

Atholton High School (AHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2011

Susan Lustbader called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the AHS Media Center.

The following were in attendance: Mary Acker, Lisa Bader, Amy Bagley, Joan Brittingham, Judy Bruce, Jennifer Clements, Debbie Clutts, Marie Davidson, Kathy Faber, Diane Freedman, Theresa Graham, Pam Johnson, Caryn Lasser, Ricky Lasser, Susan Lustbader, Ellen Makar, Cassandra Miller, Cathy O'Brien, Cindy Ochs, Laurie Remer, Sherri Tatum, and Teresa Wasil.

Susan Lustbader distributed the agenda (Attachment A).

Amy Bagley read the "Objects of the PTA."

There were no changes to the minutes from the March 22, 2011, Monthly Meeting.

President's Report (Susan Lustbader)

- The PTSA received a thank you note from Best Buddies regarding our donation.
- About 300 people attended the "Race to Nowhere" screening. Approximately one third of the attendees were from AHS and one third were from Clemens Crossing Elementary School (co-sponsor of the screening). The discussion following the movie was good.
- A General Meeting for PTSA elections is scheduled for May 9 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be followed by the College Panel. (Note: The General Meeting and College Panel were subsequently rescheduled for Monday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m.)
- The last Monthly Meeting for the school year will be a potluck dinner on June 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Administrator's Report (Jen Clements)

- There was a good crowd for "Race to Nowhere." The discussion centered on homework. Among other requests, parents asked that no homework be assigned over breaks. Mrs. Clements was able to arrange a free screening of the movie for the staff on May 13.
- Planned summer activities at the school will be able to continue during the asbestos removal phase of the construction project. Details for project phasing are still being worked on, but the renovations will start with new construction for the Fine Arts area of the building. Two modular buildings will be installed (probably behind the tennis courts) once Mt. Hebron is finished with them (approximately December 2011). The buildings are self-contained and include classrooms, restrooms, and lockers. The sports fields will eventually be affected by the drilling of geothermal wells that will provide some of the heating/air conditioning for the building. The school may have to get access to other fields during these phases of the project.
- This is the last year the Government High School Assessment (HSA) will be administered.

- Interims will be distributed to all students on May 12.
- On May 10, AHS is hosting an HC Drug Free program featuring comedian Matt Bellace. The students may have the opportunity to see the program during the school day, and parents and students can attend the evening program.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Acker)

- Mary distributed the budget report (Attachment B).
- The funding requests for Student Support and Student Activities will be discussed under new business.
- The contributions for the After Prom Party via Pay Pal have been steady.

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) Delegates' Report (Kathy Faber and Cathy O'Brien)

- At the last PTACHC meeting, there was a presentation on the proposed use of speed cameras in school zones. A speed study in school zones was conducted, and infractions on Freetown Road were among the worst for high schools. The County Council will vote soon on whether to use speed cameras on mobile vans in school zones. Safety, not revenue, is the goal.
- Kathy is sorting the books collected at AHS for the Book Drive and is getting them ready for delivery.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report (Ricky Lasser)

- The Prom is on May 14, and tickets will be sold May 2 through 5 during lunch periods.
- The SGA has made some changes to their Constitution regarding procedures for elections and the Executive Board. Campaigning for elections must take place on school grounds (e.g., no campaigning via Facebook), and no food can be distributed in conjunction with campaigning. The SGA president now has the right to appoint committee chairs.
- Susan asked if SGA could help promote the After Prom Party. Ricky will communicate the request to SGA.

Unfinished Business

- The Nominating Committee presented the slate of PTSA officers for the 2011-12 school year:
 President: Ellen Makar
 1st Vice President: Judy Bruce
 2nd Vice President: Lisa Walker
 Treasurer: Mary Acker
 Recording Secretary: Amy Bagley
 Corresponding Secretary: Sherri Tatum
 PTA Council Representatives: Kathy Faber, Debra Kafami

The slate will be publicized at least 10 days before the election. Chairpersons are still needed for some committees including the following: Volunteer Coordinator, Parents

on Patrol (POPS), Snack Shop, Awards, Community Connections, Reflections (co-chairperson needed), Newsletter, and Directory.

