

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - APRIL 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Shosfy at 9:13 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 03/25/09 General Membership Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Nancy Harter to approve the minutes which was 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved.

Principal's Report/Uniform Guidelines: Principal Weiner said prom weekend is a wonderful event, but student safety is most important. Parents should be aware of any pre-prom activities. If you have hired a limo, have a private conversation with the driver to insure that there are no unscheduled stops which can be very dangerous. We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period and the final exam schedule will be on the website in a few days.

EESAC voted on 02/03<sup>rd</sup> to authorize a vote to take place the week of 04/20<sup>th</sup> on a mandatory uniform policy. A committee was formed to develop uniform criteria which are currently posted on the school's website. He has also sent out two Connect-Ed messages and the criteria are listed on a hand out here today. Current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade families are authorized to vote. Each family gets one vote per student on one ballot. It is very important that everyone votes. The outcome will be decided by 50% plus 1. We are sending out 2,100 to 2,200 ballots in the next few days. The uniform policy is about safety, not control. It is about being able to identify who belongs here and who does not. He has spoken to principals at other high schools and has been told that the wearing of uniforms has decreased the number of confrontations that students have, decreased trespassers, and calmed the campus down. Whether you are for uniforms or not, one thing we share in common is that we are all in favor of making our school as safe as possible.

The uniform criteria were designed by parents, students, teachers, and administrators. These clothes can be bought anywhere, but we prefer that you put the school logo on them. Other logos on the shirts can't be bigger than 1" in size. School logos are optional. The colors and style make it easier to identify who doesn't belong here. If it is passed, we have the ability to revise and adjust the policy. A parent asked what the consequences are for a student who doesn't wear the uniform. Mr. Weiner said they cannot be suspended or disciplined; however, the administration can convince the kids and their parents about the positive impact of wearing the uniform. A waiver is available for parents that want to opt-out.

At North Miami Middle on the last day of school, 8<sup>th</sup> graders donated their uniforms so they could wear what they want on the last day. When a kid during the year showed up out of uniform, they had clean shirts, etc., for them to wear – as a temporary uniform for the day. Another parent stated, "If you can't get kids to wear the lanyard for safety, how will wearing uniforms help?" Principal Weiner explained that the ID tag is a school-based program and not part of School Board rules. Uniforms are authorized by the School Board rules. The ID program has not worked because not all stakeholders (students, parents, and teachers) are willing to work 100% on it. A staff member that chooses not to help enforce the ID program cannot be disciplined. There is nothing contractually that Mr. Weiner can do to help convince a teacher to do otherwise. We have a school built in the 1950s that is wide open with 32 to 40 different ways to enter this building. He doesn't have the security personnel to patrol the school. By wearing uniforms and using IDs, we are trying to make it more difficult for people who should not be here to be here. We have a responsibility to be diligent and take the next step to circumvent problems.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Isabel McBrayer distributed an updated budget. Karen Kett, Nancy Harter, and Hal Rosenfeld volunteered for the Audit Committee. We previously gave the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Celebration committee \$5,000 which has been returned with an additional \$1,000. Karen Kett made a motion to close the Birthday Celebration account and transfer the funds into the regular operating account and further moved to create two subcategories under Birthday Celebration expense: (1) Birthday Celebration to be used for Student Activities at the discretion of the school's activity director; and, (2) Brick Program. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and all voted in favor.

Legislative: Cheri Ball reported on the "Rally to Tally." She visited 7 legislator's offices and attended 3 committee meetings. When we were in a legislator's office or at a committee meeting and a student started talking, the legislator actually paid attention. Unfortunately, many representatives believe that in Miami-Dade we are wasteful spenders and our schools are fine. A lot of our legislators don't have kids; or, if they do, most of them are in private schools.

Jennifer Wollmann thanked Ms. Ball for going to Tallahassee and representing us. Over 400 post cards and 1,000s of signatures on the petition were delivered to our legislators. Both the Senate and House budgets are going to devastate public education. Right now, they plan to take money from construction funds and change the millage. The result will be that we won't have the funds to pay off construction loans. A second effect is the equalizing factor. Miami-Dade will get zero dollars from the State once the legislature "equalizes" statewide funding.

Miami-Dade schools suffered \$33 million in additional cuts in May and an additional 4% of funding cuts (\$167 million) are proposed. AP/IB funding will be cut in half. Ms. Wollmann thanked Mayor Lerner for her advocacy on the public schools behalf and in promoting the Financial Forum. This is an economic issue for the State of Florida. Mayor Lerner encouraged members to go tomorrow night to arm themselves with information so we can counter the legislators' attitude that we are wasting money. Call the local office of your representative and let them know how angry you are. You need to contact the Governor as he is the one who promised to hold education harmless and tell him he needs to veto this budget.

Old Business: Taste of Pinecrest Report: Nancy Harter advised that over 3,900 attended and 20 restaurants and 20 businesses participated. \$4,200 to \$4,500 will be given to area schools. She thanked the volunteers and Caryn Tanis-Boren for finding and coordinating the volunteers.

New Business: Executive Board Elections: Claudia Glasson was thanked for chairing the Nominating Committee whose members included Anne Flanders, Denise Kranichfeld, Elaine Quartin, and Isabel McBrayer. The proposed slate for next year's Executive Board is: President - Isabel McBrayer; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Diane Wysong; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Sue Montesinos; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Nancy Harter; Treasurer - Hal Rosenfeld; Recording Secretary - Cipora Auslander; Corresponding Secretary - Roxy Lancella; and Parliamentarian (An appointed position that will be announced by the President at a later date.). Nominations from the floor were requested for each position, but none were made. Ms. Shosfy called for a vote. Ms. Glasson made to motion to accept the slate as presented, which was 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimously passed.

Teacher Appreciation Week/May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>: We will purchase the food and Ms. Ross, the Culinary Arts Department teacher, and her students will prepare the luncheon.

End of Year Staff Luncheon/June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lauren Mayer and Cindy Eisenberg passed sign-up sheets for volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up, and to donate food, baked goods, sodas, etc. The theme is "Stay-cation."

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast: Dee Jordan requested everyone's name, email address, and phone# so everyone receives an invitation to the "thank you" breakfast.

Parent Involvement Benchmark Survey: A flyer was distributed and parents were asked to go online and fill out the survey.

EESAC: Claudia Glasson said we need to find more EESAC members as many current members will be leaving. Ms. Shosfy suggested it be handled at the first PTSA meeting next year.

Next PTSA Meeting: Our final meeting will be at Lynne Schaefer's home, 12085 S.W. 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 05/20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Roxy Lancella, Recording Secretary

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