

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Shosfy at 9:16 a.m.

Program - School Services:

Susie Overholt, School Nurse: Ms. Overholt's services are donated by Jackson South Community Hospital. Her job is to help your children during the day with medical emergencies. She is not allowed to administer any medications unless they are preauthorized by a physician and the proper forms are completed and on file at the school. She gets requests for birth control and pregnancy testing. She will answer questions, but encourages parental involvement.

Harry Nerenberg, Guidance Counselor: Mr. Nerenberg spoke on behalf of Bonnie Hannemann, Chairperson of the Student Services Department. MPSH has 6 counselors that are assigned alphabetically in grades 10-12. Each counselor handles about 600 students. For 9th grade students, 4 counselors are working together to do group presentations on study skills, time management, and conflict resolution. Students should be encouraged to work out an academic plan with their counselors. Subject selection forms usually are sent home in the early spring, so the kids should meet with their counselors well before then. Parents need to get to know your child's counselor as well. Ms. Maggio at ex. 2241 schedules counselor appointments.

Wendy Christopher, Career Specialist: Ms. Christopher's responsibility is to educate the students about careers and choices for their future occupation. She helps in the preparation of resumes, career portfolios, and job fairs. She also works closely with Sally Coords, College Assistance Program (CAP) Advisor. You need to contact Ms. Coords with questions about colleges, credits, Bright Futures, and scholarships. Her main job is to help your child do everything they can do to get in to the right place. Eleventh grade Parent Night is 10/27th at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. That same night from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., the College Fair will be held in the gym. This year, 85 colleges will be participating. You and your child should attend. All grades are invited.

Robin Tassler, TRUST Specialist: Ms. Tassler handles problems students face with their family, alcohol or drug abuse, grief counseling, relationship issues, etc. She coordinates workshops, peer mediation, and student based conflict resolution to try to resolve conflicts without fighting.

Angie Felipe-Lima, Activities Director: Besides coordinating club activities, Ms. Felipe-Lima, also handles volunteers and special events. She introduced Student Council representative Junior Elizabeth Kobert who will attend meetings and report back to the student government.

David Rosenberg, Honor Council: Senior David Rosenberg is president of the Honor Council, a group made up of MPSH students and faculty. Although kids are tempted to cheat because of the stiff competition for good grades, cheating is not tolerated at our school. When they get caught, the Honor Council can give kids a second chance.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the 08/20th General Membership Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mary Stewart to approve the minutes which was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Isabel McBrayer explained that one more adjustment needed to be made to the budget that we approved last month - \$510 for ACT testing that was missed through oversight. A motion was made by Karen Kett to amend the budget to include \$510 under Special Projects – Approved 2008. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

College Fair: The event is scheduled for 10/27th at 7 p.m. in the gym. Barbara Davis and Barbara Toland need volunteers to help set up and prepare food to feed the representatives.

Special Projects: Jennifer Wollmann stated that teachers have received the forms to request items from funds contributed jointly by ESSAC, the PTSA, and the Principal's special account.

Legislative: At a recent workshop, Parliamentarian Randi Trazenfeld learned how the schools are funded per student from Tallahassee, how the budget itself is determined, and how we can effectively advocate and use the information we have learned to participate in the system. It will be repeated on 10/4th at Miami Coral Park Senior High, 8865 SW 16th Street (call 305-995-1102 and/or 305-995-1233). A PTSA leadership program will be going on at the same time.

Membership/Donations: Karen Kett advised that we have 1,042 members and are well on our way to exceeding last year's membership number. We have surpassed our \$7,000 goal for the Special Donation program and have received \$15,000 to date. Donations can be made all year. Book Sale: Ms. Kett said that the Book Sale is going on this week through Friday. Information and teacher required reading book lists are online. Borders is our vendor this year.

50th Anniversary: Nancy Harter stated that the 50th Anniversary is for everyone. Volunteers and parents have worked hard on behalf of Palmetto, so she suggested we buy ourselves a brick to commemorate and honor ourselves and our graduating kids. Claudia Glasson is in charge of the Memory Book for the celebration. She is taking ads (\$50 for a ¼ page up to \$200 for a full page). Email her at Glasson@bellsouth.net.

EESAC: Ms. Harter said that the first ESSAC meeting of the school year was yesterday. The money coming from the state has been cut in half to \$5 per student. ESSAC feels that can provide most of what they did last year, but the stipend to the teachers will be reduced. The committee needs an alternate member position filled. Mary Steward nominated Hal Rosenfeld to fill the alternate position. The motion was seconded by Denise Kranichfeld and all voted in favor.

Principal's Report: After a parent expressed security concerns, Mr. Weiner explained that the building was designed and built in 1958. Because of the design, there are probably 30 different ways to enter the campus. We only have 8 security monitors now. We are authorized to have 10, but we have 2 positions open. He has asked for an increase in security personnel. He has made the ID badge program mandatory. He relies upon parents to educate their kids and make sure they wear their IDs.

Open House is scheduled for 09/23rd at 7 p.m. after the Resource Fair in the Media Center. Your child should have given you a copy of their schedule with a map of the school. He thanked the PTSA for the \$1,500 donation for teacher lunches during the 5 early release days. He also thanked the parent volunteers who do photocopying for the teachers every day from 9 am to 11 am. The electronic device policy is in its third year. They can bring them to school, but must keep them off and in a secure place. Do not call or text message your child between 7 am and 2:30 pm. If you must get a message to your student, call the school.

A parent asked a question concerning homecoming, hotel parties, and after parties. Mr. Weiner advised that there are no school-sponsored after parties. If you are a parent assisting in reserving a limo service, you should speak directly with the company and driver to set a fixed driving itinerary. It is all about communication and let the kids know what your expectations are. An informal meeting of parents is planned for 09/26th in Room 307, at 9 am, to further discuss this issue. Sima Miska told parents that we need to empower ourselves and get together with other parents and have a uniform answer about curfews, after parties, etc. She also thanked parents for the food and other supplies they brought today to donate to Haitian relief efforts.

Old Business: Reflections: The last day for entries to the arts program is October 17th.

Miscellaneous:

Yearbook: This year's book has an anniversary theme. Presale cost \$50 cash valid this week and next week. After that, the price goes up. Ads are being sold for senior students and businesses. Student council is selling pouch-type id holders for \$3.

Volunteer ID Badges: Contact AP O'Connor in Room 508 to obtain an ID badge.

Media Center Volunteers: Volunteers are need on a regular weekly basis to help out.

Band Booster Club Fundraiser: The club is selling discount cards for \$10, good until 08/31/09. On 09/27th, a garage sale will be held at the school. To donate, call Kathy McGilvray at 665.3470.

Next Meeting: It will be held at Pinecrest Community Center, 5855 SW 111th Street, on 10/15th at 9 am. Toby Rose will be our guest speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

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