

Atholton High School (AHS) Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 22, 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, Lisa Bader, Amy Bagley, Joan Brittingham, Judy Bruce, Jennifer Clements, Debbie Clutts, John Clutts, Larry Crouse, Annette D'Amico, Marie Davidson, Kathy Faber, Pam Johnson, Caryn Lasser, Susan Lustbader, Ellen Makar, Elaine McAuliffe, Moira Monk, Cindy Ochs, Sherri Tatum, and Teresa Wasil.

Mr. Posner and students from the Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE) thanked the PTSA for approving funding to help SWE attend the "Music For All" festival in Indianapolis.

Susan Lustbader distributed the agenda (Attachment A).

Amy Bagley read the "Objects of the PTA."

There were no changes to the minutes from the January 25, 2011, Monthly Meeting.

President's Report (Susan Lustbader)

- Susan thanked the PTSA for nominating her for the Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Awards.
- Susan passed around a folder with information for the attendees to review.
- AHS and Clemens Crossing Elementary School (CCES) are co-sponsoring a screening of the film "Race to Nowhere" on April 7. Thanks to Marie Davidson for organizing the screening. The AHS PTSA and CCES will split the \$750 cost of the screening, and there will be no charge for tickets. Because of limited seating, tickets will be required. Attendees may be asked to bring voluntary donations for Food on the 15th.
- Kathy Faber, Amy, and Susan worked on an application for the two \$500 scholarships the PTSA will award this year. A draft of the application was reviewed by the Guidance Office and the PTSA Executive Board, and the feedback has been incorporated. The scholarships will be publicized during the week of March 28. The selection committee for the scholarships will consist of three AHS parents (cannot have seniors attending AHS), Mrs. Morton from the Guidance Office, and one administrator. The selection committee will meet in May. Information about how parents can apply to be on the selection committee will be included in an upcoming HCPSS Newsletter.
- The next PTSA Monthly Meeting will be held on April 26. There is no Monthly Meeting in May. A General Meeting will be held on May 9 to elect the PTSA officers for 2011-12, and the meeting will be followed by the College Panel. There is currently no Community Connections chair, so a volunteer is needed to organize the panel. Sherri Tatum agreed to work on this, and she will ask Amy Levitt to help her.

The Media Center will likely not be available for the May 9 meeting due to AP testing.

Administrator's Report (Jen Clements)

- The schematic drawing for the renovations was approved by the Board of Education (BOE) on February 24. The project is currently in the Design and Development phase during which the needs for each space in the building will be assessed. This phase should be completed in the next couple of months, and the recommendations should be presented at the June BOE meeting. This summer, pre-renovation activities, including asbestos removal, will take place at the school. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2012 and continue through 2014. More information regarding the impact of the project to this summer's activities at AHS will be available after the March 23 project meeting.
- Mrs. Clements went on the "Music for All" trip with SWE. The students were amazing, and their performance was great.
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) has been planning pre-prom activities. The week before prom is a short week of school, and the planned activities over the four days include the following: a display at lunch; a speaker sponsored by HC Drug Free (Matt Bellace); "Every 15 Minutes" – an activity which drives home the point that every 15 minutes someone is killed by a drunk driver; and a pre-prom assembly for juniors and seniors, including a speech by Nancy Davis, the mother of Steven Dankos.
- In response to an increase in issues resulting from bullying and cyberbullying (via web sites like Facebook and YouTube), Mrs. Clements is establishing a sub-committee to look into the problem. She would like to partner with the PTSA. Anyone interested in participating on the sub-committee should e-mail Mrs. Clements.
- Congratulations to Susan for being named a semi-finalist for the Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Awards.
- There was a car accident on Freetown Road today involving students, but everyone is fine.
- Due to budget issues, the High School Assessment (HSA) for Government may be eliminated.
- The graduation date for AHS is Tuesday, May 31, at 4:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Acker)

- Mary distributed the budget report (Attachment B).
- The personal property tax form has been filed.
- Mary will send an e-mail to Mrs. Clements regarding Student Support Requests, and Mrs. Clements will forward it to the teachers.

