

Atholton PTSA Executive Board Meeting Sept. 22, 2009

7:00 Media Center

Objects read by Kathy Faber

Minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report – Judy Bruce – reports from July 1, 2009 – Sept, 21, 2009. Drivers Ed, membership are largest income categories so far. Have paid many teacher support requests. Thanks to Marie for doing our audit.

Administrator's Report- good start to school, kids are excited about academics. Teacher change: Mr. Cook has left, Julia Reynold will step in to teach math. Some math classes had too high / too low # of students, so schedule changes occurred. "Academic Challenge Program" starting- goal setting based on academic performance, supported by admin / staff. 76 students signed up for this program (strictly voluntary, must be self motivating), wide spectrum of kids. Kids have identified goals, what it will take to reach those goals, staff monitors, get progress sheet, meet with teachers, meet with mentor on resources available. Popular w 10th, 11th graders, 9th graders will be picked up after 1st report card. Roof is done. We have a cat in the school (Taco), are trying to capture it. HCPSS now charges for HVAC (\$160/activity) for activities more than 1 hour after school.

President's Report- all positions filled!!! Leah Stone = Raider Raves; Kathy Faber, Theresa Graham and Allison Pihl will work on Community Service with Lauren Graybill, Amy Bagley is on Staff Appreciation. Thanks for Back to School Night work, especially alumni, the event went smoothly. MDPTA Convention is in Frederick Nov. 13-14. MDPTA offering \$500 grant for parent / family involvement program. Wilde Lake Middle received this grant for family programs (program supported was BBQ, bingo, conference outreach); many awards available, applications due Oct. 15. Susan distributed green folders for all members.

PTA Council – Kathy Brian and Debbie Clutts attended, submitted written report.

Community Service Project – HoCo Foodbank needs food- Comm. Service committee suggests running a Food Drive during Homecoming week. Possible theme: "Stuff the Bus" for Homecoming Day- PTSA committee will meet with SGA. Collect food during the week, stuff the bus, Mr. Senisi is trying to get bus donated. SGA may want to make competition among classes- offer prize to class w most donations? Lauren Graybeal leading this effort.

Unfinished business-

1. Kayle reports on **paypal**- 25 turns into 23.47. Payment hits our account immediately from credit card payments, we get email confirming (delay w echecks). Boosters problem was unrelated to paypal. KS suggests we offer this payment option for one event, as a test run. We

have options of reports we can get- details on what the transaction was for, etc. Research has shown donations increase 15 – 20% when Paypal is offered. Will avoid bounced check fees (not a problem for us). May be too soon to offer for Staff Appreciation November donation request. **Susan Bottomley moves to offer paypal payment on PTSA website for one event this year.** Eschool would send notice, parent must go to site to hit paypal button. Parents may prefer to use credit cards for rewards / incentives. Review voting allocations- all officers get one vote; one vote per committee. Second by Caryn. **Motion passed** with one absetention. Will try to set up for Staff Appreciation November cash donations.

2. Accepting **sponsorships** on Raider News website- KS suggests we do not accept advertising, but list of links to companies (no ads or graphics). Make sure it's not a distraction. We need to determine cost, high enough to not have too many. We get 1500 distinct visitors per month to the site. Formal business partnerships- not represented on any school website. Could offer as thanks for in kind type donations, for example to After Prom. **Kathy Faber moves to put advertising / sponsorship on website.** Second by Caryn, committee can suggest amount. Filter process would be in effect- do not take \$ from companies that don't fit within the school policies- webmaster will check. **Motion carries.**

Committee Reports- SAT prep has low enrollment, will advertise at College Night. Pizza w Principal- parents of freshmen are encouraged to talk it up. Have a PTSA person facilitate each table- one to record, one to allocate time smoothly. Hospitality will provide pizza, will need helpers. Will not be aligned with BSAP event.

Review of hospitality events: HC Drug Free; Parents SAT info night.

Offer math night? Would need to find a date, teacher. Economize events- fewer trips out. Will be headed by Amy Levitt.

Environmental Club- new teacher (Courtney Conover), 12 students , new sense of energy.

BSAP – Brandon Barrett was out front at Back to School Night, has sent email with goals & priorities (incl. 60% of AA students at or above 3.0; better connect with parents, especially involvement at events) PTSA can help with individual invitations via personal contact.

Community Service- will work with Lauren on food drive during Homecoming. Want more suggestions, may try to help find service hours for Honor Society. Sports equipment collection?

CAC- saw presentation from HC Public Library. Interest on presentation here?

SIT team survey on effectiveness of attendance / honor roll incentives- want feedback from parents. Survey distributed.

Raider Raves- Leah wants dates, Spirit Wear themes, Reflections information to post on the bulletin board.

After Prom- still looks like Lifetime Fitness- pool hottubs, racquetball, tennis courts. 9th graders may go to Lifetime Fitness on PSAT day for team building- PTSA may accompany to see how 400 kids fit in there.

