

September 2011 PTSA Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2011

Submitted by: Maria Smith

In attendance: Karen Brandon, Vanessa Christman, Donna Conneen, Kelly DiSanto, Dave Fowler, Meg Hagenbuch, Elizabeth Luff, Suzanne Mallaghan-Raso, Jennifer McNicholas, Girija Nagaswami, Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Jackie Petragnani, Jeanine Shumake, Maria Smith, Mike Stein, Stella Thorogood, Kim Zeoli

- Meeting called to order by Vanessa Christman at 7:03 pm.
- Approval of May minutes – Jackie Petragnani & Kelly DiSanto
- First meeting of the 2011-2012 school year.

Administrative Report: Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- ❖ The summer has been exciting preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. The building is open year round and we were busy with hiring new teachers, writing curriculum, creating student and faculty schedules, teaching summer school, and preparing for the fall athletic season.
- ❖ On the opening day for schedule changes we had over 300 requests and on the second day over 180 requests. The four days of schedule changes, followed by subsequent appointments best serves the need of our students. This year we had approximately 15,500 student requests for courses. The first schedules mailed home fulfilled 14,600 of these requests. This means that 94% of all classes were met on the first try. All in all, it went very well.
- ❖ Four new science teachers were hired, one new art teacher (part-time) and one new Spanish teacher (part-time).
- ❖ The brand new, multipurpose sports stadium has been completed with weather proof turf and will be ready for the fall season.
- ❖ Haverford High school has been recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the top 500 schools in the nation based on our graduation rate, classes, and AP scores. We were named to an AP honor roll in the spring. Per College Board we had 360 students taking AP exams with 80% scoring 3, 4 or 5. Last year 320 AP exams were taken.
- ❖ Our PSSA scores have all increased. Math at 73% advanced and proficient. Math special education at 40%. Reading at 85.8%, and reading special education at 69%. Seminar classes are available for students who do poorly. Next year, if a student scored advanced and proficient on the PSSA they can be exempt from taking the final.
- ❖ The Best Buddies chapter was named the top chapter in the country.
- ❖ Please enforce the dress code and behavior standards at home, in order to maintain an academic focus for a great school year.
- ❖ The school website is always up for your information regarding school activities. *Global Connect* is a computerized call system set up for

absenteeism, lateness reporting and weather cancellations. It calls 75 phones at the same time and takes only 20 minutes to reach 1200 students.

❖ **Questions to the Principal:**

1) *Is the new stadium ready?*

Yes. A soccer game has already been played, and first home football game is set for Friday.

2) *When will the Keystone tests start?* Keystone State exams are on hold for a year due to the budget.

3) At the School Board meeting Dr. McGriff had a push against cyber-bullying.

4) *What is happening to Senior Project?* Senior Project courses have been dropped. The students can do a project in any senior class – Math, Science, English, Social Studies or if it is an elective or language for the third or fourth year. During the first three weeks of school the senior will declare what the project will be in a course of choice and the teacher will approve. Examples include: a survey and letter to a government official, an American Literature project, a wood working project, etc. For the following year, the State has stated that the college application counts as a graduation project, since it takes extensive organization, coordination, an essay and is time consuming. Senior Project is a Pass or Fail grade. Senior advisory will review in homeroom. Next year, completion of the Common Application for College will be the State accepted senior project. Dr. Nesbitt encouraged that the student must be the one filling out the application.

- ❖ Back to School Night is September 21st at 7pm. homeroom. A Global Connect message will be sent out to all homes.
- ❖ The High School Calendar Year is accessible on the Website on the top right.
- ❖ The Haverford Education Foundation has found a company that does an SAT preparation program called SAT Boot Camp, a 2 day weekend event from 9-1, both Saturday & Sunday, at the High School on Sept. 24th and 25th. Cost is \$165.

Faculty Representative: Kim Zeoli (Mrs. Zeoli is a math teacher in her 5th year, teaching Geometry and Algebra II, and it is her second year as a PTO representative.)

- ❖ Dress code is going well. Homeroom teachers are addressing appropriateness.
- ❖ School clubs started this week: Robotics, Art, Photography, etc.
- ❖ PSAT sign-ups are coming up soon. 9th & 10th grades sign-ups are Oct. 3rd to 7th. Juniors are Sept. 26th & 30th. Times are 7:15am & 9:20am or 2:15pm & 2:45pm. Deadline is Oct. 7th. Cost is \$20 and seats are limited. Test date here at Haverford is October 15th.
- ❖ College visits start this week. Check Naviance for the schedule.

Open Forum Discussion:

- ❖ Regarding the possibility of a microwave in each cafeteria, the issue of cleanliness needs to be considered.
- ❖ Forms and letters to join the PTSA and receive the Student Directory are stamped and ready to go.
- ❖ Karen Brandon heads up Delco. Brain Steps – a concussion monitoring and integration program for students.
- ❖ An idea was suggested for adding a special water fountain streamer to allow students to fill water bottles.

Officers' Reports-

Treasurer: Jackie Petragnani (new Co-President)

- ❖ Everything is up to date ending with the BLAST.
- ❖ Meg Hagenbuch is taking over the Treasurer position for this year.

Vice President & Membership Chair – Welcome Donna Conneen.

Recording Secretary: Maria Smith - No report.

Corresponding Secretary: Welcome Raelyn Harmon. Not present due to a family function. It was noted that Raelyn should be notified that Brett Seigermans' mother died and also Lillian Finleys' mother died.

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

Committee Reports –

Directory: Karen Brandon –

- ❖ PTO Manager, a computer program for the Student Directory registry, is almost up and running, hopefully by Sept. 13th. One uses the same login, which is your email address; however, the password is different for each school.

PTSA Education Grant: Kelly Di Santo

- ❖ All checks for recipients of the Education Grants, except for one, have been distributed.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Lavinia Pritchett, not present, no report.

Volunteer Coordinator: Welcome Donna Conneen, too new to have a report.

IDC Representative: Girija Nagaswami present.

- ❖ The Intra-district Council meets the last Tuesday of each month.

- ❖ On October 13th there is a Meet the Legislators Event at the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center. This is an open, public forum to ask questions and voice concerns. Spread the word.

BLAST: Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ Still in need of a co-chair in order to assist and to train for future BLAST events.
- ❖ There will be an information booth and donation jar at Haverford Township Day. Meg Hagenbuch volunteered to help.
- ❖ Boscov's 25 % off coupons are on sale for \$5 as a fundraiser. The coupon is good on one day only, October 4th. 100% of the proceeds will go to the BLAST.

Website: Mike Stein

- ❖ Karen Brandon & Mike are testing the PTO Manager Registration system.
- ❖ Mike will be happy to post any event information on the PTSA.

New Business:

- Announcement: HHS soccer team is selling mums on Sept. 17th, 10am-4pm, at Lynn Elementary School. Four plants for \$20.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next PTSA meeting 10/10/11.