

Atholton PTSA Board Meeting Sept. 28, 2008

7: 15 PM Clarksville Middle School Media Center (power outage at Atholton)

7:20 call to order, Beth Sellers read objects, introductions: Diane Mikulis, Joan Brittingham, Diane Freedman; minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report- Judy Bruce shared 9/20 – 10/26 reports. Review Funding Requests, which were solicited from clubs / organizations for fall activities. Each request was reviewed in detail at Officers Meeting on Oct. 20. Discussion on classroom / enrichment / outside supplies: ink cartridges raise red flags of inappropriate PTA funded item. Ms. Leonard reassured PTA that any items which are not appropriate for PTA funding could likely be funded by her. Sara Lustbader recommends funding Harvard Model Congress full registration fees for 6 students (\$600), this was approved. Col. McGrory (over phone) clarified JROTC CPR offering: instructor will offer certification, which is above and beyond regular classroom exposure. New total funds = \$4,916. **Motion: to approve funding requests totaling \$4,916, by Susan Lustbader, seconded by Lisa Bader, motion APPROVED.**

Principal's Report- Power outage 3:15 – 6:45. Thank you for funding all the clubs & activities. Report on recent horseplay, litter in lobby activities. Canine drug scan with lock down was performed on Friday 10/24/08, Ms. Leonard is satisfied with results. New marquee sign is in operation, looks good.; installation of school name letters will occur this month, both supported by PTSA and Boosters. Prof development grants have been applied for- NEA, science, HoCo school systems / curriculum teams , enrichment interdisciplinary activities, focusing on collaboration. Activity fees- moratorium currently on, AHS will follow Superintendent's guidelines, Ms. Leonard prefers truly free public education. Scholarships previously, currently, and will be available for activity fees in future. Great homecoming re: spirit, behavior, parade, Hall of Fame, dance (time may change back to 8 – 11, earlier this year was SGA's decision). Ticketing / check-in software went well, big time saver. Sports: two county championships (men's golf and men's cross country). Nov 17 = Pizza with Principal, combined with BSAP Parent Night. Will send out "Share Your Story" requests ahead of time. Committee has been assembled to look at Senior Week activities: redundancies, best practices. Kathy Faber asked about getting a directional sign at corner of Cedar Ln. & Freetown Rd.- Caryn will investigate.

President's Report- written report submitted. Beth Sellers and Culinary Arts students provided beautiful desserts & treats for BOE Candidates Forum.

Board of Education Member- Diane Mikulis- Activity fees are getting examined as a result of parents emails to board at beginning of year, currently no mandatory fees are being assessed for anything in the curriculum, this does not restrict donations. No redistricting occurring until 2010, please read Feasibility Study for more details (especially first several pages). New Feasibility Study will come out in June 2009 to plan for 2010 redistricting. Members will be solicited for Boundary Line Adjustment Committees in February 2009, with total county outlook. HoCo Board members have been in Annapolis discussing State High School Assessments. Testimony largely supported current HSA schedule, as is. Superintendents also provided testimony. Currently 108 HoCo students could be eligible for Bridge Plan (much better than

other counties). No vote was taken while Ms. Mikulis was present, and all indications are that this years' seniors must meet full HAS requirements.

Responses to AHS questions: intramurals for middle schools- budget is available, but often staff support is not there. Adding freshman basketball- standing up coaches costs \$50K, also costs for transportation. Gym time / availability severely limited.

Backpack weight- Board monitors, does not control. Cannot require computer access. Appreciate PTA Council report on this topic, this work is now complete.

Environmental Plan for all schools, county wide recycling- student initiated projects are generally well received, but will not be required any time soon. HS Health & Wellness programs- Elementary & Middle school programs much easier to implement. Ms. Mikulis suggested Horizon Foundation, emphasis on piloting health & wellness programs, affiliated with hospital. Green schools- work on at school level, central office will accommodate but will not be county wide directive. Advocate to Ken Roy, Board public meetings, PTA Council. Kids at AHS have started Environmental Club, but cannot find consistent staff member to mentor. Look to HCASC for environmental affairs resources, or PTA Council. No current green schools / environmental policy at county level (recycling, facilities).

