

Atholton High School (AHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011

Susan Lustbader called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. at her home.

The following were in attendance: Mary Acker, Lisa Bader, Amy Bagley, Sue Bell, Susan Bottomley, Judy Bruce, Susan Cabot, Jennifer Clements, Debbie Clutts, Kathy Faber, Pam Johnson, Eileen Jones, Caryn Lasser, Amy Levitt, Susan Lustbader, Mindy Myers, Cindy Ochs, Robyn Siegel, Kayle Simon, Sherri Tatum, and Teresa Wasil.

Susan distributed the agenda (Attachment A).

There were no changes to the minutes from the April 26, 2011, Monthly Meeting.

President's Report (Susan Lustbader)

- Susan welcomed and introduced Susan Cabot who is considering volunteering for an Executive Board position for next year.
- The PTSA received two nice thank you notes from recipients of PTSA scholarships that were awarded this year and a note from Mrs. Gates who is retiring after 24 years at AHS.
- Susan thanked Joan Brittingham, Susan Bottomley, and Amy Bagley for serving on the Scholarship Selection Committee. The committee awarded two \$500 scholarships. Ten \$100 scholarships were awarded to students recommended by the Guidance Department.
- Susan was the Howard County winner of the Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award. The ceremony was nice, and she received a citation from the governor.
- At the June 6th General Meeting, the new officers were elected. The College Panel discussion was held after the meeting, and Susan thanked the panelists for volunteering and Sherri Tatum for organizing the event.
- The MD PTA summer convention will be held in July. Susan has registration information if anyone is interested.
- Annette D'Amico is still collecting nominations for the "Above and Beyond Awards."
- Susan reviewed the list of AHS PTSA Accomplishments (Attachment B) for 2010-11.

Administrator's Report (Jen Clements)

- Mrs. Clements reported that AHS had a great year, and she is fortunate to be the principal. The PTSA is great, and it is nice to have a positive working relationship between the school and PTSA.
- Mrs. Clements reported that the teachers thrive on recognition and asked that as many people as possible submit nominations for the "Above and Beyond Awards."
- The Prom and After Prom Party were wonderful. Thank you to all who volunteered.
- Graduation was great. The video can be viewed on the HCPSS web site.
- Exams start on Friday, June 17, with the first period exam and continue the following Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, which are all half days.

- There were no administrative changes for AHS this year.
- Mrs. Clements reported that the Anti-Bullying Committee has met a few times. John Clutts, Caryn Lasser, and Amy B. are parents who are participating on the committee. The goal of the committee is to encourage respectful interactions at AHS. Members of the committee will work on identifying an engaging speaker for students, staff, and parents. The committee will likely request some funding from the PTSA. Sherri asked if the committee would consider conducting seminars on honesty.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Acker)

- Mary distributed the budget report (Attachment C).
- The After Prom Party cleared approximately \$6,300.
- An Audit Committee is needed. Mary will check with Marie Davidson to see if she is available to help with the audit.
- At the June 6th General Meeting, the General Membership approved summer spending by the Executive Board of up to \$5,000.
- Any outstanding disbursement requests need to be submitted by the end of June.

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

None.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report

None.

Unfinished Business

- The Nominating Committee reported that the officers have been elected for the 2011-12 school year, but there are still openings for committee chairpersons and liaisons.
- A volunteer is needed to coordinate the summer mailing.

New Business

- The After Prom Party will not be held at AMC Theatres next year because the date is already booked. In addition, it seems that students may have lost interest as attendance was down the past couple of years. A meeting should take place early in the school year to discuss options for the After Prom Party.
- Susan reported that PTACHC is participating in the Prepare for Success program which provides backpacks filled with basic school supplies for students in need. PTAs can donate filled backpacks or make a cash donation. **Judy Bruce moved to donate \$250 from the Charitable Contributions budget line item to Backpacks for Success.** Kathy Faber seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.
- Susan reported that the PTSA has excess funds that could be used to purchase items for the school. Mrs. Clements provided the following ideas: \$700 for a portable Public Announcement (PA) system for use in the gym and outside; \$5,000 for TeacherWeb; \$2,000 for ice cream for Honor Roll/Exemplary Attendance students and for the Evening of Excellence. **Kathy moved to donate \$7,700 to the school to pay for the portable PA system, TeacherWeb, and ice cream for Honor Roll/Exemplary Attendance students and for the Evening of Excellence.** Kayle

Simon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.

