

Atholton High School (AHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2011

Susan Lustbader called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the AHS Media Center.

The following were in attendance: Mary Acker, Amy Bagley, Joan Brittingham, Sue Bell, Susan Bottomley, Judy Bruce, Jennifer Clements, Debbie Clutts, Larry Crouse, Annette D'Amico, Marie Davidson, Kathy Faber, Pam Johnson, Caryn Lasser, Susan Lustbader, Laurie Remer, Barbara Slayton, 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 December 14, 2010, Monthly Meeting.

President's Report (Susan Lustbader)

- The contract with AMC Theatres for the After Prom Party has been approved locally, and we are waiting final approval from the corporate level. The process is moving along.
- Susan passed around a folder including mail, scholarship information, and Maryland State PTA officer nomination information for the attendees to review.
- The bylaws were approved by the state PTA, and we are now "in good standing" for the next three years.
- The PTSA donated \$25 gift cards to the Student Government Association's (SGA's) and AHS staff's charitable fund collections.
- There were many donations to the Staff Appreciation Committee's collection for the December lunch for the staff. The lunch went well.
- The Board of Education (BOE) meets on February 1 and will discuss the Capital and Operating Budgets for the 2012 fiscal year. Caryn Lasser has written testimony regarding funding for construction of the AHS renovation, but she needs someone to present it.

Administrator's Report (Jen Clements)

- Ms. Clements gave a huge "thank you" to all the volunteers for the Parents on Patrol (POPS) program.
- Dates of interest include the following:
 1. Report cards should be distributed on February 1, but the date could get pushed back if there are additional inclement weather days.
 2. Wednesday, February 16, is a full day for high schools but a half day for elementary and middle schools. Thursday, February 17, is a half day for all schools. There is no school on Friday, February 18. Note that February 18 is the only conference day for high schools. Elementary and middle schools have conferences on the 16th, 17th, and 18th. Information regarding scheduling

conferences using pickAtime will be included in an upcoming AHS HCPSS News e-mail.

3. There is no school February 21, President's Day.
 4. AHS will host the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Fair on Saturday, February 26.
- The renovation planning continues, but there is nothing to publish at this time.
 - AHS has nominated Susan for the "Comcast Parent Involvement Matters" award in recognition for all she has done over the years for the AHS school community. Ms. Clements thanked Judy Bruce and Caryn for their help in preparing the nomination.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Acker)

- Mary distributed the budget report (Attachment B).
- Pay Pal is working well. An additional \$195 has been collected for Staff Appreciation, and \$96 has been collected for After Prom.

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) Delegates' Report (Kathy Faber)

A book drive will take place beginning in February and continuing into March. No pre-school books will be accepted, only books for kindergarten through adult. Schools will sort the books they collect, so volunteers may be needed.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report

None.

Unfinished Business

At the December 2010 meeting, the attendees discussed the possibility of showing "Race to Nowhere," a documentary on the American education system, at AHS. Marie Davidson volunteered to look into the logistics and costs involved in showing the film.

New Business

The Howard County Film Festival requested a donation of \$45. The PTSA will make a donation using "Charitable Contribution" funds approved in the budget.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- Susan Bottomley reported that the **Staff Appreciation Committee** will host the annual "Chocolate Fest" for the staff on February 14. The committee got a great response to its request for contributions for the holiday lunch – over \$2,000 was collected.
- Laurie Remer reported for the **SAT Preparation Committee**. Twenty students are registered for the next Kaplan SAT class, but only a few students have registered for The Answer class that is scheduled for February 12 and 13. There will be an ACT practice test on March 19, and feedback will be given on March 23. There will be an ACT preparation class after Spring Break. More needs to be done to publicize the ACT at AHS. Laurie asked if there could be a link from the AHS web site home page to information about the SAT and ACT preparation classes.
- Barb reported that the **Sports Boosters** Bull Roast will be held on April 8. All committee chairpersons are in place, but volunteers and donations are still needed.

- Teresa Wasil reported on behalf of the **After Prom Committee**. The committee is fully staffed. Committee members met with the manager of AMC Theatres. There will be some changes in logistics this year because the theater will be open to the public for midnight movie showings. There will be seven or eight theaters available for the After Prom Party, and three movies will be shown. A letter requesting donations from the AHS community was distributed via HCPSS News today. The committee made \$382 on pizza sales on the half days of school during midterms.
- Sue Bell reported for **Membership**. There are currently 690 members, and the committee will make one last request for new members. Some Executive Board members have not yet joined, and membership is mandatory for Executive Board members.
- Larry Crouse reported for the **Community Advisory Council (CAC)**. The January meeting was cancelled. He is working on a committee that is developing a new policy for homeless children and youth attending Howard County schools. There are currently 447 homeless children and youth in Howard County schools, an increase from 328 last year. The Howard County Food Bank has proposed having a pantry in each school to make food donations more accessible to the families that need them.
- Susan L. reported that the **Reflections Committee** would like to distribute prizes to the winners during lunch periods on April, 5, 9, and 29. Ms. Clements will check the dates and get back to the committee.

Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

E-mailed Committee/Liaison Reports

- **Reflections** (Dana Echols and Monika Punjabi): The Reflections Committee would like to host their Recognition for participants in April. I will not be able to attend the PTA meeting but would like to be brought up at the meeting. Monika and I are looking at April 5th, 9th, or 29th during lunch shifts. If someone could bring this to the attention of the board for approval we would greatly appreciate it. If not, hopefully one of us can attend the March meeting. We would like to set up a table in the front foyer and hand out a "goody" and return their entries at that time. Please let me know if someone can speak on our behalf at the meeting Tuesday night.
- **Snack Shop** (Teresa Wasil): Daily at the Snack Shop the Raiders continue to consume, gobble, scoff, munch, nosh, devour, eat, snack, and nibble everything we sell. As a result, all is well at the Snack Shop.
- **After Prom** (Teresa Wasil and Diane Freedman): The After Prom Party committee is in full swing. We are continuing to work with AMC on a finale contract and are quite confident we will have one soon. The planning session held on January 13th was very well attended. Another session is planned for February, the date yet to be determined. We held our first fundraiser last week. It was a profitable three day pizza sale during exam week. Requests for donations are being made via email and snail mail, as well as door to door solicitation of local businesses. Donations can be made by accessing the APP pay-pal account at atholtonptsa.org and clicking the "donate" button, or by mailing checks made payable to AHS PTSA to AHS, 6520 Freetown

Rd., Columbia 21044, Attention: After Prom Party. We welcome all volunteers. The more the merrier. After all, it is a party!

- **Grocery Receipts** (Joan Brittingham):
Giant Program: 303 Supporters, YTD Total for 2010-2011 program: \$4,993.53 (Approximately \$270 more than last year at this time with 74 fewer supporters)
Harris Teeter Program: 156 Supporters enrolled, 2010-2011 earnings: \$718.31 (\$379 more than last year at this time)
Escrip/Safeway Program: 355 Supporters, Net Contribution for November: \$304.25
Food Lion: 34 Supporters
Bloom - 82 Supporters, Point Balance: 3331
Please contact me if you have any questions.
- **School Improvement Team and Renovation Planning Committee** (Caryn Lasser):
The School Improvement Team did not meet in December, and the next meeting is later this week.

The FY12 Operating Budget was presented on January 6 and a public hearing on both the Capital and Operating Budgets will be held at 7:00pm on February 1.

The meetings of the renovation committee completed the initial planning phase. The architects are now working on design documents to incorporate the needs shared during planning.

- **PTACHC** (Cathy O'Brien): Here are the meeting minutes from the Council Meeting. Kathy and I will be organizing the book drive for Feb/March. More details to follow shortly. There will be a large bin in the front hallway for new and gently used books. Please only submit books for Kindergarten grade level through adults. Preschool/picture books are not needed.
- **Staff Appreciation** (Susan Bottomley): The Atholton community donated upwards of \$1800.00 to the holiday lunch. Mary will have the final amount. The lunch from Bon Fresco went well after missing chicken was delivered. Thanks to everyone for helping out. We are doing Chocolate Fest on Monday, Feb 14. Chocolate treats for the staff can be dropped off at the main office by 9 am on the 14th or at Amy's, Susan Bottomley's, or Judy 's house on the 13th.
- **Sports Boosters** (Barb Slayton): Planning for the annual Bull Roast is in full swing. This year's event will be held on Friday, April 8 from 7-11 PM at the Ten Oaks Ballroom. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for Sports Boosters, so please considering attending. I am pleased to report that all committees have chairs, but we still need lots of helping hands if anyone is interested. Spring Sports tryouts are March 1.
- **POPS** (Pam Vieser): POPS continues to need more volunteers; but this is typical at this time of the school year. We recently put out a volunteer request in the daily AHS email. I hope to make Tuesday's meeting and will bring a February POPS calendar for those who wish to sign up. Otherwise, I know you all love seeing my email requests and thank those of you who have been able to volunteer.
- **Driver's Ed** (Lisa Bader): The driver's ed program continues as scheduled with no problems. Everyone I talk with continues to be happy with Kevin and Greg's. The

latest class had 29 students and netted the PTSA \$1,595. The next class begins Feb. 7th.

- **Membership** (Mindy Myers, Irene Halkias, Robyn Siegel, Joy Evans, Sue Bell): We currently have 690 PTSA members - this includes 613 parent/student/affiliate members and 77 staff members. 151 of the members signed up through PayPal. We are still short of our goal of 750 members. We plan to encourage new members to join via AHS email, the Raider News, and the PTSA website. If you haven't joined yet, please do so. We have not reached 100% membership for the executive board. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks!
- **Music Boosters** (Cindy Ochs): The Music Dept. Pops Concert went very well and all the groups sounded wonderful. Plans for the Williamsburg Spring Trip are well underway. There is still time for students who want to attend to sign up. Fruit sales and sub sales continue until tomorrow, January 26th. If you need more information on either please contact me.
- **Community Outreach** (Theresa Graham): Here is an update on Community Outreach -- I will be organizing the preparation and delivery of a full dinner meal to Grassroots this March and have spoken with Doug who handles the volunteer dinners there. We need to plan on serving 50 people, and have been asked to avoid pasta-type dinners if at all possible, since they see a lot of that. So I would like to provide either pot roast or roasted chicken, along with carrots, green beans, salad and brownies. This is a good time of the year for comfort food. I will send out an e-mail and attachment sign-up roster within the next 2 weeks specifying the actual date and asking for support with various menu items and delivery. There will also be a donation component to this if volunteers prefer to donate \$ for this meal in lieu of preparing food. Please let me know if you have any questions, meanwhile. Thanks!
- **SAT Preparation** (Laurie Remer): Kaplan SAT Prep: - current enrollment is 24; classes start on Sat. Jan 29th; the flier is attached with dates and times

The ANSWER SAT Prep Class: These classes are offered on the weekend; flier is attached for upcoming classes. To date there are 4 students registered for the Feb. 12 and 13 class and 2 students registered for the Feb. 26 and 27 class. AHS received a contribution for \$605.40 for enrollment for fall classes. (We need to promote this class!)

ACT Practice Test – Saturday, March 19th; 8am-12:15pm; \$15 per student

Kaplan ACT Prep class – is scheduled to start in April if there is enough interest/enrollment – see attached flier.