

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING.
OFFICIAL MINUTES WILL BE POSTED ONCE APPROVED
BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Shosfy at 9:10 a.m.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the October 17, 2007, and November 14, 2007, General Membership Meetings were presented. A motion was made by Nancy Harter to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sandra West and approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Isabel McBrayer distributed copies of the budget through November 14, 2007, and today's date. The front page reflects the budget vs. actual income and expenses to date while the back page reflects a proposed amendment to the budget which members will be voting on today.

At our last General Meeting, we voted to move money to the Special Projects-Unallocated account. We have now closed out several items that no longer need funds and are proposing that those funds be moved into Special Projects-Unallocated as well. For example, the PTSA allocated \$1,500 for the Staff Holiday luncheon but spent a little less than \$1,200. Part of the overage (\$250) was moved to Staff Appreciation Week (to increase it from \$500 to \$750). The new proposed budget is a reallocation of funds and closing out of items that are now complete.

The PTSA Special Projects Committee will speak next to show us the desired distribution of the \$30,504.94 in Special Projects – unallocated. Jennifer Wollmann moved to approve the January 16, 2008, budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynne Schaefer. There were no questions or discussion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Special Projects Vote: Jennifer Wollmann explained the spread sheet she handed out. The principal, EESAC, and the PTSA Special Projects Committee worked together and pooled their funds. A survey was sent to all teachers and staff and they were asked what they needed. In response, they submitted detailed proposals.

The source of funds, at the top of the spread sheet, shows that the PTSA's part is \$25,000. This morning, Ms. Wollmann received a revised proposal for Performing Arts educational materials reducing their request from \$27,336 to \$4,742. The latter amount can be taken out of the remaining funds of \$9,881. The Executive Board has already approved up to \$25,000. The proposals will be presented to EESAC on January 22nd.

After a brief discussion, Nancy Harter made a motion to approve up to \$25,000 from the PTSA Special Projects fund to pay for the requests on the

MPSH 2007-2008 Special Projects spreadsheet (including the Performing Arts request for \$4,742). The motion was seconded by Lynne Schaefer and approved.

The committee was thanked for all their work and research as to what was really needed. Ms. Wollmann spearheaded it and the whole committee spent hours and hours working on it. Hopefully, this procedure will be followed in the future because it worked so well. Ms. Shosfy also thanked Mr. Weiner for his input and thanked the membership for their help and donations.

Taste of Pinecrest: Brochures were available to the membership for the March 9th event. Jennifer Wollmann stated details of business sponsorship opportunities were in the materials and you can contact Nancy Harter if you need more information or wish to participate. We need volunteers from PHS at the event, as well.

Property Tax Amendment – January 29th Ballot: Ms. Wollmann told us that a non-partisan outline of the proposed tax amendment can be viewed at VoteSmartFlorida.org. Gail Serota provided a hand out explaining the pros and cons of the ballot amendments. Besides the property tax amendment, there are three other issues on the ballot. One is the Miami-Dade County amendment to change when a candidate can apply for office (a ministerial change we have to do to comply with state law). The second is a Miami-Dade County charter amendment to change the position of the Property Appraiser from appointed to elected. We are the only county in Florida that appoints the Property Appraiser. The last matter is a vote on whether or not to allow slot machines at certain existing horse tracks, dog tracks, and Jai-Alai frontons. Ms. Serota asks that we educate ourselves, weight the pros and cons, and make our own decisions. Voting sets a good example for your children.

Feeder Pattern Meeting: Cheri Ball invited everyone to the Feeder Pattern Meeting scheduled for January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in our school auditorium. The meeting will deal specifically with the proposed tax amendment including a panel of experts (county representative, real estate agent, member of the Village of Pinecrest board, etc.). A panel discussion and question and answer period will explore alternatives and different perspectives of the effect of the amendment if it passes.

Principal's Report: Mr. Weiner wished all a happy and healthy new year and personally thanked Ms. Wollmann and Ms. Shosfy and the other PTSA members who worked closely with him in getting the "wish list" resolved. In the past, the method to request funds was quite unorganized. Now the procedure is formalized and all requests are on one form. Everyone's requests are prioritized. It has become a successful, seamless process. The committee did an outstanding job.

