

PTSA GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Isabel McBrayer at 9:12 a.m.

Principal's Report: Mr. Weiner noted that it is a busy week with homecoming activities: the Panther Prowl, Thursday night football game and Saturday night dance. He explained that a big concern is after parties following the Homecoming dance. He urged parents to speak with the person driving to the dance and know the itinerary. The school does not support or sponsor after parties. He wants kids to have fun at the dance and go home. He added that we do not want bad things happening to good kids.

Regarding the ongoing discussion of complying with the state amendment (an average of 25 students per class in English, reading, science, language arts and social studies), the school is now in compliance with an average of 24.72 per class. He understands that students may say that their classes have more than that. However, the school is not looking at individual classes—they are looking at an average. Mr. Weiner further explained that they hired four new teachers in language arts, social studies and science. He realizes that student schedules have been disrupted, which is difficult for students and teachers. He said he will respectfully meet with all parents requesting a schedule change, but cannot honor these requests. If he accepts one, he would need to accept all. When making schedule changes, the administration follows a process which identifies those students, whose schedules allow for minimal disruption—one or two changes. The students are randomly selected by a computer. When asked whether the process is complete, Mr. Weiner said it would be by the start of the second marking period. However, he noted that because some classes are under enrolled, there may be a few additional changes after that.

In answer to the question about H1N1 vaccinations, Mr. Weiner said he is waiting for a letter from the Health Department, which will identify local clinics that are offering the vaccine. He also added that the Health Department has changed its reporting requirements. The school will now report only those cases that have tested positive by a doctor for H1N1. Furthermore, he said, if your children aren't feeling well, take them to the doctor and stay home from school.

Carly Liebling from Student Council gave an update of events and activities for the coming months.

Denise Kranichfeld spoke on behalf of the PTSA Newsletter committee. She explained that the newsletter comes out four times per year, and they are in need of volunteers to help with folding, labeling and sealing for mailing. Interested volunteers should email Denise at denkran@yahoo.com.

College Fair is in need of four more volunteers to help serve dinner to the college representatives the evening of November 2 starting at 5 pm. Interested volunteers should contact Barbara Toland, bltmiami@aol.com.

Karen Kett made a motion to accept the minutes from the Sept. 16 general meeting. President McBrayer pointed out a few typographical corrections. Randi Trazenfeld seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Programming Report: Randi Trazenfeld announced that the "Sexting" presentation scheduled for today's meeting, has been postponed. She explained that the Parent Academy was not prepared for the program. A Parent Portal workshop will be held Oct 29 at the Perrine Community Action Agency. Another workshop is planned for the next general PTSA meeting on Nov. 18 entitled, "Financing Your Child's Education." Randi also reminded everyone that Robert Franek from the Princeton Review will speak to parents about his new book, "The Best 371 Colleges," December 1 at 7 p.m. The book explains how students can get into the college of their choice. For that program, RSVPs are needed. Additionally, Randi needs volunteers to help with registration and refreshments that evening. Hal Rosenfeld asked if we would be selling Franek's book, and Randi will inquire. Lastly, Randi said she is excited about the safe relationships program currently in the planning stages. It will focus on domestic abuse and date violence and is tentatively scheduled for Jan 26 at 7 p.m. Cecilia asked about offering a separate program for students. Randi said she is in touch with a group who is organizing an event for students in November. She also explained that she will be attending a panel discussion on Nov. 5: "Teens Against Domestic Abuse," at the Holiday Inn in Coral Gables. Randi will attend that program and meet the speakers who may be able to speak at our event in January. She is in need of volunteers to help with this program as well.

SACS/CASI Accreditations: Patty Valois, SACS Chairperson, went over the accreditation process and how the school will be evaluated. She said that a Quality Review team of 5 to 7 people will visit the school Feb. 1 and 2, 2010. Ms. Valois noted that we want to make sure our students graduate from an accredited school so that they

can get into the colleges of their choice. She further explained the school's values, high academic standards, professional development programs and plans for improvement. Additionally, she said that parents will be asked to participate in the accreditation process by answering questions.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hal Rosenfeld reported on the PTSA's monthly expenditures and noted a bank balance of \$75,701.35. He said that the report reflects all book sale expenses and income. He also explained that a large portion of our income is from membership dues.

New Business

Special Projects: Cecilia Prah explained that the committee has received 40 project requests totaling \$75,000. The committee met and evaluated these requests with Mr. Weiner. He agreed to fund some of the items. The PTSA Special Projects committee will fund the items that are instructional in nature, such as smart boards, document cameras, periodicals, books for the library and other miscellaneous classroom items. Several requests, which are not instructional, will be fulfilled by the community.

Cecilia made a motion to move \$22,000 from the unallocated special projects fund to allocated special projects. Nancy Harter seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

President McBrayer noted that copies of the directory and master calendar are on the tables.

Randi Trazenfeld announced that she received an email from Darla March stating that PTSA representatives should introduce themselves to state representatives. Isabel noted that she will send an email with the information.

VP Reports:

3rd Vice President: Nancy Harter pointed out that Anne Orsillo's email contact information should be aorsillo@bellsouth.net. She also noted that the date for the Kaplan is Oct. 30th. She advises students to try the five hour SAT test as it is beneficial before taking the official test.

Membership: Mercedes Sorensen reported that the PTSA has 1,120 members, donations totaling more than \$17,000, and \$2,000 for staff appreciation.

Volunteers: Elaine Quartin announced that the Clinic is still in need of volunteers two days a week. Volunteer responsibilities include providing first aid supplies and calling parents. The hours are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. If the Clinic is not staffed with volunteers, students will be referred to the office for help.

Mayor Lerner's advisory meeting in next Tuesday, October 27th at 9:30 in the community center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Quint, Recording Secretary