calendar. On the District website, on the left side, you can select the school that you which to check. It was suggested that the PTSA monthly meetings be added to the school calendar.

- ❖ There are several presentations at the high school that highlight college applications, finance issues and solutions. All presentations are at 7:00 pm in room 126 at the High School.  
Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - Fred Amrein presents, “**Paying for College: Find Out What College Financial Aid Officers Can’t Tell You.**”  
Please refer to the High School Newsletter for the other events.  
Meg Hagenbuch encouraged parents to read the Principals’ newsletter online for valuable information. She added that all of the college presentations are taped and broadcasted on the local TV network.  
Question: *Can the BLAST be advertised in the newsletter?* Yes.

**Faculty Representative:** Kim Zeoli

- ❖ PSAT’s are this Saturday at 8am at the school. Students can still signup. Rooms are posted in the cafeteria. More information can be found online.
- ❖ The Guidance website contains lots of college information. The seniors need to complete everything on Naviance first, in order to obtain teacher recommendations. Allow teachers two weeks turn around time for letters.
- ❖ Best Buddies club is selling key chains, pink cupcakes for Pinktober. Contact Kim if interested in baking or making a donation.
- ❖ The end of the first quarter is in 3 weeks. Teachers update Power School every 2 weeks. The best way to reach a teacher for any concerns is via email.
- ❖ Dancing with the Staff, a fundraiser for Future Business Leaders of America and First Position Indigenous Pitch. Mrs. Zeoli suggested that the BLAST set up a table to fundraise and advertise the event. Someone suggested that the BLAST do a Zumba fundraiser.

**Open Forum Discussion:**

- ❖ It was commented on that the Driving Class run by the township needs revitalization. It is very boring and the movies are outdated.
- ❖ *Why was Columbus Day not a day off?* Dr. Nesbitt responded that it was most likely changed for the observance of Rosh Hashanah.

**Officers’ Reports-**

**Treasurer:** Meg Hagenbuch

- ❖ Received 50 checks for the directory. There were only 200 PTSA memberships so far, with a school of 1500 students. More advertising needs to be done.
- ❖ BLAST Boscov’s fundraiser totaled \$100.

- ❖ \$1,000 grant received from Holcomb Behavioral.
- ❖ There will be no car show this year.
- ❖ PTSA membership last year totaled: \$17,425.
- ❖ Proposed budget for membership for this year is \$19,000.
- ❖ The teacher breakfast for American Education Week was discussed. It is usually rushed and only about 70 out of 130 faculty members. Also, each department sponsors a monthly breakfast. It has been decided to eliminate the breakfast and to just keep the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. The Executive Board will consider this as a budgetary change.
- ❖ It commented about a parent joking about the cost for the Directory at \$30. The message is not out there as to what the monies are used for from the Directory. An email blast was suggested to be sent to everyone as a way to communicate the purpose. A graphic representation of how the money is distributed was suggested. Not having a summer mailing this year hurt the PTSA. A discussion about adding email addresses to the Directory was suggested, but this would need to be added to the information mailing to see who would give permission to be listed. Privacy issues were discussed with the dissemination of email addresses. Other schools use a password for access to an online directory of phone numbers and emails. A survey to 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents regarding directory use and viability was suggested. Karen Brandon offered to call the other PTO groups for suggestions. Raelyn Harman to investigate computer websites for this type of information.

**Vice President & Membership Chair** – Donna Conneen not present, no report.

**Recording Secretary:** Maria Smith - No report.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Raelyn Harman.

- ❖ Mailed out 11 cards for weddings, deaths and grandchildren. Mrs. Pat Cutillo from the main office was most helpful with providing this information.

**Co-Presidents:** Vanessa Christman/ Jackie Petragnani – No report.

- ❖ The PTSA tax return was completed for last year.
- ❖ How can we get students involved in attending the PTSA meeting?  
Maybe have the class presidents elect a class sponsor for representation?

**Committee Reports –**

**Directory:** Karen Brandon –

- ❖ To work with Mike to send out an E-Blast for increasing membership.
- ❖ To explore a PTSA survey re: directory usage and changes.

**PTSA Education Grant:** Kelly DiSanto not present, no report.

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon:** Lavinia Pritchett.

- ❖ Staff Appreciation Luncheon is January 27<sup>th</sup> this year. We are asking for 1 or 2 more parents to help setup that morning. The PTO Manager can

search and report those individuals that checked off to be volunteers for this event. Looking at asking for recipes of the special dishes prepared to be compiled and shared. "Lucky Pot" is an online program that tracks dishes donated. It was suggested to already advertise a backup date in case of snow.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Donna Conneen not present, no report.

**IDC Representative:** Girija Nagaswami not present, + report.

- ❖ The Intra-district Council encouraged parents to attend the October 13<sup>th</sup>, *Meet the Legislators Event* at the *Upper Darby Performing Arts Center*. This is an open, public forum to ask questions and voice concerns. A link is provided on the district calendar website.

**BLAST:** Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ \$1,000 grant received from Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health
- ❖ Concern expressed over the lack of PTSA membership which therefore decreases funding and volunteers for the BLAST. The parents of younger students need to be educated on the BLAST and its purpose. It is really a community event for the safety of our children on and after Prom night. It stands for the **Best and Last of All Senior Times**.
- ❖ A presentation to the Middle School PTO was suggested to raise interest.
- ❖ The budget for this event is \$18,000.
- ❖ Raelyn Harman called the Peterson Insurance Co. to sponsor the BLAST – has not heard back yet.
- ❖ The Police and Fire Depts. maybe will contribute to this event – Dave Fowler to investigate.
- ❖ Jenn & a group of volunteers will solicit prizes and donations from local businesses starting in January until May.
- ❖ It was suggested that maybe corporations, like PECO, would sponsor a room. Many corporate sponsors will not donate to anything involving a party.
- ❖ Maybe sell tee-shirts as a fundraiser?
- ❖ Consider making certificates to post in the businesses for donating to increase awareness of the BLAST.
- ❖ Can we ask the District to contribute to the BLAST?
- ❖ Can we ask the Youth Aid Panel to contribute?
- ❖ Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> Open House for the Blast 7-9 in room 126, with a meeting of committee members to follow at a later date.  
To ask Mike to advertise on the website.

**Website:** Mike Stein not present. No report.

**New Business:** none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

**Next PTSA meeting 11/14/11.**