

**PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, October 18, 2007**

Call to Order: The October 18, 2007 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA, Inc. was called to order at 9:15 AM at the District Administrative Offices. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. President Sue Smith presided and Secretary Michele Bittel recorded the minutes.

President's Report: Sue Smith announced that the candidates forum that was scheduled to take place on 10/24 was cancelled. Sue reminded everyone to vote on 11/6. Sue addressed Lisa Anderson's question regarding PTA dues being paid if you are a PTA member at multiple schools. The Observer Reporter had an article about the school safety audit which will be presented at the Safety Meeting held at the DOA..

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September 2007 meeting were approved as changed due to a spelling error.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Sternweis presented the treasurer's report. Year-to-date expenses were reported. A motion to accept the budget was made and seconded.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dave Stanton was the guest speaker at the Area Council meeting. Dave is a Peter's Township police officer. Dave reported on numerous topics. The police worked from 9:00 pm until 3 am the night of homecoming. No drinking was observed. They observed several parties and no incidents were reported. They found beer on the side of the road and cans of whipped cream along Farmview Drive. There has been no mention of the choking game this year. Prescription drugs are popular this year and kids are mixing it with alcohol. There have been 14 drug overdoses in the past few years that resulted in death. None of these were school-aged children. Underage drinking has increase dramatically in the last few years. Those attending the PTA meeting suggested support groups which are difficult to form. Many kids are afraid to "tattle" on their friends. The parents and the court system don't seem to help the kids as much as needed. Call 911 (emergency) or 724-942-5030 (non-emergency) to report any drinking/drug issues. Popular things among kids include MySpace, Facebook, texting, and cell phones. Harrassing, but non-threatening, things are relayed in these venues. Reports indicate that 5th graders are being approached to smoke. The D.A.R.E. program continues until 6th grade. Drinking and smoking is presented in 8th grade and drinking & driving is presented in 10th grade. There are plans to do more in the high school. Many are receptive, but cost is an issue. D.A.R.E. Is funded through the state. Sue Smith suggested a "grass roots" movement. The state PTA is working with the Attorney General to promote internet safety. Geeta Welden informed the group that funding is available and others will speak at no cost to the school.

UNIT REPORTS

Beth Gamble, (Bower Hill): Read-a-thon had great results and raised \$25,000. For \$200, artifacts from the museum will come to the school. There is a traveling arts/music exhibit which is also coming for \$125. These programs are available to all schools.

Lisa Anderson, (Pleasant Valley): Open House went well. Book fair was the largest ever and the school made \$3,400, well over the budgeted amount. Fire Safety Week is coming up and the kids will be asked to bring spare change for the PTFD. Lisa will follow up on the issues presented by Officer Stanton with her PTA.

Karen Bovalina, (McMurray): MRSA procedures are in place. Dr. Freado hasn't heard from many parents on this issue. The Canine Assembly was well received. "Mr. Abe Lincoln" is coming for an assembly. Honesty work shops will be presented. "Words of Wisdom" are presented on the morning news twice a week by parents, teachers, etc. Fireman Mac came and spoke with the parents at the last PTA meeting. The PTFD will come to your house and inspect it. The school sold over \$30,000 in Sally Foster products.

Jodi Hannah, (Middle School): There are no reports of MRSA at the Middle School. Precautions include the headphones being cleaned on a regular basis. Open House was highly attended. They are over budget with straight donations. Membership is up almost 10%. If two more teachers join, they will be at 100% teacher participation. The apple crunch and Halloween dance will be held this month.

Leslie Huber, (High School): Apples for Students is up and running. Dr. Mackley spoke at the PTA meeting and he offered to speak specifically to the Senior Class. Membership is up. Homecoming will be held for grades 9-12. Spirit week is underway and includes a decoration contest for the hallways. The Senior class won and received \$75. Concession is winding down since football is almost over. The High School booster clubs received notification about MRSA and everyone is cleaning things better.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Cara Zanella spoke at the meeting about MRSA since it has become such a concern in the area. Cara reminded everyone that everyone needs to be mindful of good hygiene. Coaches should remind parents to practice good hygiene and inform them of steps being taken at the school. It was suggested by a parent that the MRSA information be sent to the recreation department and it should also be put on the school website. Cara attended a conference hosted by the FBI on school violence. A group from Harrison County, VA attended and presented their safety program. This initiative started the safety audit. We took a safety audit, modified it, and met with first responders and administration. All groups will report their observations. Anonymous surveys were presented by parents and kids on where the school is lacking. On 11/21, there is a teacher In-Service day and all the staff will be trained in First Response Treatments. Bus drivers will have separate training. The money issue need to be addressed. We have My Space people who look for information on our students and report on activity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1ST VP REPORT – Lisa Smith

Cultural Arts, Linda Van NewKirk: Reflections are due 10/31. Judging is scheduled for 11/15 and Linda could use some help.

School Photos, Michele Bittel: Retakes are scheduled.

Character Counts, Sue Ralston: Walk for Awareness went very well. Nomination forms for people with good character are being taken. Character Counts meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:00 at the Municipal Building. A group of teachers are going to Arlington for the National Forum for Character Education since four of our schools were finalists for National Schools of Character.

2ND VP REPORT – Sue Clark

Directory, Marcia McCracken: The directory is at the printed and should be distributed in mid-November.

Membership, Linda Jewison: The final deadline to submit dues is December 1st, but it is safest to send it by November 15th. All schools have increased membership.

AC Directory, Cathy Luzier: This directory is being worked on.

Scholarship, Sharon Ward: Sharon was not at meeting. No report was given.

By-Laws, Dawn Pustay: By-laws should be done mid-year and posted.

School Board, Diane Ritter: There is a Buildings, Grounds and Transportation meeting on 10/29. PTMS and Bower Hill cam in under budget. We can spend more with the bond issue and there are questions as to where to spend it. Twelve policies were put our for a first reading this month and they will have the 2nd and final reading at the November meeting. Twelve policies are being reviewed this year. There is a policy meeting on 11/5. If a parent has an issue with a policy, they should contact Diane Ritter and Nina Zetty between the 1st and 2nd reading.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

There is some conflicting fundraising. Both PTMS and Bower Hill are selling Kidstuff books.

“Operation Safe-Surf” - Is there a group that would be willing to take this on? Perhaps Character Counts would be interested.

“The Perfect Day” will be discussed at the safety meeting. A parent committee known as “Securing our Schools” is being formed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

In attendance on October 18th were: Sue Smith, Lisa Smith, Sue Clark, Michele Bittel, Mary Sternweis, Marcia McCracken, Jodi Hannah, Debbie Smith, Linda Jewison, Geeta Welden, Suzanne Mackay, Leslie Huber, Karen Bovalina, Sue Ralston, Lisa Anderson, Mary Matsuura, Cara Zanella, Beth Gamble, Linda VanNewkirk.

Submitted by: _____
Michele Bittel, Secretary

Date Approved _____