

## November 2011 PTSA Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2011

Submitted by: Maria Smith

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

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Luff, Celia Mooney, Dave Fowler, Robin Hartley, Jenn McNicholas.

- Meeting called to order by Vanessa Christman at 7:01pm.
- Approval of October minutes – Jackie Petragnani & Karen Brandon

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

- ❖ American Education Week is this week; please register if you are planning to attend.
- ❖ Everyone is encouraged to read the monthly newsletter on the website.
- ❖ Met with students regarding PSSA, PSAT's, etc. to discuss the incentives for those who do well. If a junior has scored Advanced, they will be exempt from the final in the subject in which they scored Advanced.
- ❖ We are a Model SAS –“Standards Align Systems website. PLC's to implement a higher level process of teachers; including strategies to teach, how to assess, and incorporation of universal standards.
- ❖ This high school is once again being recognized by the College Board with a placement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP Honor Roll, for increasing access to Advance Placement coursework, while increasing the percentage of students earning 3 or higher on AP exams. 85% of our students achieved a 3 or higher score. AP World History and AP American History to be added as courses.
- ❖ Fall Sports are transitioning into winter. Homecoming is fast approaching on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Door decorating contest starts this week with a Candy Land theme. Pep Rally on Wednesday.
- ❖ Captains of the football team had lunch with the Rotary Club.
- ❖ Bonfire – Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. 7pm.
- ❖ Homecoming Game: Fords vs. the Royals 10:45 am, 11/24/11.
- ❖ *Noises Off* is this falls theatrical production. They have created a phenomenal two story stage on stage, which rotates.
- ❖ The National Honor Society is inducting 80 students tonight.

### ❖ **Questions to the Principal:**

- 1) *How do parents receive PSAT results?*  
Results are mailed home in 1 ½ to 2 months.

2) *Can we do another Brain Steps inservice as a Teacher Inservice this year?* With the Standards Align Professional Development there is no longer a choice of inservice topics. Ten hours of professional development time is required.

3) *Regarding the Impact program, if a child does not have a sports related concussion can they be assessed?* Yes, we can open it up and advertise this for next year.

4) *How is the Technology policy going?* It really depends on how each teacher enforces the policy. It is analogous to passing a note in class as in the past. The best classroom management is an engaged class.

5) *Will the fire department be there for the bonfire?* Yes

6) *Can you comment about an arrest that was made at the high school?*

No, I cannot talk about the incident. All matters are confidential and are handled under the radar. It is a reality at a public school, it happens.

7) *How is a dance secured and chaperoned?* It is chaperoned and a police office is there. Once students enter, they cannot leave until the dance is over at 11pm.

**Faculty Representative:** Kim Zeoli

- ❖ National Honor Society (NHS) is looking for tutors. There is no math center. How can one get a tutor? You can check at main office and the library. Also, Mrs. Daniszewski & Ms. Devona Jackson run the NHS. Mrs. Zeoli is going to put in a request to advertise in H-Vision. Vanessa to ask Jeff to add to his newsletter.
- ❖ The Thanksgiving Food Drive ends this Friday. Bring donations to the main office. They are asking for specific food items in order to make nice baskets. Gift cards and turkeys are appreciated. All baskets go to families in Haverford Township.
- ❖ A Holiday Craft Show will be held 10-3 pm in the commons which will benefit the Band and Orchestra going to Virginia. Contact Christine Bender.
- ❖ For the College visit schedule please check Naviance.
- ❖ Unit tests never go home with students since they are reused. You can request to see a test and return it within one week.

**Open Forum Discussion:**

1) *There was a math curriculum debate at the School Board meeting. Did the math program change?* The IGA math program changed to CPM. The teacher is more of a monitor in leading the class. Students have increased practice of math problems and work in teams to solve problems. It is a spiral curriculum, where old and new information goes back and forth, and is constantly reinforced and reviewed.

**Old Business:****Membership Assessment Discussion -**

It was recommended by Vanessa that a June planning meeting be set to establish milestones, since August is difficult to arrange with vacations. We need to take advantage of Orientation and Back to School night to promote membership. People do not have a clear sense of what PTSA does and supports. We have 246 members compared to 400 from last year. Consider that the word “membership should not be used, but donation instead. “Support PTSA to accomplish our goals. Donate time, talent and treasure. “

Maybe have a monthly email blast that says, “This month we need or are looking for....”

Focus on incoming freshmen and their welcome to the school in the spring. Check with Middle School for introduction to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

*Are we doing the survey?* Yes, it is easy and free and can give us direction.

**Officers’ Reports-**

**Treasurer:** Meg Hagenbuch

- ❖ Received senior donation of \$50.

**Vice President & Membership Chair** – Donna Conneen - No report.

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

**Corresponding Secretary:** Raelyn Harman.

- ❖ Mailed out 3cards for a birth, a death and a return to work.

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

**Committee Reports –**

**Directory:** Karen Brandon –

- ❖ Directory was reviewed with comments. To add teacher emails.
- ❖ For Printing we will use the District. – contact Danielle Tori. To order 500 minimum.

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

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon:** Lavinia Pritchett not present. No report.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Donna Conneen present. Can go on PTO Manager to coordinate volunteer lists. Board members have access to PTO Manager – if you need assistance contact Karen Brandon.

**IDC Representative:** Girija Nagaswami present.

- ❖ Looking for a way to reach all PTO's on how the district is lobbying to support public education. Suggest that Mike put it on the website.
- ❖ The Education Foundation will be sending out a survey to parents regarding what summer programs are of interest to students over the summer. I.e. Science & Technology & tutoring.
- ❖ The Education Foundation raises money from the community and businesses to support schools second to reduced funding. Teachers can get mini-grants for projects. Also, it accepts requests to recognize teachers during the year.

**BLAST:** Jenn McNicholas

- ❖ The BLAST is still on.
- ❖ Running a December fundraiser at *Five & Below*. Throughout the whole month of December please shop at *Five & Below* on Lancaster Avenue in Wynnewood. Please mention Haverford High School at the checkout, and the BLAST will receive 10% of your total purchase price.
- ❖ Boscov's fundraiser to wrap gifts for the holidays - Mon- Sat. 10am to 9pm or Sunday 11 am – 6pm. Contact Jenn by Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> if interested.
- ❖ November 1<sup>st</sup> Open House for the Blast 7-9 was held in room 126. Very poor turn out – only 3 new members. Nine rooms need to be decorated and only three are covered.
- ❖ Can we get the help of art students? Yes.
- ❖ \$16,500 was spent on the BLAST last year. \$4,200 from Senior parents. \$1,000 from a grant. \$400 collected at BLAST walk through. Business donation of \$1,000. One senior donation of \$3,000. \$800 from car show.
- ❖ Suggestion of a Zumbathon be done in February. Coordinated through First Position Dance Studio.
- ❖ “A Taste of Havertown” as a fundraiser was suggested.
- ❖ Contact Senior class representatives.
- ❖ Jenn's daughter can do a story for the newspaper on the BLAST.
- ❖ BLAST meeting – Tuesday Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 pm.

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

**New Business:** none

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

**Next PTSA meeting 1/9/12.**