

PTSA General Meeting March 17, 2010

President Isabel McBrayer called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

Principal's Report: Mr. Howard Weiner announced that tonight is the opening night of "Bye Bye Birdie." He encouraged everyone to come and see the Drama and Fine Arts Departments' beautiful program. Mr. Weiner noted that prom season is coming and at this time he likes to remind parents of a few things. He would like parents who utilize a transportation service to have an honest, heart-to-heart talk with the driver of the car. He explained that kids may talk drivers into taking alternative routes and stopping at alternative homes that are unauthorized. Mr. Weiner said that the drivers need to follow the itinerary established by the parent who is hiring the driver. A parent asked whether Mr. Weiner would be speaking to students before the prom. He said that he would and would also be vigilant, watching very carefully and closely.

Mr. Weiner also announced that Palmetto is involved in a high school competition being put on by the White House. After a national vote, three schools will be selected to have President Obama speak at their commencement in June. He noted that our school has done a very creative video for this competition and we wish our kids good luck. A parent asked whether they could see the video. Mr. Weiner said it is on "YouTube" and that he would send out the link.

Cecilia Pahl made a motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. 24, 2010 meeting. Randi Trazenfeld seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Hal Rosenfeld reported bank balances of \$ 36,582.34 in checking and \$ 19,365.18 in savings for a total of \$ 55,947.52. He noted that a copy of the budget was passed out for everyone to review. Hal explained that last month we revised the budget and closed out a line item for the staff holiday luncheon with an excess of \$745.29. However, since then, we have received a late bill from a committee member for \$571, so we will use the excess to cover that expense. Hal also said that we need a motion to allocate \$1,685.73 to Special Projects to cover Ms. Coggin's Student Recognition Fund. Nancy Harter made a motion for the allocation, and Karen Kett seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Programming: Randi Trazenfeld announced that if anyone has not yet purchased the "Best 371 Colleges" book, it is available for \$15 (regularly \$24). Randi also reported a "programming frenzy" in the coming month. She said Math Monkey is here today to do a presentation on "Memory Enhancement." She added that "Financing your Child's College Education," will take place next Tuesday, March 23rd and "Safe Dates and Healthy Relationships," on Wednesday, March 23rd at RR Moton Elementary School. Randi noted that the current issue of the *Pinecrest Tribune* has an article about the "Healthy Relationships" event.

New Business: Sandra West announced the winners of Reflection, a nationwide art recognition program. She explained that Palmetto had seven entries--six won at the council level, including three honorable mention and three finalists, and one state level winner. Sandra presented awards to: Max Eisenberg and Evan Hacker for Photography and Literature; Gabriel Solazano for Literature; Erica Michaelson for Photography; Trevor Lundquist as a finalist; and Elizabeth Brown as a finalist in visual arts category.

Reading Celebration: Ms. Dian Adjamah announced that the celebration will take place on April 28 from 12:30 to 1:30. She explained that it is an outlet for students who love to read and they submit reviews of the books they love, stating how the book has had an impact on them. She calls them "Panther Picks" and publishes the reviews in a binder. The goal of this celebration, Ms. Adjamah explained, is for students to share their profound experiences of reading a book. Ms. Adjamah asked parents to help out by donating prizes, i.e., gift cards in denominations of \$10 for students or \$25 for teachers. She also encouraged parents to bake or bring drinks.

Isabel thanked Ms. Adjamah for all she does.

Nominating Committee: Chair Susan Montesino introduced the committee: Cecilia Pahl, Diane Wysong, Jennifer Solomon and Sheila Quint. She also passed out nominating sign-up sheets and noted that she looks forward to hearing from everyone.

Announcements: Isabel thanked Sima for her work on the Drug and Alcohol program, Feb 24. Sima explained that Mr. Stephany will hold a "Lunch and Learn" on the effects of "the new marijuana." She also announced that she has advice and information for parents with college bound students. .

Student Council: Tory Cohen announced that Ms. Lima wants to thank those parents who offered to attend the senior picnic, however; she doesn't need them. Tory said that Ms. Lima is encouraging seniors to buy their prom tickets because they will be sold only through April 9th and may sell out. The Senior Prom will be at Jungle Island with a full dinner. Tory said that Ms. Lima also encourages everyone to attend "Bye Bye Birdie." In addition, Tory announced that a blood drive would take place next Wednesday and Thursday in the auditorium and Grad Night is April 30.

Other Announcements: Yearbook sales are underway and a community "Rally to Tally" will take place Monday, March 22 at Northwestern High School to protest against state budget cuts in education.

Randi also announced that Palmetto is working with the Kaplan test group to establish the school as a site for a 12-week ACT and SAT test prep series after school two days a week. She said to keep posted on the dates in April and May in preparation for June test. The course, she added, is \$500, which is the same price as going to Kaplan directly. Randi explained that Kaplan gives all test prep sites free online access to their test prep information. She further noted that we only need 10 students to participate.

Hal mentioned that the Village of Pinecrest has given us a reimbursement grant of \$10,000 for technology/special projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Quint, Recording Secretary