

Atholton High School
PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2008
Working Together for Educational Excellence
Encourage community involvement
Broaden Communication
Enrich student experiences

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by Caryn Lasser, President. Beth Sellers read the objects of the PTA. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alice Polser said we are doing very well overall. The snack shop is doing great. It has exceeded budget by \$715.64. Membership has earned us \$1270. Drivers ED exceeded budget by \$580.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Marcy Leonard said the boys' Basketball County Championship will be at Atholton at 7 on Friday, Feb. 29. The last day of school is Monday, June 16. The last full day is Wednesday, June 11. On June 12, 13, & 16, school will be dismissed three hours early. Atholton doesn't approve early final exams. Marcy thanked the Atholton PTSA for Chocolate Day and the recognition event for the 2nd quarter Rising Stars. We have 837 Honor Roll students this quarter, 812 Exemplary Attendance and 60 Rising Stars with a .5 or more increase in GPA from 1st to 2nd quarter. Atholton is moving College Night from March 4 assuming the boys will win the championship game. The Winter Sports Banquet will be moved from March 5 to possibly March 10.

Academic Integrity Policy kicked off. There were mixed reviews but most importantly is that conversations are happening. Atholton hosted the Howard County wrestling tournament. Our Track team is at State Championships.

Ken Roey, the Coordinator of Facilities came by to look at our bus loop and heating and air conditioning. We are in the budget for roof replacement this summer for half the roof and the second half will be done in the summer of 2009. We will be getting new carpet for half the building this summer. It will be through the media and math wing.

Marcy explained the Journey program. This is a program for middle and high school students (25 girls each) in leadership workshops developing a number of skills. It is held at Washington College in July and the

application deadline is March 14. Marcy also described the MLW summer program which provides leadership training for students.

Marcy has two funding requests. The first one is a donation of \$1000 toward a new marquee out front. The second request is for \$2200 for twenty new chairs for the staff lounge. They are \$110 each. The requests will be presented in new business.

PRESIDENT

Caryn Lasser said we will be voting in our nominating committee for 2008-2009 Exec. Board. Caryn attended the BOE Public Hearing on the FY09 Operating Budget and presented testimony which was approved by our board. Atholton hosted HC Drug Free with the program, "What is My Teen Thinking?" It was wonderful. On March 27 the HC Drug Free program will be, "Keeping It Real-Skills for Success," which will be led by Marcy Leonard. On January 24, Rob Piche and Nancy Sachs, two AHS math teachers presented "Surviving Algebra." This was well received. On March 11 we will have Dessert with the Principal.

SGA REPORT

Toks Arowojolu said the SGA will be having a blood drive on March 11. They are working on finalizing a day for a middle school workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Membership**-We are up to 829 members
- **After Prom**-The AMC contract is signed. Corporate donations are slow. We are focusing on prizes. We may use a computer program developed by a Reservoir parent for check in/check out. It costs \$200. We still need a person to oversee all the food/beverage and a beverage chairperson. We need lots of volunteers the night of the event. We are looking into having bands play in one theater.
- **Community Connections**- We will host Career Night on April 1st from 7-9. We need presenters and volunteers.
- **Cultural Arts**- The Cultural Arts showcase of 2008 registration deadline is Friday, 2/29. It is sponsored by Howard County Parks & Rec and the Howard County Arts Council. Registration can either be one or two days. Let Tina know if you are interested.

- **Driver's Ed Report-** Everything is going well at Greg's Driving School. A new session starts today with a room change from 151 to 102. We are working on adding spring and summer classes.
- **Staff Appreciation-** The committee held its annual Chocolate Fest on Valentine's Day. Thirty-five members donated. Our themed March Madness event will be the last week of March.
- **Reflections-** We attended the awards ceremony on Jan 31 for those students whose entries were sent to the county level. Eleven of our thirty entries were sent to county and six out of the eleven placed to go on to the state competition. We would like to set a date in early spring to recognize all thirty participants with a certificate and a gift certificate.
- **SIT-**We are meeting our attendance milestone of 96% with 96.4% for the second quarter. We are meeting our suspension milestone of 22.5/quarter with 21 in the second quarter. We are exceeding our drop out milestone of approximately 4.5/quarter with only one. We are exceeding our least restrictive environment goal of 80% with 82.6% of our special education students in LRE's. We are not meeting our English milestone of 95% pass rate on the county assessment with 86.9% passing. We are not meeting our Biology milestone of 95% with 76.6%. We are not meeting our American Government milestone of 95% with 79.9%. This represents a 3% drop, but still places us third in the county. We are not meeting our Algebra I milestone of 95% with 85%. This represents a 6% drop but places us fourth in the county with the highest mean score.
- **CAC-**Kathy Faber said they discussed the controversy over the food fight at Wilde Lake High School. There was no staff there at the time and the principal said he would give any student \$30 if they turned a student in who started it. Principals support this practice. It can be used at their discretion in Howard County, but the PTSA agreed that we would like some guidelines in how it is used. We had a discussion on how we felt about this policy which Kathy was going to take back to the next CAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Caryn Lasser made a motion to have Susan Lustbader, Eileen Jones and Patty Abitante on the nominating committee.

Alice Polser seconds it.

Motion passed. Lisa Bader offered to help out.

Becky Joyner proposes to start the “Above and Beyond” awards. This award is given to any AHS staff that families and students would like recognized for going “Above and Beyond” in their work at AHS. There are three categories: Academic, Extracurricular and Student and Support Staff. Becky motions to approve the work proposal and would like to give a \$100 gift card for each award. Susan Lustbader seconds the motion. Patty Abitante feels the price needs to be set for a more doable amount. Alice Polser said we have \$8000 more then we expected. Atholton HS approves program with a \$100 gift certificate with administrative costs.

Motion is passed.

Sharon Nussbaum motions for the PTSA to support one activity for the AHS Japanese students and chaperones at a cost of \$8 each for going to either the Baltimore Aquarium or the Ride the Duck tour. It will come to \$336.

Becky Joyner seconds it.

Motion passed.

Alice Polser moves the PTSA allocates \$1000 for a new marquee in the front of the building.

Patty Abitante seconds it.

Motion Passed.

Alice Polser moves the PTSA allocates \$2200 for 20 new chairs in the staff lounge.

Motion tabled.

Alice Polser moves we Allocate \$2000 of additional funds for the After Prom event.

Patty Abitante seconds it.

Motion passed.

Caryn Lasser had all of us participate in the next step in the vision exercise. We broke into small groups and brainstormed ideas to implement one idea from one of the questions given to us last month.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10pm.