- The deadline for applications for the PTSA Scholarship is Friday, April 29. Joan Brittingham had volunteered to serve on the selection committee, but two more parent volunteers are needed. Amy and Susan Bottomley volunteered. One administrator and Mrs. Morton from the Guidance Office will also be on the committee. The selection needs to take place in time for the Senior Awards on May 25. Joan will coordinate with Mrs. Morton.
- Sherri needs volunteers for the College Panel. Five to six panelists would be a good number.

New Business

- The PTSA received eight requests for Student Support funding (Attachment C). **Judy Bruce moved to fund all the requests for a total of \$1,774.66.** Lisa Bader seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.
- The PTSA received three requests for Student Activities funding (Attachment C). **Judy moved to fund all the requests for a total of \$704.86.** Lisa seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- Teresa Wasil reported that **After Prom** currently has a budget of \$15,256, and ticket sales are still to come. The committee will hold a cupcake sale to raise more money. More volunteers are needed. To this point, the committee is aware of plans for one private party after the Prom, and they continue to try to discourage house parties. The committee has a meeting scheduled for next week. Set-up volunteers can get into the theater at 11:30 p.m. on May 14. Teresa has been consulting with students about which movie options to choose and has asked for SGA's input on ideas for grand prizes.
- Susan B. reported that the next **Staff Appreciation** event will take place on May 5. Muffins, fruit, and coffee will be served in honor of Staff Appreciation Week. The end of the year lunch for the staff will be held on June 21 at 11:30.
- Laurie Remer reported that she would like to use Pay Pal to collect money for future **SAT Preparation** classes. She would like to have the PTSA sponsor an ACT preparation class and perhaps a "mini" ACT.
- Theresa Graham reported on the status for food needed for the **Community Service** Committee's dinner at Grassroots. She thanked Ethan Simon for volunteering to do much of the food preparation. During the meeting, Theresa circulated a list of items needed, and she now has volunteers for all items. More information about when to drop off the food and whether it should be hot or cold will be provided later.
- On behalf of the AHS PTSA, Debbie Clutts attended a Board of Education (BOE) meeting to which PTA presidents were invited. The BOE is considering a weekly newsletter that would include information from schools across the county. The BOE feels they are not getting enough public feedback.

- Cindy Ochs reported for the **Music Boosters**. They are in need of volunteers and are hoping to recruit parents of incoming freshman musicians. The concert band leaves on the spring trip on Friday, April 29.
- Kathy suggested that the PTSA consider having two **Community Advisory Council (CAC)** representatives because the CAC meetings are often on the same night as the AHS PTSA monthly meetings.
- Caryn Lasser reported that the **School Improvement Team (SIT)** meets this week. Caryn also reported that the PTSA has prepared testimony for the May 7 County Council meeting, but a volunteer is needed to read the testimony. Ellen volunteered.

Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

E-mailed Committee/Liaison Reports

- **Reflections** (Dana Echols and Monika Punjabi): Reflections held the recognitions at the lunch shifts on April 8th. We had gift certificates and gourmet cookies for the participants but unfortunately very few students came by our table in the front hall to collect their goodies; despite the fact that Ms. Clements announced a reminder that morning. Next year's theme is "Diversity is"
- **Snack Shop** (Judy Bruce, Pam Johnson, Teresa Wasil): The Snack Shop is cruising along. We will be making a decision soon as to what date the Snack Shop will close for the season. Until then we'll keep those munchies flying off the shelf.
- **POPS** (Pam Vieser): The POPS calendar for May is attached. The following dates are available: I have one POPS vacancy to fill for this Thursday, April 28 from 10:10am to 12:20pm. Please let me know if you can help out to fill this spot.
Monday, May 2 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Tuesday, May 3 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Wednesday, May 4 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Thursday, May 5 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Friday, May 6 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Monday, May 9 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Tuesday, May 10 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Wednesday, May 11 - Need 2 volunteers *10:20am to 12:30pm*. Thursday, May 12 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Monday, May 16 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Tuesday, May 17 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Wednesday, May 18 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Thursday, May 19 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Friday, May 20 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Monday, May 23 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Tuesday, May 24 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Wednesday, May 25 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Thursday, May 26 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Friday, May 27 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. Tuesday, May 31 - Need 2 volunteers 10:10am to 12:20pm. If you can help out on any of these dates, please let me know. Also - please let me know if you are graduating this year or will be unavailable to do POPS for the next school year. My daughter is graduating and so am I and want to clean up the distribution lists before passing this on to the next POPS coordinator. Thanks all!

