

January 2012 PTSA Meeting Minutes

January 9, 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 Petragrani, √Lavinia Pritchett, √Maria
 Smith, √Mike Stein,
√Kim Zeoli (√=**present**)

Attendees: Elizabeth Luff, Jennifer Maguire, Bill Rasco, Robin Hartley

- Meeting called to order by Jackie Petragrani at 7:00 pm.
- Approval of November minutes – Mike Stein, Raelyn Harman & Jenn McNicholas

Administrative Report: Dr. Jeff Nesbitt, Principal

- ❖ Haverford High School’s Marching Band took first place in the American Division Championship competition in Hershey, Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 – a first!
 - ❖ Coaches vs. Cancer is coming up this month.
 - ❖ Holiday Gift Drive provided gifts to 68 Haverford township students. There were over 700 gifts purchased and wrapped by the National Honor Society students.
 - ❖ The next musical coming up is the “The Wiz”. All 53 students that tried out were cast. There will be four shows: a Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday matinees and a Saturday evening on March 23 – 25th, 2012.
 - ❖ Happy to announce we have 4 National Merit Scholar finalists.
 - ❖ Course selection proposals have been completed. AP World History, AP American History, Advanced Marketing, Advanced CAD have been added. Course offerings are available online and catalogs are with the Homeroom teachers.
 - ❖ This February we will have an Art Workers Show from the Elective Art classes.
 - ❖ The first “Power Down Friday” has occurred, and was made possible by the Aware Club for energy conservation. Lights are turned off during the school day in all appropriate areas. The Commons have sunlight.
 - ❖ In the Delco Hi-Q competition, Haverford scored an amazing 71 points in the home meet – this has never been scored in over a decade. Haverford answered every question correctly!
- ❖ **Questions to the Principal:**
- 1) *With Catholic schools closing, what numbers of students do you expect here?*
 No good way to predict this at present, estimate possibly 50 students.
 - 2) *How do class trips happen?*

With the cut in funding the number of field trips has been decreased. Which department goes alternates each year. The World Language dept. is allowed two this year. The Spanish class went out to eat at a restaurant. The Art dept. encourages a trip with a great event or artist show. All other trips are not school sponsored or arranged, for example the outside company that is doing the trip to Costa Rica.

3) *Can you comment on the use of iPads being used by students?*

Mr. Weis, dept. head of the French dept., who is also most technologically advanced, is experimenting with the AP French classes this year on the differences in using the iPad vs. a laptop in the classroom. He is a lead AP French teacher in the country, and he also writes the AP book for the AP French exam.

Faculty Representative: Kim Zeoli

- ❖ Preparing for Best Buddies Wing Bowl 2012 to be held on Friday, February 3rd.
- ❖ SAT's are here on 1/28, there is still time for late registration. The other SAT dates are March 10th, May 5th and then June.
- ❖ Education Foundation is sponsoring a SAT Boot Camp 1/21 & 1/22. The cost is \$65 and one can register online.
- ❖ The Semester is coming to an end soon and finals are 1/25 & 1/26. Encourage students to stay on top of their work, to be here and to get here on time.

Open Forum Discussion:

1) *What is the cost of senior dues?*

Senior dues are \$100 and include a yearbook, cap & gown rental, 10 graduation announcements. If a yearbook is not requested, it is either \$70 or \$80 less. Senior Breakfast cost is about \$6.

Old Business:

Funding -

No need to motion approval of funding for the assembly because \$200 is already set aside in the budget.

BLAST theme discussion-

The Holiday theme was brought up for discussion in being politically correct and in avoidance of religious themes. The theme of Celebrations is being used. Halloween, Cinco de Mayo, Valentines Day (Sweet Hearts Day) are considered to be appropriate. Christmas many offend individuals of other religions. A Winter Wonderland theme or Snow Days were considered good ideas. Evergreen trees with fake snow and without ornaments are allowed.

Membership Discussion –: “How can we make it better?”

It was mentioned that a new focus on membership be taken, in that all parents are automatically members and the dues are used as a means of fund raising for the school’s biggest events. Enlist the students and teachers to collect the dues. Offer a prize to the class that brings in the most participants; i.e. that class will receive 1/3 of the money for their senior year events or \$500.

- We have seen 25% retention in members from year to year. Meaning that in the current year, we only get 25% of the folks we had as contributing members from the prior year.
 - A phone campaign was suggested for donations and to drum up volunteers.
 - Don’t equate “*the dues*” to the Directory. We need to brand it to the students, teachers, and activities. Present it as a thank you, and also “*here is what is provided to the student.*”
 - We lost a lot of people with the changes to the time frame and the computer sign-up mechanism.
 - We are down \$12,000 dollars.
 - Personal phone calls need to be made to target the people who have not signed up.
 - Utilize the Back to School night tables and Orientation of the incoming 9th graders.
 - *Can someone speak at the Back to School nights to discuss PTSA & the Blast?*
- Feb 9th is Back to School night. Jenn Maguire has kindly offered to speak about the PTSA and the Blast on Back to School Night.
- It was suggested that a script about the Blast and the list of prizes at the event be given to the homeroom teachers. This was done last year, but not carried out successfully. Mrs. Zeoli and Mr. Nesbitt offered to talk to the senior homeroom teachers to help this effort.
 - This organization does not have a major event to sponsor, except for the Blast.
 - Suggested to post the Blast Donators on the website.

Officers’ Reports-

Treasurer: Meg Hagenbuch

- ❖ Grant was approved.
- ❖ \$200 for assembly approved.

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

Recording Secretary: Maria Smith - No report.

Corresponding Secretary: Raelyn Harman

- ❖ Mailed out 1 card for a birth. Pat Cutillo going out for medical leave. She will be back in March. A substitute secretary will fill in for her.

Co-Presidents: Vanessa Christman not present.

Jackie Petraghani present. – No report.

Committee Reports –

Directory: Karen Brandon

- ❖ Call or email Karen if someone is in need of a Directory.

PTSA Education Grant: Kelly DiSanto

- ❖ A motion was made to suspend the PTSA Community Grant for this year due to low funds and to give this money to the Blast. All voted yes.
- ❖ Last year there was \$2200 and 11 scholarships. This year we only have \$50 in donations.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Lavinia Pritchett.

- ❖ The Luncheon is scheduled for 1/27/2012.
- ❖ Using “Lucky Potluck.”
- ❖ Remember to collect emails as contact for next year.

Volunteer Coordinator: Donna Conneen not present. No report.

IDC Representative: Girija Nagaswami not present. + report.

- ❖ At the last School Board meeting, Mr. Larry Feinberg brought a person from a local organization, willing to help us raise awareness about public education and how we can appeal to our senators and legislators.

BLAST: Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ December fundraiser at *Five & Below*.
- ❖ Blast Chair Committee meeting set for 1/25/12.
- ❖ In need of four areas still to be covered.

Website: Mike Stein present.

- ❖ To work with Jenn and Raelyn to recognize our “Legacy Donors” on the website.

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next PTSA meeting 2/13/12.