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

- The Book Drive ends on April 1. Many books have already been collected.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

- A third person is needed to serve on the Nominating Committee with Debbie Clutts and Sherri. Lisa Bader and Elaine McAuliffe volunteered. Debbie reported that they will first identify which Executive Board members will continue in their current positions so they can determine what positions need to be filled. Open positions include President, one PTACHC Delegate, Volunteer Coordinator, and Webmaster.
- Susan presented two funding requests. 1. Best Buddies requested \$300 for yearly dues that need to be paid by April 1. **Kathy moved to donate \$300 to Best Buddies.** Elaine seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion. The money will be taken from the Student Support budget line item. 2. The students in the Teaching as a Profession class asked for a donation to their Change Matters campaign, which works to defeat homelessness. The letter from the class stated that it costs \$55 to house a homeless person in a shelter for one day. **Ellen Makar moved to donate \$55 to the Teaching as a Profession Change Matters campaign.** Sherri seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Executive Board unanimously approved the motion. The money will be taken from the Charitable Contributions budget line item.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- Sherri reported that there will be a fundraiser at the Melting Pot to benefit **HC Drug Free.**
- Teresa Wasil reported that the **After Prom Committee** is still in need of volunteers. The committee will hold a pizza sale on Friday, April 1, which is an early dismissal day. The committee would like to have a cupcake sale if they can get the cupcakes donated. After Prom tickets will be sold in conjunction with the Prom tickets (Mrs. Clements will check on the dates for Prom ticket sales) and will also be available for purchase the week before Prom. Current donations for After Prom total \$6,255.
- Annette D'Amico reported that the **Awards Committee** plans to sponsor the Above and Beyond Awards for which parents nominate staff members in three categories: academic, extracurricular, and support. Nomination forms will be available at the PTSA General Meeting on May 9. The awards will be presented at the end-of-the-year staff luncheon provided by the Staff Appreciation Committee.
- Cindy Ochs reported for the **Music Boosters.** The Concert Band is getting ready for their trip to Williamsburg. The sub sandwiches will be prepared and delivered on Saturday, March 26. Parents will be working at an Orioles concession stand over the next few months as a fundraiser for the Music Boosters.
- Larry Crouse reported that the **Community Advisory Council (CAC)** is working on several policies. The policy on Homeless Children and Youth was presented to the BOE on March 10. The BOE added things to the policy and would like it approved prior to July 2011. There is internal disagreement regarding the Site Selection policy.
- On behalf of Laurie Remer, Susan reported that 39 students took the practice ACT test organized by the **SAT Preparation Committee.**

Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

E-mailed Committee/Liaison Reports

- **Grocery Receipts** (Joan Brittingham): Giant Program: 304 Supporters, YTD Total for 2010-2011 program: \$8119.26 (Approximately \$389.68 more than last year). Program ends on 3/24/11.
Harris Teeter Program: 158 Supporters enrolled, 2010-2011 earnings: \$1076.67 (\$480 more than last year at this time) Program ends on 5/30/11
Escrip/Safeway Program: 356 Supporters, Net Contribution for January: \$198.89. 2010 YTD Contribution: \$1213.79 **Approximately \$195 must be spent on Fitness and Nutrition
Food Lion: 34 Supporters
Bloom - 82 Supporters, Point Balance: 3965
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.
- **Newsletter/Webmaster** (Kayle Simon): The online newsletter and PTSA site are going well; let me know if you need anything posted. Also, we will need someone to take over one of these sites next year. No web experience AT ALL is needed and neither requires more than a few hours a month. If you're interested, please speak with me before the meeting next week.
- **Staff Appreciation** (Susan Bottomley): Staff Appreciation had Chocolate fest on February 14th and will have Take me out to the ball game, on March 23rd. The baseball themed event will have peanuts, soft pretzels and crackerjack and include a baseball trivia quiz as entry into a raffle for baseball themed items donated by the Atholton families. I will not be able to make the meeting on March 22nd.
- **Snack Shop** (Teresa Wasil): The Snack Shop is doing splendidly these days with the usual afternoon crowd. By special request, we will be open on the evening of April 8th to "cater" the Howard County Battle of the Books. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the PTSA.
- **After Prom** (Diane Freedman and Teresa Wasil): The After Prom Party is coming along fabulously. All the committee members are working hard to make this a safe and fun event for our students.