ESL Forms night was not well attended, not required by families.

Adjourn at 9:10

Attendance: Joan Brittingham, Kathy Faber, Marie Davidson, Annette D'Amico, Hitesh Nigam, Susan Bottomley, Judy Bruce, Pam Johnson, Debbie Clutts, Susan Lustbader, Marcy Leonard, Cindy Ochs, Barendra Kimlbe, Amy Bagley, Sherri Tatum, Anita Chandrasekaran, Steve Lee, Dillon Hagius, Kayle Simon, Caryn Lasser, Leah Stone, Lauren Graybeal, Amy Levitt, Sue Bell, Hedy Tanenholtz, Ellen Makar

Written Committee reports:

POPS - I am overwhelmed with the great number of POPS volunteers who have come forward to volunteer their time during the lunch shifts. I am still in need of 1 volunteer for next Friday, September 25. If anyone can cover this slot - please let me know. Thanks to all of you who have already signed up.

DRAMA - Rehearsals are underway for A Midsummer Night's Dream. Performances are October 28 at 10am, October 29-31 at 7pm and November 1 at 3pm. – Pam Vieser

In September, I sent **AHS alumni** parents information about: Three events to honor Paul Kelley and raise funds to fight cancer: 1. Sept. 16 - River Hill Grille Fundraiser to benefit the cancer center at Johns Hopkins 2. Oct. 5 - Cancer Fundraiser Golf Tournament 3. Oct. 10 - Pounding the Pavement for Paul - United Way 5K

Oct. 16 - Alumni Club Octoberfest diner at Blob's Park Biergarten

Thanks to Sara Lustbader and Rosemary Mortimer for helping out at Back-to-School Night

Upcoming AHS home games

Grocery receipts sign-up information for procrastinators- Mary Ellen Creasey

Volunteers

Thanks to Karen MacFarland (my data input pal), all spreadsheets should be ready for distributiton next week. I will add names to your list as they come in. – Eileen Jones

After Prom

We are awaiting word from Lifetime Fitness as to whether they will sign the required Maryland PTSA insurance form or not. If they will, Lifetime is our spot. If they won't, we continue our search.

First meeting for the After Prom Committee is Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00pm in the Media Center. All are welcome!! – Eileen Jones

Hospitality

We made it through orientation, 700 donuts, 14 cases of juice and 8 cases of water, all gone! Thanks to those PTSA members who helped man the table while Marie and I attended the orientation. In Oct we have 2 events on the calendar, HC Drug Free on Oct. 7 and Pizza with the Principal on Oct 13. We will need volunteers for both events but will definitely need help for 10/13 since Marie will be out of town and I have a PTSA meeting at WLMS at 7pm. If anyone is available that evening to help please let us know. Thanks! - Hedy and Marie

Raider Raves:

I am working on coming up with a new display for the bulletin boards, however I have heard that Relections is asking about putting info up. Please let me know what you want to display. – Leah Stone

Grocery Receipts Coordinator Report to the Executive Board, September 2009

All supporter forms received as of 9/20 have been input. All Safeway/Escrip supporters have been renewed. Food Lion webpage is still not available.

Giant Program as of 9/20: 269 enrolled

Safeway Program: 309 enrolled

Harris Teeter: 78 enrolled – Joan Brittingham

The AHS **School Improvement Team (SIT)** met on September 17, 2009 to begin work on this year's School Improvement Plan (SIP). Demographics were reviewed, available data from previous years was reviewed, and the overall SIP including past strategies were reviewed. Small groups were formed, each examining one area of focus in the SIP for strategies to update, remove, or add if missing. The next meeting will bring this work together to finalize the AHS SIP for 2009-2010.

Of particular note – areas of focus at AHS have made a measurable difference over the past several years. Specifically, a focus on attendance awareness policies resulted in AHS being the only HS in Howard County last year to attain the 96% State Excellence level, including being the only HS to reach 96% Excellent Attendance for our Free And Reduced Meals Students (FARMS). There will be a countywide focus on FARMS initiatives this year through every schools' SIP. Another notable AHS SIP achievement has been an increase in minority

enrollment in AP courses. This past year the SIT focus was on reducing and being proactive to prevent suspensions, and initiatives are currently in place to meet this goal.

During the September 17 breakout discussing attendance, the question arose about effectiveness of the Exemplary Attendance quarterly recognitions, and by extension, all student recognition programs' effectiveness were discussed. Feedback was requested from the SGA and from the PTSA on all student recognition programs. – Caryn Lasser

The **membership** drive is off to a great start. We currently have 555 members, this includes the following:

92 staff ; 349 Parents; 113 Students; 1 Affiliate

On Back to School Night 86 members joined. Many thanks to the Alumni PTSA members who worked at the PTSA table to make this possible!!

Additionally, we held a gift card drawing on 9/9/09 for the AHS staff members who joined the PTSA. The winners were:

- Dean Linblad - \$10 Giant
- Barbara Lokitis - \$10 Giant
- Gloriann Mehlman - \$15 Subway
- Iram Weaver - \$15 Starbucks
- Christy MaIntyre - \$15 Trader Joe's
- Scott Brenfleck - \$15 Trader Joe's
- Margaret Klotz - \$15 Borders
- Wendell Thomas - \$25 Panera
- Rachelle Eichert - \$25 Panera

Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks! – Sue Bell et. al.

Community Service Committee.

We are going to start off by helping Lauren Graybeal who is coordinating the Community Service Food Drive during Homecoming Week and Lauren has some great ideas for this project and we hope to get everyone's support in collecting food for this worthy cause.

- Kathy Faber, Theresa Graham, and Allison Pihl

WEBSITES REPORT:

We are receiving between 1500 and 2000 distinct visits to the websites each week, and updates are being executed on a regular basis. A "monthly update" will occur in the next few weeks, and everything that has been added to the site (that isn't out of date) over the last month will remain there for that.

Two items of business return to our agenda at this coming meeting:

1.) Accepting payment via paypal. Answers to three questions raised at our last meeting are as

follows:

A) Speediness of payment transfers is immediate into our bank account. When a credit card is used, the payment arrives within seconds and we receive an email letting us know who it was from, what it was for, and how much it was. When an "echeck" is used, we know about it immediately but how long it takes to get into our account depends on the payer's bank; these can take up to five days to process.

B) PayPal Reports. In addition to the immediate email we receive, there are reports that aggregate the data and give a complete history for us, available via. our paypal account online. I was unable to get a sample of one of these but with millions of small-sale users out there, I am certain the reports are clear and simple to use.

C) Cost. 2.9% plus .30 per transaction. So if \$25 is sent, we get \$23.97. No monthly or set up charges, and it can be cancelled at any time.

I am going to suggest that we try PayPal in a limited way for one particular event.

2.) Sponsors. While there seemed to be a negative response to the idea of advertising, I propose that we offer to list sponsors in the right hand column of the Raider News Site, below our links and the calendar, offering nothing more than a link to their sites. This would avoid any logos or ads on our pages while giving local businesses an opportunity to support us. It would also give US an opportunity to offer these sponsorship links to companies we are looking for larger assistance from. I'd suggest these links be valued at \$20 to \$30 a month, or \$200 to \$300 for the year, which in effect makes the summers free for full-year buyers.

ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES REPORT:

We ordered 12,000 wipes but only 8,000 have been delivered thus far. The other 4,000 are now backordered for as much as 12 weeks, so I've cancelled them, as that is well beyond when they'd have done us much good. Total PTSA cost for these was \$334.22. I am not sure how many wipes or how many checks were received from parents. I am not sure whether they are being used in classrooms or saved until we get more flu cases, since we really don't have very many. – Kayle Simon

{{As a quick wipes update, a bag of individual wipes was provided to each staff member to keep in their classrooms. We still have about 3/4 of a box left for replenishment. In addition, the donated sanitizer and wipes have been made available to all staff members, and almost all of the donations have been spoken for thus far. Many thanks for the donation! – Ms. Leonard}}

Music Boosters Report

Music Boosters Membership has begun. Help support AHS wonderful music department. This year there will be no charge for any of the concerts.

To join Music Boosters contact Annette D'Amico at Annttdamico@aol.com.

Coffee sales has also begun. For information contact me at sweetpcin@verizon.net.- Cindy Ochs

Sports Boosters

This year's Homecoming Breakfast will be chaired by PTSA's own Teresa Wasil (Go Teresa!) and Annette D'Amico. Teresa and Annette need lots of help, so **please consider helping** with the planning and execution of the event. Homecoming is on October 24th this year. In addition, I believe PTSA has budgeted \$250 to contribute to the cost of the breakfast.

The **Snack Shop** is off to a good start. There have been some comments and questions by the students regarding the price increases, but after a simple "we're sorry, we didn't want to do it, but we had no choice," they seemed to get over it and buy anyway. The students seem to enjoy the Power Bars, so we will continue to sell them. We are also trying yogurt, but it is still too soon to tell how it will sell.

The volunteers, both new and returning, have been great as usual. – Theresa Wasil

Staff Appreciation is off to a good start with the welcome back breakfast breakfast in August and a Flavors of Fall treat planned for October 1st in the staff lounge. Thanks everyone for your donations of food and time in making the breakfast a success. – Susan Bottomley

REFLECTIONS - We are working on the flyer and information packet for Reflections. We should have that to all of you by Monday (just waiting on some information from Susan).

Directory – We should be ending the data collection – we'll send out one last reminder this week. Ad sales are continuing, however, if anyone knows of a business or individual, that might have interest, please let us know ASAP