- **Athletics Boosters** (Barbara Slayton): The Bull Roast (April 8) was a success, and Ms. Clements did a fabulous job as our auctioneer. We are still tallying income/expenses, but we expect the proceeds to be similar to 2010.
- **After Prom** (Diane Freedman and Teresa Wasil): Diane and I know how very fortunate we are to be working with such a wonderful committee. They all have been working extremely hard to make this event a fun and safe place for our kids to hang out, relax, have a good time, and enjoy themselves. Whether or not they are planning to attend the prom, please encourage your child and their friends to come to the After Prom Party.

With only three weeks to go, all the major decisions have been made and we are now working on the details. This year's party will include a choice of three movies, a roving magician/mind reader, Xbox Kinect, computer games, 2D photo booth, tattoo artists, casino games, bungee run, coffee house with live bands, ping pong, and Foosball. There will be copious amounts of food to include, the much loved chocolate fountain, pizza and Chick-fil-A. There will also be popcorn, candy, donuts, and bagels. New this year will be cookies baked fresh on the premises and smoothies. Door prizes winners will be announced every half hour from 1:30am-4:00am, with the grand prize winners being announced at 4:30am.

We would also like to thank those that have made donations or volunteered to help in some way. We appreciate your support. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation and/or volunteering. Thanks for all you do.

- **Newsletter** (Kayle Simon): All is well with our PTSA and raider news sites. Summer will be a good time to make any changes or additions to these sites, so if anyone has any thoughts at to what could be better, please let me know.
- **Awards** (Annette D'Amico): I've attached last year's announcement that went out via enews. We awarded 2 academic, 3 extracurricular, and 2 support staff with \$50 American Express gc. I need to confirm the date deadline for nominations (I think we said 4/26/11), and the date of the luncheon (day before last day of school) when they will be presented.
- **Grocery Receipts** (Joan Brittingham): Giant Program: 305 Supporters, YTD Total for 2010-2011 program: **\$9666.20**. Program ended on 3/24/11. Thank you acknowledgements to be issued soon. Harris Teeter Program: 159 Supporters enrolled, 2010-2011 earnings: \$1251.84. Program ends on 5/30/11. Escrip/Safeway Program: 356 Supporters, Net Contribution Sep - Mar: \$711.85. 2010 YTD Contribution: \$1213.79. **Approximately \$195 must be spent on Fitness and Nutrition. Food Lion: 34 Supporters. Bloom - 82 Supporters, Point Balance: 4319

Note that now Escrip has a new requirement that we spend 20% of our earnings on Fitness and Nutrition. I will be working closely with the school to ensure that we keep on track with this requirement. I need to report monthly on our allocation. Please contact me if you have any questions.

- **College Night** (Amy Levitt): College Nite - Attached are last year's enews/raidernews announcement, panel questions, publicity fliers, & pa announcement request for the college nite. For the 4/26 meeting: suggest names of

parents of seniors to invite for participation on the panel. Sorry I'm not able to organize the event this time; whoever is in charge—please feel free to call or email and I will help as best I can!

- **School Improvement Team** (Caryn Lasser): The SIT met on March 24 to review each subcommittee's progress in identifying initiatives in their area. The SIT next meets later this week.

The County Executive has submitted his FY12 budget to the County Council where it currently is being reviewed prior to being voted upon later in May. The capital funds necessary to support the beginning of construction for the AHS renovations are included in this budget. The public hearing will be held at 9:00am on May 7. The PTSA is seeking a representative to deliver brief testimony supporting Atholton's funding for the renovations. Testimony will be provided for you and will be quick to deliver.