Donations are coming in from AHS families and friends. Door prizes are being donated from businesses around the area. Colleges and universities are also donating items to be given away. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation.

The activities for the evening have been decided upon based on the response we received from a survey of juniors and seniors conducted during lunches one day last month. We will be conducting a survey Monday, March 21, regarding food they would like served, and another survey sometime in April regarding the grand prizes.

As a fundraiser we will be having a pizza sale on Friday, April 1st, at 11:15am. If you would like to help please contact Teresa at the above email address. We also hope to have a cupcake sale later in April.

We will be asking for volunteers soon. Please consider volunteering to help on the day of and/or for the party itself. Remember your student does not have to attend the party to volunteer. And, if your student is attending, don't worry, there are so many people around you won't have to run into your each other unless you choose to do so.

- **Membership** (Mindy Myers, Irene Halkias, Robyn Siegel, Joy Evans, Sue Bell): We are closing out the PTSA membership year with 694 members. This includes 77 staff members and 617 parent/student/affiliate members. Let us know if you have any questions.
- **School Improvement Team/Renovations Planning** (Caryn Lasser): The School Improvement Team is scheduled to meet on March 24.

The Schematic Design for the AHS Renovations was approved by the Board of Education on February 24. The next steps include the development of the Design Documents. These are scheduled for Board approval on June 23.

- **Music Boosters** (Cindy Ochs): Congratulations to the AHS Symphonic Wind Ensemble for an amazing performance at the Music for All National Festival!. The Williamsburg Spring trip for Concert Band is just around the corner and will be at the end of April. Students who sold subs will be delivering their orders this weekend.
- **Driver's Education** (Lisa Bader): We continue to have full, or near full capacity at all driver's ed classes. January's class brought in \$1,595. February's class brought in \$1,650. We are in the second week of March's class right now, so I should be receiving a check any day for this one. We have two classes remaining before the summer. The summer classes remain in question pending the renovation schedule.
- **Community Outreach** (Theresa Graham): I can't attend the meeting this evening but have attached a sign up sheet for the dinner I am coordinating for Grass Roots residents, now re-scheduled for May 18. Please review the attachment and reply to this e-mail if you would like to contribute any of the requested items and/or help with delivering the food to Grassroots on the evening of the dinner. I will provide weekly updates of this sign-up sheet to keep everyone apprised of the status of the dinner contributions. FYI, When I inquired, I was told that due to privacy concerns, it will not be necessary/advisable for us to have Atholton students remain onsite at Grassroots to serve this meal. **THANK YOU, KAYLE, FOR LETTING ME KNOW THAT YOUR SON MAY BE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COORDINATE STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AND/OR COOK TO HELP WITH THIS DINNER!!** --
It will be an especially effective outreach if we can get our students to take a lead role in this. (Please let me know if anyone who wants to help has a conflict with this new May 18 date and I will coordinate a new date that works for all.)
- **Reflections** (Dana Echols and Monika Punjabi): Reflections is preparing for the Recognition awards during lunch shifts on Friday April 8th. We will have 27 certificates and gift envelopes (containing AHS snack shop coupons) plus refreshments for this year's participants.

- **Environmental Awareness** (Cassandra Miller):) Environmental Club members will attend the Howard Community College "Green Fest" - Sat., April 2nd, to help represent and support the Robinson Environmental Center.
 - 1) The Environmental Club hopes to raise awareness about the center and inform high school students of the new facility. Will soon contact the PTSA regarding getting information posted on our billboards in various supermarkets.
 - 2) Club is planning for the Dirt Cups fundraiser on April 8th at dismissal. The date/event has been approved. The club may be requesting funding assistance for supplies from the PTSA soon.
 - 3) Currently planning for Green Week and ways to advertise in school and the community. Since the actual Earth Day is over Spring Break, April 22, Green Week will most likely be the week of the 26th through the 29th.
- **PTACHC Delegates** (Kathy Faber): School Board approved the renovation of Atholton High School, project will be Lead Silver. Book Drive will go through this week.