

## PETERS TOWNSHIP PTA AREA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 29, 2009

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:10 A.M. The meeting was delayed two hours due to the school delay. President Lori Cuervo presided, and Michele Bittel recorded the minutes. Due to the lack of a flag, the Pledge of Allegiance was not said.

### **President's Report**

- \*Thanks to Bower Hill for providing hospitality today
- \*Lori passed out certificates to individual PTA units

### **Secretary's Report**

- \*The minutes of the November 2008 meeting were approved as written.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- \*Linda VanNewkirk made a motion to approve payment of the bills. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

### **Bower Hill - Kelly Gustafson, Principal**

- \*Won Character Education award last year. With money received, they will have a guest speaker talk with preschool administration and employees on March 20<sup>th</sup> about working with parents to encourage "character" with their children. They will reach out to 36 preschools.

### **Bower Hill - Rochelle Saxon, PTA President**

- \*In November, they had MathMania and collected money for Habitat for Humanity
- \*They had a teacher appreciation cookie exchange
- \*They had Polar Express Day and everyone wore pajamas
- \*Family Game Night was well-attended, and they raffled off a Wii game system
- \*Reflections Assembly, holiday party, and Family Fun & Fitness night will be held in February
- \*The newsletter will be on line and on paper in February - then no more paper!

### **Pleasant Valley - Mary Yavelak, Principal**

- \*They have a double-entrance door "man trap" which was done after the safety audit suggested it
- \*Principal's Reading Challenge on 2/23, Winter Carnival with Strive Fitness on 2/27, Donuts for Dad on 1/30 and 2/6, Valentine Party 2/12, and PV Idol on 2/20 at the High School - they will collect money and canned goods

### **Pleasant Valley - Maureen Watson, PTA President**

- \*Had the Reflections Ceremony - thanks to Linda VanNewkirk
- \*100<sup>th</sup> Day of School celebration planned for 2/11, weather depending
- \*Fun and Fitness Fridays are held one Friday/month and parents help during the day
- \*Steeler pep rally on 1/30
- \*Enrichment sign-ups for the Spring
- \*Will gift each class with a game instead of giving treats at Winter Carnival

### **McMurray Elementary - Geeta Welden, PTA President**

- \*1/30 will be 4<sup>th</sup> grade movie night, and 2/20 will be 5<sup>th</sup> grade movie night
- \*Reflections ceremony, teacher appreciation, and Valentine parties planned for February
- \*At the February PTA meeting, they will select the nominating committee
- \*The first on-line newsletter and flyers are on the McMurray webpage - no more paper!

### **Middle School - Dr. Tony Merante, Principal**

- \*At the Math Counts preliminary competition, the Middle School team defeated every school in Allegheny County
- \*We may be receiving a \$10,000 grant from Highmark
- \*The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will do the PSSA Writing test in February

### **Middle School - Carol Aurin, PTA President**

- \*Teacher appreciation luncheon on Monday - soup & salad were much appreciated
- \*Brunch with Principals on 2/17, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited
- \*They are forming a nominating committee
- \*They are planning the student/faculty basketball game

### **High School - Mr. Galloway, Assistant Principal**

- \*Eighteen students qualified for Business Leaders of America
- \*We received \$188,000 + \$40,000 from the district for 8 classrooms to be Classrooms of the Future
- \*Pledge of Allegiance involves all schools, and they participate at each other's schools
- \*They are planning a town hall meeting with KDKA, Wingate Insurance, and Ford Motor Company to discuss parking, driving, etc.
- \*National Honor Society collected 624 coats for the Washington City Mission
- \*Minor fire on stage in auditorium - curtain needs to be replaced

### **High School - Sue Yundt, PTA President**

- \*2/12 - all departments will come in and go over curriculum. 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited. Guidance will also be there.
- \*They are attempting to "go green" and are asking for feedback
- \*They are changing the Grand march to a Red Carpet Event at the prom
- \*They are giving a gift to the school - 2 Document Projectors from money they have left over from last year
- \*They will again sponsor the "Drive to Stay Alive"

### **Guest Speaker - Jerry Grunnagle, Environmental Steward**

- \*Environmental and political advisor for 40 years spoke about electronic recycling efforts.

### **School Board – Diane Ritter**

- \*The new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Dr. Hall, has joined Peters Township
- \*PTA Area Council spoke at the last school board meeting as part of School Board Appreciation Month
- \*2/1 is the meeting for the long range vision committee
- \*Spring SAT prep course will be offered after school at the high school
- \*2/2 school board meeting will be a joint meeting with the town council in the council chambers

### **Committee Reports**

- \*Linda VanNewkirk spoke about Reflections. The 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will go on to regional judging
- \*The Directory Committee has no chairperson for next year
- \*School Pictures: Area Council will be signing the contract for next year's pictures with Spellman. Spellman will be able to handle the point of sale lunch cards if the district decides to move in that direction
- \*Character Counts: Nominations for Persons of Character are being accepted through January 31<sup>st</sup>. The awards ceremony will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>
- \*Membership: All schools have submitted their information. The next installment for newer members is due in March

### **Old Business**

- \* No one volunteered to chair the Founders Day luncheon. There will not be a luncheon this year.

### **New Business**

- \*The nominating committee will be formed at the next meeting. We need one representative from each school.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.