

PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, May 22, 2008

Call to Order: The May 22, 2008 meeting of the Peters Township Area Cuntil PTA was called to order at 9:18 am in the ESF Building. President Sue Smith presided and Michele Bittel recorded the minutes.

President's Report: Sue wanted to thank everyone for helping to make this such a good year. She wanted to thank the Area Council board and all of the different groups for providing food for the meeting. She enjoyed serving as president for the past two years. Sue thanked Shelley Belcher for the email blasts. It is working great. Board positions for Area Council were filled and accepted. We are trying to find a date for officer training.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the April 24, 2008, meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: We are done spending money for the year with the exception of the scholarship we award. Mary mentioned that we will need an audit performed over the summer.

Technology Report: Toni Sulkowski showed some IMAC videos to let us see what was accomplished over the year.

Superintendent's Report: Everyone is working hard to get through the end of the school year. The board is working diligently to get a superintendent. Five candidtes applied. A preliminary budget has been done. There is a mock crash toda at the high school. There is no parking at the high school for the last 10 days of school so that the kids don't come and go and maybe miss testing. Maybe they will be permitted to drive the day of the prom. Kids are now parking in neighborhoods which is a safety issue. Parents should be more aware of changed sin the law and the fines incurred for underage drinking. The police don't have enough time to talk at the assembly after the mock crash.

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Zetty is working on a brochure for the High School guidance and asked everyone at the meeting to review it. The board approved anatomy and physiology II and go to a doctor's office or hospital several days a week to volunteer. On 6/12, there will be a breakfast for medical professionals to come in and learn about the program. Keys to Work is a career development program. All 10th grade students will go to this class. It will follow the 8th grade introduction of "My Career Journey". Robotics at the high school now with a feeder program in the middle school. New textbooks for LA, grades 2-5. Airts of Listening Program at PV and BH teaches kids to listen. World Language will be bringing Spanish to 3rd grade next year. They are looking for committee members for World Language. Art teachers are working to put together a "Virtual Art Show and next year there will be an actual art show. The Strategic Plan will be on the PTSD website for review the first week of June. The science curriculum is coming up for review next year and they need committee members. Graduation requirements will be changed and may include:

1. Senior Project - this will be identified better. 10th grade speech and 11th grade mentoring will be part of this.
2. Change in state assessments including reading, math and

writing.

3. The number of credits will be increased by ½ credit for a total of 26 credits. The students in 7th grade this year will have to take ½ credit on line and it will be done in the classroom.

Assistant Superintendent: Dr. Logelin said everyone is gearing up to fill all of the open positions. She thanked everyone for their expression of sorrow in the death of her mother.

Dr. Summerville: Thanks to the individual schools for inviting her in to speak. New positions were hired to help all kids. Keys to Work for sophomores will help all. The Academic Center at the middle school will help all kids and the McMurray Academic Center has been successful. She wants to work on “mental” health piece and utilize mental health psychologist, bring in another psychologist through IU to benefit kids. The Life Skills Artistic program at BH has been great and they are looking to expand it to McMurray and Middle School. A “Job Coach” is being hired at the high school - it is a paraprofessional position. We have great people to work with the parents on keys to Work, organization skills, etc. If anyone has specific disorders, she can provide some agency information.

Dr. Monsour Middle School: The middle school award ceremony is on 6/4 at 1:00 at the rec center. The 8th grade dance is on 5/30 and the 7th grade picnic is 6/2. “Move up and move over day” is on the last day of school. 6th grade comes to the middle school and 8th grade goes to high school. Final phase of construction is complete and they are thankful to the school board for enlarging the school. Mr. Dailey will do encampment in Venetia at the Wright House. All students dress as Civil War participants. They need a Spanish teacher and a social studies and LA teacher. Thank you to Lori Cuervo for all she and the board did all year. Thanks to Toni Sulkowski. Thanks to Dr. Zetty for moving curriculum forward and making it more hands on.

Lori Cuervo: They had elections. There is a good board for next year. It has been fun being involved at the middle school.

Dr. Freado - McMurray Elementary: Thanks you to Dr. Zetty, Toni Sulkowski and Area Council. Thanks also to Karen Bovalina for a good job as President. The “neighborhoods” worked well this year. There were a lot of assemblies. They had 3rd grade orientation for parents. They are implementing a new master schedule which will help to manage the school day, etc. there will be a “flex” period and kids can use that time for “mini” courses also. They are meeting today about it. He is nostalgic about the 6th grade leaving. Questions arose on how “flex time” will be introduced.

Karen Bovalina: They are so busy at McMurray with Chorus concerts, instruments concerts, teacher appreciation, 6th grade celebration (5/23), McMurray Day “5/30, Relay for Life (5/31), the PA picnic, economics fair, spanning the globe, etc. By-Laws were approved. Try to instruct parents on what “volunteerism” looks like at the intermediate level. McMurray Elementary and Mrs. Zuccarini were in the Almanac. They still do not have a president for next year.