Ensuring that renovations occur at AHS despite budget cuts- bad news on capital budget especially from state perspective. We (Howard County) will not likely receive full request of \$100 million from state & county. No new schools on drawing board (eliminated western middle school for 2013), may need Rt. 1 corridor elem schools. Nothing in budget is sacred, but decisions will be based on needs. AHS needs \$57 million in renovations in phases, similar to Mt. Hebron. AHS renovations are a priority, but cannot promise, may be delayed, certain aspects may be separated out. Gilbert Report will be updated this winter, will give guidance on county wide priorities. Roof is very likely to happen. Facelift, bathrooms are cheap, easier to swallow. Technology is more expensive. Plumbing, HVAC is obvious necessity. Ms. Mikulis encourages us to prioritize, follow budget process, give testimony, work cooperatively. State money will go to BRAC growth areas (Harford, St Mary's, not Howard). Average age of national school is 40 years old. Governor's attention has helped. Facilities staff may be interested in hearing students', staff perspectives. Plans for 2009 summer renovations are available to view on line. Description of budget process (capital and operating), emphasis on presenting testimony in February. New board rep will likely be Ms. Mikulis's replacement. 531 7489 = Ms. Mikulis' home phone, call until Dec. 1 2008 or email Diane_Mikulis@hcpss.org. She encourages us to run for board, 4 members will be elected in 2010. Ms. Mikulis was presented with a token of our appreciation.

PTA Council Meeting- Sara submitted written report. After Prom donation from PTA Council was not approved- \$17,000 carry over will be maintained. Coat Drive is on- good condition only. Spring Break length under consideration; must be strong reason to change. Submit opinions to Sara or Gale via email.

CAC- also studying Spring Break length. Board will have 3 meetings soliciting public testimony. Kathy will send out dates. Written report also submitted.

(no student rep present)

Committee Reports:

Website- Kayle Simon- existing one is not intuitive. Kayle has a new design, it will keep parents informed who can't make or participate like board members. Help keep parents "in the know". Her target audience is parents who don't have time to read newsletter or attend meetings. Email Kayle questions or concerns. New site will go live within a month, sample / mirrors available now. Kayle will design, then fix problems. Caryn will open ptsa.org email accounts, will replace gmail account for RSVPs. This will facilitate changes in leadership (don't change email address, but change the forward)

College Application Process Work Group- SAT / ACT Prep Class. Susan & group got feedback from community & Mr. Kriner, decided to offer "The Answer" 8 hour course focusing reduce the stress, demystify the test. Cost is \$139, 2 4-hr segments, we get 20% of fees, company offers one scholarship per session. Students take 1 practice test, then they get feedback, review different parts of the test. at Wilde Lake with 95% positive feedback. One instructor, 15 students. Understand directions, how to pace themselves. This is not a full detailed review of each subject. PTSA would offer 2 sessions to start. Using AHS building on weekend would cost \$179 per 4 hours. PTSA agrees to move forward, Susan will investigate potential times further.

Membership- written report submitted, 705 members so far.

Written reports submitted by: After Prom , Staff Appreciation ,Directory, Community Connections, Music Boosters, Sports Boosters, Technology Boosters, Hospitality, POPS, Reflections, Grants & Awards, Drivers Ed / Grocery Receipts, SIT Team- next meeting is Oct. 30

No old or new business.

Next PTSA Board meeting =Nov. 18, Media Center, 7 PM.

Adjourn 9:13PM

In attendance: Teresa Wasil, Pam Johnson, Cindy Ochs, Joan Brittingham, Sara Lustbader, Laurie Diener, Diane Freedman, Eileen Robbins, Eileen Jones, Sherri Tatum, Patty Abitante, Sharon Nussbaum, Ellen Makar, Kathy Faber, Marcy Leonard, Gale Fleming, Lily Weiss-Lora, Debbie Meteyer, Susan Bottomley, Kayle Simon, Diane Mikulis, Beth Sellers, Judy Bruce, Susan Lustbader, Caryn Lasser, Lisa Bader