

**MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - OCTOBER 15, 2008**

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

Principal's Report: Principal Howard Weiner presented a "good news" announcement: Jr. Noah Gray was interviewed this morning on CNN by John Roberts. Noah is in our TV production class and the interview was about a project he started last year called [VirginVoting.com](http://VirginVoting.com). We all are very proud of Noah and, since he has press credentials, he will be covering the last Presidential debate tonight. A replacement marquee has been ordered and should be up in the next 90 days. We edited the links on the top of the school's web page allowing visitors to link directly to the PTSA website. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party is this weekend and around 300 guests are expected. Mr. Weiner thanked the Anniversary Committee which has been working for almost a year on this project. Members should stop by the front of the school and look at the personalized bricks installed last week as part of our Buy a Brick campaign. Finally, he reminded everyone that the College Fair is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> and all students and parents are invited.

Introductions: Recognized were attendees who are running for Village of Pinecrest council positions: For mayor, Cindy Lerner and Gail Serota; for Seat 1, Jennifer Wollmann and Mike Guilford; and for Seat 3, Nancy Harter. Council member, Joe Corradino, was also acknowledged.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the 09/17<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Karen Kett to approve the minutes which was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report/Committee Reports:

Book Sale: 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Becky Herget thanked co-chairs, Jennifer Wollmann and Lynne Schaefer, for the fantastic job they did. We made over \$21,000 necessitating a request to amend the budget.

Membership/Donations: Ms. Herget reported that we have enrolled over 1,200 members and have received almost \$18,000 in donations. Both exceed last year's figures.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Herget distributed copies of a proposed budget amendment which increases the income generated by the Book Sale to the actual funds realized so we can move the extra money into Special Projects—Unallocated 2008-2009. A motion was made by Randi Trazenfeld to accept the proposed 2008-2009 budget as amended. Lynne Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Nancy Harter said about 300 guests are expected to participate in Friday night's Sock Hop, Saturday's picnic, and the Saturday night gala. All events are breaking even or making a small profit. The \$5,000 the PTSA gave to the Anniversary Committee will be paid back in full. A committee report is planned for our next meeting.

Taste of Pinecrest: Ms. Caryn Boren advised that the first meeting was planned for next Monday. The event is scheduled to be held on 03/08/09 and she will have an update at our next meeting.

EESAC: Ms. Harter reported that EESAC met on Monday to figure out a distribution plan for the "A" school funds. They are trying to equitably spread the money between the faculty and staff and have made a recommendation that the faculty must approve at their meeting this afternoon. In addition, the Legislature has reduced EESAC funds this year.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

Special Projects: Co-chair Jennifer Wollmann explained that this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the PTSA has coordinated the pooling and distribution of funds with EESAC and the Principal's account. Last year, we had \$21,000 in requests. This year, requests total \$51,000. She distributed 2 spread sheets for members to review and asked that they approve \$25,000 to be allotted on the budget to Special Projects—Unallocated. Ms. Harter made a motion to approve up to \$25,000 from Special Projects—Unallocated 2008-2009 to pay for the requests on the MPSH 2008-2009 Special Projects spreadsheets. The motion was seconded by Karen Kett and approved unanimously. In

support of the Dream in Green's Green School Challenge ([dreamingreen.org](http://dreamingreen.org)), Science Dept. Chair Pam Shlachtman asks that kids bring in their old recycling bins (in good condition and clean) once they receive the new recycling cans. Ms. Shosfy said that the DCSB has approved allowing schools to advertise and that Mr. Weiner is working with EESAC on it.

College Fair: Co-chair Barbara Davis announced the event is scheduled for 10/27<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm in the gym. Junior Parent Night will be held 10/27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7 pm in the auditorium. About 90 colleges will be represented. Volunteers are needed to help set up at 1 pm in the gym and help that evening. Baked goods should be dropped off by 6 pm.

Holiday Luncheon: Debbie Rosenthal told us that the event is scheduled for 12/11<sup>th</sup> during both lunches. Karen Rosen is co-chair for the event. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to donate food, drinks, etc., and to provide help setting up, serving, and cleaning up was circulated.

Newsletter: The next newsletter comes out the end of November.

State Convention: Parliamentarian Randi Trazenfeld advised that the Florida PTA conference will be held from 11/07-09 at the Daytona Beach Hilton. We would like to send 2 representatives. The convention includes many work shops on leadership training, increasing membership, children's health, predators in the community, etc. Our conference fees have already been paid and the PTSA has funds to pay for accommodations, etc. Informational packets are available.

Miscellaneous: The Florida PTA/PTSA offers 4 scholarships that seniors can apply for: (1) Fine Arts; (2) Community/Junior College; (3) Vocational/Technical; and (4) Annual Scholarship. See Ms. Coords for more information. The deadline for Reflections is October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Guest Speaker – The College Process: Ms. Shosfy introduced Ms. Toby Rose of Toby Rose's College Prep, Inc. Ms. Rose stated that colleges look at the type of courses your child takes (honors, AP, IB). Many students are taking the PSAT today. It is a 2 ½ hour test composed of 3 sections: verbal (critical reasoning); math (Algebra I and II and Geometry); and writing (English grammar). In your student's junior year, this test really counts and is their only chance to receive a merit scholarship (a \$2,000 award but every college in the World will want your child). If the colleges tell you that they do not count the writing sections of the PSAT or SAT, they are lying. The SAT is a 5 hour test with two 5 minute breaks (a test of endurance). A perfect score on all 3 SAT sections is 2400. Colleges do look at all 3 sections. If juniors score high on the PSAT and have prepared for the writing section, they are ready to take the SAT early rather than when taking AP exams in May. Before taking these tests, kids should go to bed early and, for the SAT, take 2 candy bars with them to eat during the breaks. Dress in comfortable, loose clothes in layers in case the a/c is not working properly. Have a good breakfast, but don't push fluids (bathroom issues). Take 2 calculators to the SAT and do not take any of these tests if the child is sick or emotionally upset. Colleges are now looking at every child's Facebook page. The stress from the college application process and for the best grades is horrible and that kids are over pressured. In her opinion, the essay is the deciding factor on whether your child gets into college or not. Besides the GPA and SAT scores, they are looking for something in your child that is deep inside them. Online college applications have made the process harder. They take 10 to 25 hours to do. In their essay, they should write about their feelings and who they are. Seniors must take hardcore classes. She prefers Palmetto over Coral Reef's IB program and that colleges will look at your child's AP classes the same as an IB program. You need to get them involved in leadership programs early. The recommendation letters from the guidance counselors are not seen by parents so make sure that your student gets to know their counselor. The ACT tests what your child has learned in school while the SAT is a predictor of how well they will do in college. In regard to community service hours, colleges look for leadership, commitment, and things that are different and unique. It is easier for your child to get into Florida schools and some other schools if they apply in the summer. Colleges do not average the SAT scores, but take the best of all sections. She stayed after the meeting to answer additional questions.

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on 11/19<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

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