Mary Hamrick - Pleasant Valley: Elated that she can hire a speech therapist. They are also

getting an enrichment facilitator who will also teach 4th grade math. 5/16 PV Idol was held at the high school. There was standing room only and they raised \$4,400 for cancer and a truck full of food & \$480 for the food bank. First grade teachers performed as Supremes, 2nd grade were country dancers. They are working hard to transition 3rd grade to 4th grade. Tons of fun on 5/30 with plenty of volunteers. Sheril Wilson mentioned that parents weren't cautious about the crosswalk at the high school and don't observe it. Thanks to Lisa Anderson - she was outstanding.

Lisa Anderson: Looking forward to volunteering and not being President. So great to work with Mrs. Hamrick. She hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Looking for feedback on how others thank their volunteers. Secretary position is filled now and it is Linda Carpenter.

Kelly Gustafson, Bower Hill: Had kindergarten registration - 186 kindergarten students. There will be 9 kindergarten sessions and they need ½ day extra room and more toilets. They are also adding a second grade. The spanish teacher taught her spanish and technology. He was a keystone Tech Award Winner. They won an anti-bullying grant of \$6,500. A trainer spends a year with all staff (including bus drivers) and does teacher training.

Sue Yundt, High School: The mock crash is today. Thank you to Shelley Belcher for email blasts and the meeting which was great for dealing with concerns at the high school about safety and new underage drinking laws. Teacher appreciation week is going on. The "Drive to Stay Alive" was well received and they may do a "winter" one also. On 5/30 the prom will be at the Hilton Garden Inn with a theme of "One More Night". The grand march will not be well attended. On 8/21, the high school will have Welcome Back Night. There is a senior breakfast on 6/4.

Toni Sulkowski: So much is done behind the scenes and thanks to all who help get it done. Strategic Planning has a component for technology and 30 volunteers stepped forward. PA information management system will upload student data to the state. PA technology inventories are provided to the state from each school. They are looking to staff the technology department more. We will get a hard copy of our children's year-end report card.

Shelley Belcher: The newsletter is out! She is loving her job and loves going to all of the schools. Give her any information for the July newsletter. We have received a lot of national awards. It is noted that Shelley received many compliments from those in attendance.

The Audit Committee will consist of Dawn Pustay, Lori Cuervo, Marcia McCracken and Julie Ann Sullivan.

First Vice President Report

Reflections: The ceremony was held on Saturday. We had four state wide winners; three from the high school and one from McMurray.

School Photos: No report.

Character Counts: Tunch Ilken came to speak in Peters Township as part of the CC program. Awards for people of character were distributed. Rich Relich and Michelle from Parks and Rec are doing a video on sportsmanship and also on criminal mischief. They will have a booth at Community Day. The next meeting is June 3 at 12:00 in the municipal building. 10/26 is the tentative date for Walk for Awareness. Red Ribbon Week was discussed. On 9/2, CC will have their first school meeting at 12:00. They are looking to bring Jay Banks in for an “anti-bullying presentation”. Area Council was asked to contribute to the cost.

Second Vice President Report

Directory: 9/19 is when all data has to be given to Carol Planitzer. They are going with various sizes for advertising.

Membership: No report given.

Area Council Directory: No report given.

Scholarship: There were 29 applicants. The scholarship is chosen based on community service leadership, volunteerism. Sharon Ward thanked Diane Ritter for her help with the process.

By-laws: Dawn Pustay reported that by-laws were approved by the State.

School Board Report - Diane Ritter

Dr. D congratulated Myra Olynek for being chosen as a teacher of excellence and to Kelly Zjicak for her placement in the Hall of Fame. Girl Scouts thanked Dr. Zetty. Changes in Education were covered by Dr. Zetty. We received a sports and fitness grant. We are on a 6 year curriculum cycle now. Next year, LA is due for changes and the following year it will be science. Dan Solomon’s contract was renewed. Some capital improvements will be made. They are considering turfing the middle school field. There is a \$45 million preliminary budget. The final budget will be approved at the June meeting. There was a 2nd reading and adoption of 20 policies, 18 were dealing with employment, 1 with homework, and 1 with student driving (seniors only next year). Morning traffic at all of the schools is high. There were first reading policies dealing with graduation requirements, immunizations, and communicable diseases. Shelly and Rich Relich put together a brochure and guidelines on the website. It will go out to all kids in the Fall. Upcoming meetings include:

6/9-Policy committee

6/16-Finance

6/23-Regular meeting

6/30-Vision committee meeting “Long Range”. Input from employees, the public, businesses, rotary, VFW, PTA presidents, AC president, website, email blasts, rec center, ESF, channel 19, principals, library, etc.

Sue Smith commented that we need a “deeper” math and science curriculum at the high school. Dual enrollment grant with college or on-line.

New Business: We should change teacher appreciation to be staggered at the schools.

Adjourned at 12:00.

