

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – APRIL 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Shosfy at 9:12 a.m.

Summer School: Night School principal, Dr. Edward Gehret, said that the PHS Adult Education department experienced \$1,500,000 in budget reductions this year. They've made cuts and consolidated programs so are able to offer limited classes this summer.

Guest Speaker: Voted MPHS Teacher of the Year by the faculty, science teacher Terri Ortiz was then selected as the 2008-09 Regional Center V Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ortiz read her "If I Would Have Won" speech. She told the story about a girl who came from a single parent family where school was a safe refuge for her. Teachers in elementary school and junior high gave her paper and pens and shared a sandwich when she had none. They also pushed her further. She was placed in foster care, but was rescued by her friend's mom. Teachers continued to encourage her, helped her become a Silver Knight, and helped her earn college scholarships. She became a teacher for Dade County schools. She continued, saying the best gifts are those to be given away and that pride should be given away. She thanked us for believing in her and supporting her through this journey. She is proud to represent MPHS as the Regional Center V Teacher of the Year. "After all, Dade County schools saved my life."

Legislative Event: Jennifer Wollmann advised members that postcards are available for you to write a note to your legislator, your senator, and the house speaker. A list of local representatives and sample postcard content are included in flyers on each table. We were told in January that the tax cut wasn't going to effect education, but it has. In November, take a look at a nonpartisan website called votesmart.org to ascertain how your representatives voted on specific issues.

Treasurer's Report: Our accounts are as listed on the budget hand outs. Becky Herget, Cecilia Prah, Hal Rosenfeld, Mary Stewart, and Suren Naidoo volunteered for the audit committee.

Old Business: The Special Projects program went really well.

New Business:

Budget Expenditures – Refrigerator and Staff Shirts: The Media Center refrigerator is broken and the Board proposes that the membership approve up to \$600 to replace it. Isabel McBrayer made a motion to spend up to \$600 to purchase a new refrigerator. The motion was seconded by Claudia Glasson and approved unanimously.

Next year is the 50th birthday/anniversary of the school and we would like to purchase shirts over the summer for the staff and extras to sell to the public (designed with the birthday in mind). Shirts cost \$8 to \$10 each and we will need to purchase about 250. A motion was made by Randi Trazenfeld to spend up to \$2,500 to purchase faculty shirts to be used as teacher gifts. The motion was seconded by Karen Kett and approved unanimously.

Executive Board Elections: Claudia Glasson announced the proposed slate:

President:	Andrea Shosfy
First Vice President:	Cipora Auslander
Second Vice President:	Nancy Harter
Third Vice President:	Becky Herget
Treasurer:	Isabel McBrayer
Recording Secretary:	Roxy Lancella
Corresponding Secretary:	Hal Rosenfeld
Parliamentarian:	To be voted on by the Executive Board

No nominations were made from the floor. All members voted in favor of the proposed slate. The names of the volunteers who will be committee chairs next year were read.

Taste of Pinecrest: Nancy Harter stated that Peter Cai received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Pinecrest Business Association. The March occasion netted \$30,755 to benefit the 5 schools in our area. EESAC must approve the use of our share of the funds.

2007-08 Parent Involvement Benchmark Survey: The school needs at least 50 parents to fill out the survey on the website at http://www2.dadeschools.net/parents/PI_survey08.htm.

End of Year Staff Luncheon: The luncheon has been changed to June 3rd. Lauren Mayer needs volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. Donations of beverages and desserts are welcome. Contact her at laurenmayer@bellsouth.net to help.

Media Center "Read Event": Dian Adjamah, Medical Specialist, passed around a sign-up sheet for the "Spring Reading Rap Session" on April 23rd and asked for help by providing refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend next Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the March 19, 2008, General Membership Meeting were presented. A modification was made to change the date of the End of the Year Staff Luncheon to June 3rd. Nancy Harter made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved as amended.

Principal's Report: Mr. Weiner thanked the PTSA for its past support especially in this tight budget year. He recognized and thanked Lynne Schaefer as an active and valuable volunteer. She went above and beyond the call of duty the Thursday before spring break. The school nurse was out and she took over and helped an injured student until staff and Fire Rescue arrived.

Mr. Weiner stated that the prom was beautiful with over 800 well behaved and beautifully dressed kids attending. We had one situation to deal with kids coming to the prom in a party bus with 2 students needing help. Fire Rescue and the students' parents were called. The 2 kids went to Cedars Hospital and at least 3 other students admitted they were under the influence. He weighed the pros and cons of how to discipline these kids feeling that we need to educate rather than strongly discipline. He had a meeting yesterday with the 40 kids involved and told them the Spartacus slave revolt story emphasizing "collective responsibility."

He asked the kids to decide for themselves. If they were in the wrong for participating in an illegal activity, they should admit it and give up grad night. In addition, all are required to participate in a community service project to leave a foot print behind to talk to future Palmetto Panthers about the dangers of alcohol abuse. Seventy-five percent have stepped up and given up grad night. Hopefully, it is a learning experience for them and will impact future students.

Jennifer Wollmann thanked Mr. Weiner and said the prom was an incredible success and most of the kids were responsible and had a great time. Claudia Glasson stated the Parrot Jungle location was more secure than other past locations and the chaperones were making sure that kids weren't bringing in alcohol. If Mr. Weiner felt kids were under the influence, they were given a choice to either speak to a police officer or contact their parents to take them home. Kids were subject to a sobriety test before they could enter the prom. The school has a zero tolerance policy. Parents need to get involved with their kid's prom plans and organize it.

Final Meeting: The next meeting on May 21st at 9 a.m. is a social meeting at Isabel McBrayer's house. Please RSVP to her at mctribe@bellsouth.net.

Miscellaneous: The 10th grade has been given a writing prompt to write an original poem or short story relating to "I know what peer pressure can do and I won't let it take hold of me." The phrase was taken from Helen Witty's diary. Kiki Ellenby needs volunteers to help read the essays. Randi Trazenfeld announced that there is an election planned on August 26th for the reauthorization of The Children's Trust. It is critical to get out and vote that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

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