- Eileen Jones reported that there is a problem with the system that allows parents to sign up for various volunteer opportunities at the same time they enter information for the school directory. The volunteer information cannot be extracted from the database, so a different method for collecting this information should be identified.
- Lisa Bader reported that the PTSA will be charged a fee for air conditioning classrooms for summer Driver's Education classes. She recommended raising the cost per student from \$355 to \$360 to help pay for the additional expenses. **Amy B. moved to increase the cost per student for Driver's Education classes from \$355 to \$360.** Judy seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.
- Each week, a few students borrow lunch money from the front office, and it takes a lot of time to try to collect the money from the students. The administration is looking for an alternate way to help students who forget their lunches. **Caryn Lasser moved that the PTSA donate a healthy snack supply to be used when students forget their lunches.** Sherri Tatum seconded the motion. The Executive Board discussed the motion, and Caryn eventually withdrew it. **Caryn then moved that the PTSA donate \$500 for the year to lend to students who need lunch money, and the details will be worked out later.** Amy Levitt seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion.

Committee/Liaison Reports

See "E-mailed Committee/Liaison Reports" below.

Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

E-mailed Committee/Liaison Reports

- **SAT Preparation** (Laurie Remer): I have already started to set up SAT and ACT practice and prep for the coming year. I hope to add an ACT prep class—one that is not as intense or long as Kaplan offers---more like a practice and strategies class. I will be meeting with the vendors this month and with Mike Senisi to secure space at school.

I plan to have a calendar ready for the mailing that goes out in the summer. **PLEASE let me know when that mailing will be ready to go out.** I will let our vendors know so that they can provide the materials for us.

I also would like for The Answer to offer their parent session (like they did last year). This was one of our "community programs." **If there is a preferred date, just let me know so I can add it to our calendar.**

- **Grocery Receipts** (Joan Brittingham): Giant Program: 305 Supporters, YTD Total for 2010-2011 program: **\$9666.20**. Program ended on 3/24/11. A "BIG" check was presented to Ms. Clements on 5/23. We finished in the Top Ten Schools in the

Baltimore/Washington area and there was a small write up about it in the Howard County Times.

Harris Teeter Program: 159 Supporters enrolled, 2010-2011 earnings: \$1506.53. Program ended on 5/30/11. Final payout check should arrive at AHS approximately 6/24.

Escrip/Safeway Program: 356 Supporters, Net Contribution Sep - Apr: \$853.83. \$200 was allocated for Fitness and Nutrition – the Escrip website was updated to reflect this amount in order to meet the program requirements.

Food Lion: 34 Supporters

Bloom - 82 Supporters, Point Balance: 5147

- **POPS** (Pam Vieser): This is the last week for POPS for this school year. I still have openings if anyone wants to volunteer. Thanks to all who signed up to help with POPS this year.
- **Community Service** (Theresa Graham): I can't make the meeting tomorrow evening but want to thank everyone for participating in our recent Grassroots Dinner outreach, which was a great success!
- **After Prom Party** (Diane Freedman and Teresa Wasil): The After Prom Party went off without a hitch! A few more gray hairs for some of us, but that was a small price to pay for keeping our kids happy and safe for the evening. The party would not have been possible if not for the tremendous support from the AHS staff and families, the Howard County community, and the energetic group of volunteers that helped with all aspects of the event.

Somehow we managed to come in under budget. Yes, we were just as surprised as you are. We have two more minor expenses to cover this week that will put us just under \$19,000 for the total cost of the party from start to finish.

There is a countywide APP debriefing meeting this Wednesday, June 15, at 7:00pm at Faulkner Ridge's Potomac Room. These meetings are very informative and would be extremely helpful in planning next year's party. A few of this year's committee members are planning to attend. Of course you are more than welcome to join us.

If we haven't done so already, Diane and I would like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement during the whole APP process. We could not have done it without you.