- **Nominating** (Debbie Clutts, Elaine McAuliffe, Sherri Tatum): Sherri Tatum, Elaine McAuliffe and I are serving on the Nominating Committee for next year's PTSA board. Please let us know if you would like to continue in your current Committee Chairperson position, or if you are interested in a different position on the board. We have not heard back from many of our Committee Chairpersons yet! We appreciate your taking a minute to let us know your interests for next year's PTSA board! Our e-mail addresses are: debbie-john@comcast.net and statum1@verizon.net.
- **Driver's Education** (Lisa Bader): The March drivers ed class was full, netting us \$1,650. The final two classes of the school year start this week. I need to get final approval that we will be able to hold the classes at the school over the summer. If we can, the first one will need to slide back due to the added days onto the school year. We anticipate starting Thurs. June 23 rather than the 20th as originally scheduled. I will contact Mr. Senisi and Mrs. Clements for final approval on that.
- **Community Outreach** (Theresa Graham): I will be attending the meeting tonight. I am very happy to report that our Community Outreach Grass Roots Dinner Plans are progressing extremely well! A HUGE thank you to Ethan Simon and Ellen Makar!!! Ethan has volunteered to take responsibility for providing 3 large green salads for 10, 42 baked potatoes, 4 pans of baked brownies, cooked carrots for 30, and 6 bags of rolls, and Ellen has volunteered to provide 2 rotisserie chickens, one of the large green salads for 10 and 1 fruit salad for 10. -- THANK YOU!!! -- I have attached a copy of the updated menu for your convenience. We still in need 12 rotisserie chickents, 3 large fruit salads for 10, 4 gallons of fruit juice, 3 gallons of iced tea, 4 bottles of salad dressing, and 6 jars of chicken gravy to complete the menu. We also need at least 2 more people in addition to me to volunteer their time and cars to transport the food from Atholton HS to Grassroots (right next door) around 4pm on Monday, May 16, the day of the dinner. I will have hard copies of the menu with me this evening and look very forward to filling in the remaining blanks with your help!
- **Volunteer Coordinator** (Eileen Jones): I will not be at meeting but... I need your help for ticket sales for prom and after prom. It's for this coming week, Monday, May 2nd through Thursday, May 5th from 10:50 - 12:20. If you have any suggestions for volunteer coordinator for next year, please let Sherri Tatum know.
- **SAT Preparation** (Laurie Remer): Kaplan:

- Kaplan ACT practice test - 39 students took the test. Most students returned for the “give back” session to receive their scores. Kaplan was to contact those students that were not able to attend
- The Kaplan ACT prep class was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

The Answer: the last class for the school year will be this weekend (4/30-5/1). Enrollment is 11 students (as of 4/14). It is not too late to register. Another announcement will go out today or tomorrow.

Planning for 2011-12: Meetings with both vendors in May/June to start planning for next year; schedule should be ready to go out in the summer mailing. Next year I want to consider sign up/payment on Pay Pal for both SAT and ACT practice tests. In addition, we may want to consider offering ACT prep class earlier in the school year.

- **Membership** (Mindy Myers, Irene Halkias, Robyn Siegel, Joy Evans, Sue Bell): The membership year was closed out on March 31st with 694 PTA Members, 151 members joined from Pay Pal and 77 were staff members. Let us know if you have any questions.
- **Environmental Awareness** (Cassandra Miller): 1) Environmental Club members attended the Howard Community College "Green Fest" - Sat., April 2nd, to represent AHS and support the Robinson Environmental Center. Club members shared information and recruited summer volunteers for the center.
2) Dirt Cups fundraiser was a success, raising over \$200.
3) Currently planning for Green Week and ways to advertise in school and the community. Since Earth Day was over Spring Break, April 22, Green Week will happen in May. Club members will consult with Ms. Clements about green week activities. They plan to check with Ms. Gicka and Ms. Nasir about an available date.
- **Community Advisory Council** (Larry Crouse): Once again both PTSA and CAC meet on the same evening and at the same time. I will attend the CAC meeting and send the minutes to everyone. Thanks for your understanding!