

**PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, September 20, 2007**

Call to Order: The September 20, 2007 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA, Inc. was called to order at 9:27 AM at the Peters Township Public Library. Due to the lack of a flag being present in the library, the Pledge of Allegiance was not said. President Sue Smith presided and Secretary Michele Bittel recorded the minutes.

President's Report: Sue Smith thanked the library staff for letting us hold the meeting at the library. She reported that a Curriculum Committee is being formed at a meeting being held on 10/11 at the District Administration Office Building (DOA). This committee is being set up by Nina Zetty, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum. Sue passed out several handouts dealing with a variety of topics including bullying and safe internet-surfing.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Sternweis presented the treasurer's report. The actual 2005-06 and 2006-07 actual income/expense sheets were shown along with the 2007-08 proposed budget. Year-to-date expenses were reported. A motion to accept the budget was made and seconded. Funds are available if a Founder's Day lunch is planned.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lyn Logelin: New initiatives are planned. Strategic Planning Meeting 9/5/07. Steering Committee being formed to discuss vision, mission, goals. Positive feedback and students are involved. The Strategic Plan incorporates the 4 C's: Communication, Cooperation, Celebration, and Continuation. Canine Resources will be visiting all schools on 9/25 and 9/26. Elementary level will present dog as a friend, fun, trust, deep safe. Middle school and high school level will explain how it works, no surprises, goal is to stop bad things from happening in school. Curriculum department incorporated an SAT Prep Program and it has been positively received and attended. Physical Education program focuses on life time sports. Questions about MRSA were answered and it was requested by an attendee that "The Perfect Day" be discussed at the Safety Committee Meeting.

Technology, Toni Sulkowski: PTA webpages are updated. Power School is up and running at the high school. Bobbie Veltre at the high school was a huge help. Middle school should be on line in the next week. PV and BH are up and running with teacher grades being added in. McMurray has a slight delay due to information being updated after school was started. PV, BH and McMurray should be on-line with parents by mid-year. Orientation for Macs that were donated to the library was held and everyone is happy with them. Every teacher in the high school, middle school and McMurray received new laptops. We were selected for \$81,000 grant. Ten teachers were chosen to receive tablet PC's, etc.

Communications, Cara Zanella: Dates to remember will be in the newsletter. Constant contact emails are a huge success, please update to subscribe or unsubscribe. PT Magazine publishers split; now there will be two publications. Oct. 19, 9:30, Safety meeting in DOA Building. The NTSB provided a DVD on terrorism on buses. Drivers will be prepped.

UNIT REPORTS

Mrs. Gufstason, (Bower Hill): Read-a-thon kickoff, volunteer parents and several celebrities including the Steeler Mascot, Wild “Thing”, Pirate Parrot, and Shannon Perine will be reading “Ferdinand the Bull” to students. They will then tape a public service announcement. Mentioned the Bus 23 issue – 2 bus runs – causing kids to arrive to early at school and too late at home.

Mrs. Hamrick, (Pleasant Valley): Traci Stunek is in the running for PA Teacher of the Year, only 12 in the state were chosen as finalists. The parking lot is finally complete, parents were inconvenienced for two weeks, but no real complaints. Open house is 10/4. Picture day is 9/27. Teachers at PV and BH did a great job preparing kids for PSSA's last year. Results were 97% and 98% in math. The LA curriculum is being renewed through a 6 step process which was presented by Asst. Superintendent, Nina Zetty. All are excited about Power School and Power Grade.

Lisa Anderson: Strict donation rather than fundraising. It is going well. Market Day number is 9118 for all who want to order. Membership drive is also going well.

Dr. Monsour, (Middle School): Spanish class is being held in the DOA and that is why we are at the library! The school is under construction and going well. In two weeks, teachers should be in the new section and different parts of the school will be worked on. In June, the HVAC will be in balance. Open House is 9/26, no kids allowed. Pictures are done and already delivered. She worked with canine groups in Bethel and it was very positive. On 10/5, the library will be done.

Lori Cuervo: There are 703 students in the school. They have exceeded membership and donations requested. New special “fundraiser” to purchase a poster maker for the school. They are selling “Kidstuff” coupon books for \$25 and the school gets ½ of the money. Asked for other schools to help.

Dr. Hadjus, (High School): Lots of good in a short amount of time. 13 booster groups and PTA. PTA is catalyst for ideas and pushing other groups ahead. Two new Assistant Principals, Mrs. Zimmer and Mr. Galloway. Band festival on 9/22. Jennifer Bird is the new guidance counselor and put on Career Fair at high school. She was awarded for the Career Fair. Focusing on issues with the junior class and on specific kids. Suggestions were made to have pep rallies for more than just football and no Friday tests due to shorter class time as a result of pep rallies.

Sue Yundt: Welcome Back Nigh successful. Teacher photos and biographies were around the school. Academic awards were presented before Open House. Spirit Week will be held prior to homecoming, class with the best decorated hallway wins \$75. Dawn Pustay is running concession at HS football games. Membership is up 33% and activity fund is also up. Power School is up and running.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1ST VP REPORT – Lisa Smith

Cultural Arts, Linda Van NewKirk: Report was given by 1st VP, Lisa Smith. Reflections are due 10/31, theme is “I Can Make A Difference”. Information is on the website. Dance and video are new categories this year and examples of both are on-line.

School Photos, Michele Bittel: Photos were taken at several schools and remainder will be done by end of September. Retakes are being scheduled. Quick turn-around. Questions about the process at MS due to picture quality, conditions less than ideal at MS due to construction.

Character Counts, Sue Ralston: Walk for Awareness 10/14. Form explaining Character Counts and how to get involved – can get on email 1st Tues of every month. October 16 kicks off Red Ribbon Week. Darius Casperitis will speak at the HS along with Mr. Huffman. Nominations for “Recognition awards” will be accepted until 11/1.

2ND VP REPORT – Sue Clark

Directory, Marcia McCracken: Deadline for families has passed. Should be ready in November. All advertising space was sold thanks to Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Bukovich. Teacher and PTA list should be sent by end of September.

Membership, Linda Jewison: Sent email to all membership chairs. Send in by Oct 1, November 15 for early bird. Should be sent by registered mail.

AC Directory, Cathy Luzier: No report given.

Scholarship, Sharon Ward: Sharon was not at meeting. Rachel Paul was last year's recipient.

By-Laws, Dawn Pustay: Hand out was passed around. Renewed every five years. In 2008, BH and McMurray need renewed. Area Council's need renewed and amended.

School Board, Diane Ritter: MRSA brochures are available for kids and information was sent by electronic newsletter. Pool ventilation system is done. A lot of revised policies are due by 2/08. One 10/02 there is a Policy meeting at 7:00 at DOA. A professional weight room trainer was hired. A student council facilitator was hired at McMurray. Cost effectiveness of student swipe cards was reviewed. Growth in school is less than expected. These numbers are as of September and result in an overall increase of 43 students.

Bower Hill up 2 for 783 students
Pleasant Valley down 10 for 483 students
McMurray down 8 for 988 students
Middle School up 69 for 702 students
High School down 10 for 1,410 students

Goals of the board are to continue the 4 D's. Building and grounds discussing turfing the MS filed. Long term view of HS academic and athletic facilities. LGI expansion was considered at the MS, but was too expensive. May make projection room smaller and add seats. On-line learning is being looked at, review guidance audit and the curriculum cycle. Discussion on the floor included: The Strategic Plan should not just be a compliance document, they want a plan also. Class size was questioned.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

In attendance on September 20th were: Sue Smith, Lisa Smith, Sue Clark, Michele Bittel, Mary Sternweis, Marcia McCracken, Kelly Gustafson, Jodi Hannah, Debbie Smith, Lori Cuervo, Sheril Wilson, Linda Jewison, Mary Ellen Bruce, Geeta Welden, Carol Aurin, Bethany Frizzell, Karen Bovalina, Sue Ralston, Lisa Anderson, Mary Matsura, Sue Yundt, Dawn Pustay, Carolyn Bucholich, Julie Ann Sullivan, Connie Kean.

Submitted by: _____
Michele Bittel, Secretary

Date Approved _____