- **Snack Shop** (Judy Bruce, Pam Johnson, Teresa Wasil): This year the Snack Shop closed for the season at the end of May. We will have the year end totals in the budget report at the meeting on Tuesday. As in the past at the Snack Shop, we were fortunate to once again be working with a pleasant, helpful, and considerate group of volunteers.
- **Environmental Awareness** (Cassandra Miller): During 2010-11:

- Established a community partnership with the Robinson Nature Center for student volunteers and environmental education outreach
- Dirt Cups fundraiser raised over \$200.00 (All planning, advertising & implementation of the event was done by club members)
- Established a relationship with Ms. Clements, Principal to support the club as it relates to advertising, events and club projects
- Participated in HCC GreenFest in April
- Worked with G/T middle school students at Clarksville Middle School to produce an environmental public service announcement, "Respect the Earth"
- Developed a "Sport Smart" water bottle proposal for athletes and coaches. The proposal is scheduled for submission during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Established a community partnership with Roots market in Clarksville for presentations, fundraisers and product give-a-ways
- Contacted Chesapeake Bay Foundation about involvement in Student Leadership Program – www.cbf.org Select Educate/Student Leadership Chesapeake Bay Foundation will visit AHS to speak with the Environmental Club
- Recycling initiatives during the 2010-2011 school year
- An environmental and recycling survey was created and submitted to the AHS Administration team and Environmental Club faculty sponsor for review and approval.
- **Awards** (Annette D'Amico): Only a few Above & Beyond notations have come in so far, can we send out another enews? Susan, when is the luncheon that the awards will be presented?
- **Driver's Ed** (Lisa Bader): We had a great year in driver's ed! Most classes were at capacity, and we brought in more than we budgeted for. (We will need to check Mary Acker's financial report for the final number.)

We are going ahead with our three scheduled driver's ed classes this summer in the school. I am meeting with Mike Senisi next week to work out which classrooms to use, given the asbestos removal going on this summer. It looks as if we will have to pay the air conditioning charge this year (\$30 per day.) This would be a \$900 hit for the three, ten day classes. Greg's Driving School has agreed to share the cost with us this year. These classes and the a/c charges will actually show up in our budget for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. The class fee for the summer has already been published, so that's why we have to absorb it this year. There doesn't seem to be enough going on in the school this summer, so we won't be able to piggyback on another air conditioned classroom like we were able to do last year.

Which brings me to next year. I have attached the proposed schedule for the upcoming school year and next summer. (Keep in mind it has not been blessed by everyone yet.) Greg's is not raising their prices this time, but is anticipating at least a \$10 increase the following year. I am suggesting a \$5 per student increase over the course of the year to cover the summer's air conditioning charges. We will then receive \$60 per student for the year. We are sticking with our current schedule options for the classes. Some are offered twice a week for five weeks, some are offered every day for two weeks.

FYI, it seems there is another Driver's Ed company working in the county, actively pursuing getting into the high schools. As far as I know, Atholton has not been approached yet, but I would not feel the need to look into another company. Mary and Rusty Moore (the owners of Greg's), and Kevin Lamb (our instructor), continue to be a pleasure to work with. They are offering a very fair price, and we are having few, if any, complaints. I have asked Mary to provide us with a new contract for this year, just to keep us current and legal.

As far as voting in new business tonight, I think the only issue is the \$5 increase to cover the summer air conditioning. The alternatives are to charge \$10 per student just for the summer classes, or charge no extra and just absorb it into our budget. (Next summer's classes will actually be reflected in the following year's budget which begins July 1, 2012, but we need to set the prices now.)

- **School Improvement Team/Capital Budget/Orientation** (Caryn Lasser): The School Improvement Team has been working this year to identify the level of implementation of various strategies and their success. A final meeting of the 2010-2011 school year is scheduled for next week where extended time will be given to analyzing this year's data and beginning the development of next year's plan.

The HCPSS capital and operating budgets were adopted at the end of May and funding was included for the first phase of construction on the AHS renovations.

The 2011 Feasibility Study was presented to the Board of Education last week. The Feasibility Study drives the decisions for the capital budget and for any potential boundary adjustments. Atholton HS is projected to remain under 115% capacity even for the long term, therefore there are no concerns necessitating changes for AHS. In other words, relax! The full report can be found on the hcpss.org website.

Last week was the 3rd annual Club & Activities Fair where incoming families got a chance to check out what extracurricular activities are available at AHS and to learn about sports participation.

Many thanks to all of our incredible executive board members and volunteers who will be attending their last AHS PTSA meeting tonight. Each of your contributions makes us as strong as we are. You'll be missed, but know that the door is always open to lend a hand and stay involved!