

PT PTA Area Council

Meeting Minutes November 21, 2013

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance- 9:17 AM by Lisa Briegel, President

- Thank you for Hospitality provided by PTMS

Reading and Approval of Minutes- Jan Trombitas, Secretary

- from October 2013 Area Council Meeting-
- Minutes were approved and will stand as distributed. New sign in sheet was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report, Tracy Melograne, Treasurer

- Dues were received from each school, and deposits were made
- Reminder that the 990 for each school should have been filed before November 15th.
- Discussion of letter received regarding Solicitation Of Funds For Charitable Purposes and copies should be provided to each PTA

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Jeannine French

- Concussion update- this is an evolving topic and policies are updated as needed
- Alcohol during School events is not "against the law" but is against school policy. New signs to remind spectators and also reminders to all booster groups will be going out.
- Financials- reconcile budget by end of year, engage principals to have more site authority
- New Hire for Director of Instructional Technology- Adam Swinshay- getting the data system updated is the number one priority. Mr. Swinshay has been out in all the schools already. He will begin to build a long- range strategy.
- Question regarding 3rd grade field trips- case by case based on curriculum. Teachers may be influenced by parents.

Administrative Reports

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Patricia Kardambikis

- Curriculum writing-
 - Math K- 6, Health and PE K- 12, Marketing and Information Technology, STEM / Engineering , High School Library Media, and AP History
 - Researching World Language k-12, Math 7-12, Lit 8 (increasing emphasis on non-fiction due to common core guidelines, where 75% of all HS Lit needs to be non-fiction)
- Education Committee- data review and school performances evaluated. List of many upcoming meetings regarding Comprehensive plan, 5th grade Health, 6th grade Health, 8th grade Lit, Math research, World Language, Supplemental Protocol Revision.
- PA Core Standards- National standards in English and Math, has been a 3 year process. Utilize consistent, strong, clear benchmarks to get students college- and -career ready. Discern how our kids are REALLY doing overall. In LA there will be an increase in vocabulary and text complexity, emphasis on non-fiction. In Math we will be going back to 2+2- to explain, solve discuss, expand and challenge. Common Core resources will be added to PTA websites.
- Q&A- will teachers have input?- Yes, this will allow teachers greater creativity. How are we going to measure success? – OSSA will be used
- Instructional Practices- get administrators in classrooms with boots on the ground
- Drivers Theory is no longer a requirement- but will still be offered. More requirements equal less flexibility to adapt your schedule.
- School Counselors working on standards and training
- Lice Protocol- MS, no letter. McM- Classroom notified by letter. PV and BH- school-wide letter.
 - Will check with nurses to make sure protocol is being followed.
- New School Doctor- Aaron Orlosky,MD

Assistant Superintendent for Performance- Dr. Jennifer Murphy

- Teacher observations- first pre-conference, then unannounced observation, and finally post conference.

Director of Pupil Services- Mrs. Patricia Kelly

- Concussion Team revisiting protocol for updates
 - Question- How do doctors' orders translate to what is happening in classroom? Teachers and administrators are involved but teachers must individualize assessments. Doctors' orders are not always clearly applied to classroom setting. Child should have input. Dialogue between parents and administrators are crucial.

Communications Coordinator- Mrs. Shelly Belcher

- Communications week- CIA at HS.
- Education Foundation grants given back to teachers.
- New safety procedures throughout schools, most notable the entry procedures.
- PTSD will have a presence in every issue of *Peters Tsp. IN COMMUNITY Magazine* with December issue focusing on PTMS Blue Ribbon School.
- You can Like PTSD on Facebook
- Safety- new Driver's License Scanning, Surprise Drills at PV, Cameras at school entrances

School Board Report, Sue Smith School Board Rep.

Dates were given for upcoming meetings- Sue will check into making PowerPoint available for public review.

School board approved PTSD comprehensive plan. Focus on one area at a time.

System Data Analysis- 1. Train the Trainer, 2. Train the Teacher, 3. Teach
3 teachers were tenured

Approved PJ and book drive- Thank you to Sarah Lindsay

Further discussion and questions-

Regarding Tech support for online text books and supplemental information- Virtual Help Desk suggested which would automatically send questions and problems to tech department.

Math 6th Grade computer access code still not working', SS 6th Grade- only classroom set of books and online components are hit-or-miss

Jodi Hannah inquired of the report required by state on gender participation in sports- do we have this?

Unit Reports

- *Bower Hill- Ria Kartsonas*
Cookie Exchange, Polar Express day, Snack Scene at 3:15 (healthy snack choices), Holiday Parties coming up, Read-a-thon raised 24,000 (\$4000 over projected amount), purchased Just Move t-shirts from Century sports
- *PV -Karen Molk*
Halloween Parade, Spare change raised \$1092.55 for PTFD, 60 pies were donated to Meals on Wheels, Changing Winter Carnival to Family Fun Night and splitting attendance over 2 nights, Are You Smarter than a PV Student
- *McMurray-Lisa Briegel reporting for Melanie Hutnik*
Dr. Kardambikis will speak at next PTA meeting, Directories were distributed
- *PTMS- Rochelle Saxon MS*
Apple Crunch Day was wonderfully delicious, Boxed Lunches from Bartram's Bakery for Teacher Appreciation Day, Online Bullying Data was presented at last PTA meeting, Nov. 14th Student faculty Volley Ball Game- Faculty won!, Dance marathon planned as part of for Blue Ribbon Celebration
- *PTHS – Jodi Hannah reporting for Margaret Rauscher*
Barnes and Noble book fair was November 16th, Sue Smith won a Nook, Directories were distributed, Thank you to Judy Alexander for blood drive, Naviance Parent Training, YES- leadership in sports Forum for good sportsmanship

Committee Reports-

- Character Counts- Jodi Hannah reporting- Troop Appreciation Week, Next meeting is January 7th,
- By Laws- new chair person may be needed for this committee
- Membership-
- Reflections- Jan Trombitas Reporting, - Judging Night was completed on November 13th and winning entries moved on to next round of judging
- School Pictures- Carol Aurin Reporting- Spring Photos will be moved to early April and may coincide with Book Sale. Questions regarding life alert and amber alert photos- this service can be provided by Inter-State
- Ways and Means - Lisa Briegel Reporting-Sign up for bowling. Looking for new blood for the Book Sale, will have information meeting in January to begin planning process.
- Directory- Thank You to Carol Planitzer and Sandy Levin – Directory was distributed at all schools and looks great

Old business-

New business-

Move *New Business* portion of meeting to follow Sue Smith, get a message to AC reps to stay through this portion of monthly meeting.

Lisa Briegel approached topic of possible award or certificate for students volunteering their time to benefit a PTA sponsored event. This would help to give some incentive to students who need awards for various scholarships and Honors Programs. Applications would be submitted to AC president.

Next meeting info- January 23, 2014- Peters Township Library
Adjournment- 12:02 PM

Submitted: _____

Jan Trombitas, Secretary