

Atholton HS PTSA Executive Board Nov. 18, 2008

7:00 Media Center

Objects read by Beth Sellers

Celebration for PTA Educator of the Year award: Marcy Leonard!! Also, AHS PTSA won "PTA of Distinction" award from MD State PTA. A large delegation from Atholton PTSA joined the celebration at MD PTA Convention.

Minutes accepted from October.

Treasurer's Report- Judy Bruce. Budget presented.

Administrator's Report- Ms. Leonard expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to work with our children, and for the recognition. This is celebration week- Students of the Month, drama, rising stars (0.5 increase of GPA, 125 = most ever, especially among African American students), Exemplary Attendance; Honor Rolls (4.0 = Principals Honor Roll ; 3.4 –3.99= Gold Honor Roll , 3.0 – 3.39 = Silver Honor Roll). Monday is the NAACP Achievement of Excellence = advance scores on 8th gr. MSA's (29 9th graders). Pizza w/ Principal was phenomenal, good attendance, good program / feedback, very productive, Teacher Leadership Team / Cadre will work on suggestions. Parent conferences upcoming, contact administrator if any issues make parents uncomfortable. Day after winter break = pass out scheduling material , please be aware of all opportunities and get students placed appropriately. Scheduling students is the 2nd most important activity of principals. Q: how is Student of the Month distributed? Some teachers always submit, some never do. Ms. Leonard will encourage all staff to nominate.

President's Report- Carol Zimmerman has good career news, but must resign AHS PTSA duties. Corresponding Sec'ty position must be filled- can be elected in by Exec Board, will send out ESchool News to entire school asking for nominations / volunteers. Work Plans- Community Connections, SIT, Environmental Committee will be discussed tonight. No Health & Wellness chair; will do volunteers later. Pizza with Principal > >30 people, mostly parents, a couple students. Broke into 3 larger groups, told stories, then shared with room. Examples: mice in snack shop; music dept has even worse mouse problem; students desire opportunity to give teacher feedback (not survey, not evaluation- what's working, what's not working). Have shared from & to teachers. Much positive feedback, high level of involvement across the board (students, staff, parents, organizations). Compared to other schools, kids feel safe & secure, encouraged by staff, many activities are available. Many kids involved in all activities, not as clique-y as at other places. Students are not put down for participating in math / drama /less popular activities, a lot of acceptance. New BRIGHT IDEAS bulletin board available to give input to PTSA- will be in office behind PTA bucket. Next meeting = Candle Party, Dec 16, potluck at Caryn's unless other hostess offers.

PTA Council Delegate- Gale Fleming. Discuss new proposed calendar (shortened spring break), methods to give feedback. Thanks for all the coats (there were many!) Recognition of Homewood / ARL teachers-

they request a one time contribution to one school. Will research what was done last year, communicate to Gale. ARL Principal has good community of parents, but they do not send out any communications to foster parent involvement.

SGA Report- none presented

Committee Reports

New Work Plans- Community Connections work plan submitted, request \$1500, speakers & workshops from community (Math Night), Career Night (thank you's to presenters) Teresa moved, Beth seconded. Work Plan passed.

School Improvement Team work plan submitted- focus on decreasing rate of suspensions , gathering detailed data, plan strategy on how to reduce. No budget. Motion by Judy, seconded by Monica, work plan approved.

Environmental Awareness- speakers, supporting Enviro Club, offer seniors fair, robotics club tournament entries. Budget = \$700 Move to approve by Beth, second by Susan. Work Plan passes. Suggest combining Math Night with Green Fair? Sherri and Lily will work it out.

Newsletter- being assembled

Written Reports submitted by the following committees: SIT Team; Volunteer Committee; Directory; Environmental Awareness; Sports Boosters; Music Boosters; CAC; POPS, BSAP; After Prom; Staff Appreciation; Reflections; Technology Boosters.

Old Business- none

New Business- Hot cocoa OK to sell at Snack Shop? Use lids. Sell Holiday Gift cards at snack shop.

State Convention – Caryn and Lisa described the workshops they attended. One workshop was presented by the National PTA president- NCLB, modifications w/new Obama administration, more funding, Nat'l PTA will partner w/Gates Foundation putting together forum to ensure college prep & advanced placement. Promote Hi School parental involvement. Urban development- get PTA's in urban schools; multi year resource development; nontraditional ways to reach membership. Make things more relevant, new ways to communicate (Face book etc) to reach young parent demographic.

Advocacy- Beyond the Bake Sale author- PTAs are a lot more than fundraising, also advocacy, describe different advocacy skills, best practices, role of PTA

MD workshop w/ MD PTA elect- Leadership- Caryn will share in a "hands on" way in Jan / Feb with fabulous new leadership skills.

Summer Leadership Conference- former Office of International Services, now diversity / outreach to intl families- ways to connect w/ non English speaking families (ESOL will be at AHS next year), bilingual liaisons, cultural differences, how to connect, planning w/ forms- help non English families with forms.

Translation services available in HCPSS, int'l parent leadership program, county wide level to help parents, could bring to school level.

Putting the T in PTA- add teachers

Engaging the male in PTA- may work on w/ Community Connections

Lisa attended Target Marketing to increase membership & parent involvement. Highlight 3 levels of participation: 1=from home; 2 = 1 + visit school of class once a year, attend conference; 3 = maximum involvement, be on board, county wide advocacy. MD PTA transforming online data base, combine w/ just between friends, will be robust info system to get out critical info to parents, different than ESchool Newsletter.

Running a PTA / Exec Board- bylaws, procedure book. Procedure book explains each position, responsibilities, add what you did over the year, gives continuity year to year. Also helps in nominating process / getting people to accept call for chairing a committee. Caryn will request that we start keeping these.

PTA.org has a "Great Idea Bank" from around the country.

Sara Lustbader distributed 4 Raider license plate covers.

Joy Evans would like to get one grant application from each department- has chemistry, home economics, science will also apply for AP Environmental Science Program.

Meeting ended 9 PM

Attendance: Joy Evans, Kathy Faber, Marcy Leonard, Irene Halkias, Robyn Siegel, Monika Punjabi, Alka Chandler, Pam Vieser, Sherri Tatum, Patty Abitante, Beth Sellers, Teresa Wasil, Judy Bruce, Annette d'Amico, Debbie Metteyer, Susan Lustbader, Dana Echols, Caryn Lasser, Lisa Bader, Sara Lustbader, Susan Bottomley, Lily Weiss-Lora, Sharon Nussbaum, Gale Fleming, Joan Brittingham, Ellen Makar.