He announced that on January 23rd, 8th grade students from Palmetto and Southwood are going to be bused to PHS to introduce them to what life is like on

this campus. Coral Reef markets their school to try to get the best and brightest students. Hopefully, these students will stay in their feeder pattern and not go to Coral Reef or other magnet schools.

Tonight at 7 p.m., CAP Advisor Sally Coords is conducting a financial aid workshop mainly for seniors and juniors that want to get a head start on how to pay for college. Tomorrow is the end of the grading period and reports cards should go home in the next two weeks. The school's website is up and running and constantly being updated. He asks parents to please utilize it.

Mr. Weiner reminded parents that there is no school on Friday and that Monday is the Martin Luther King holiday. He thanked the PTSA for buying a table for the Teacher of the Year event. Science teacher Terri Ortiz is one of the finalists.

January 29th is the primary date and Mr. Weiner encouraged our young people who can vote to vote. Parents will soon receive connect-ed messages about February 5th parent-teacher conferences. Contact his secretary, Hope Longest, to schedule an appointment. He feels the conferences are very worthwhile. Parents can see one teacher or all of them.

Spanish teacher, Janet Obregon, is retiring in February and he already has someone in line to fill her position. A parent had a question about a 10th grade English teacher who hadn't returned from the holiday break. Mr. Weiner said we are actively interviewing and do have prospects on the radar.

Alcohol/Drug Program: Ms. Shosfy said Sima Miska did an amazing job with a turnout from 300 to 500 people at the November 14th meeting. Many thanks!

Staff Holiday Luncheon: The teachers and staff were appreciative and said the PTSA did a very nice job. Ms. Harter said the teachers really look forward to the luncheon and thanked Debbie Rosenthal and Robin Laidlaw for the excellent job they did and for everyone who stepped up to the plate to help out.

New School to Open – Evelyn Greer: School Board Member Evelyn Greer had contacted Ms. Shosfy and asked to speak today about the new high school planned in our district. She could not make it, however, because she is delayed at a breakfast in Coral Gables. Her assistant, Riva Steinman, asked that Ms. Greer's appearance be tentatively scheduled for our March meeting. The new school has broken ground and should alleviate some of the overcrowding at PHS. The school will have an environmental science program. Ms. Steinman said attendance boundaries will be reallocated by a Boundary Committee with feed back from the communities and schools affected by the changes. The school is being built near Indian Hammocks Park on 117th Avenue and 84th Street.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Shosfy asked for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee for next year. Incoming middle school parents are welcome to participate. Lynne Schaefer and Sandra West both volunteered and

Ms. Harter thought that Randi Tranzenfeld might join, as well. We will vote on the committee at the next meeting when Ms. Trazenfeld is available.

Announcements:

Ellen Genet stated that the Drama Department's dinner to raise funds for the Helen Witty Scholarship is scheduled for January 17th. An Italian dinner is planned along with several Drama Department student performances. She has forms available for interested members. Donations are welcome, too.

Claudia Glasson has the practice SAT test results available for parents whose children took the test last month. Ms. Shosfy thanked Ms. Glasson for organizing the program.

The next EESAC meeting is January 22nd at 2:40 p.m. in Room 1005. Hopefully, the rest of the Special Projects fund requests will be approved at that time.

Media Specialist Dian Adjamah invited members to come to PHS and enjoy the cultural experience of the African American Reading Chain planned for February 4th throughout the school day (except 1st and 4th periods). Speeches and poems will be recited, songs will be sung, and excerpts from plays will be performed.

Next month's meeting will be held in the evening on February 20th at 7:00 p.m.. CAP Advisor Sally Coords has put together a College Panel to speak to parents and students after a brief PTSA business meeting.

February 14th is the deadline for the next newsletter which will be going out the end of February or early March. If you have something to submit, contact Jill Bloom at Bloomsie@gmail.com.

Ms. Shosfy wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked us for supporting the PTSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary