

## PETERS TOWNSHIP PTA AREA COUNCIL MEETING

**Call to Order:** The October 23, 2008 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA was called to order at 9:17 am. President Lori Cuervo presided and Michele Bittel recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

### **President's Report:**

- \* There still is no chairperson for the Founders Day Luncheon
- \* Thank you to PV for the food/hospitality today
- \* On 11/19, there is a meeting at the Center Presbyterian Activity Room at 11:00 for a "Special Needs Network" and Betsy Summerville will speak
- \* Character Counts Walk for Awareness is on 10/26 at 1:00
- \* We helped fund "Stomp Out Bullying" and approximately 100-150 people attended

### **Secretary's Report:**

- \* The minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- \* A motion was to approve payment of the bills was made by Jodi Hannah; seconded by Carol Aurin The motion passed.

### **Unit Reports**

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

- \* She was leaving the meeting to go to the Principal's Academy which is when area principals get together and discuss issues
- \* They had open house and a fabulous meal from the PTA. Trax Farm and Simmons Farm provided apples.
- \* They are holding a mock election next week
- \* They had 36 preschool directors spend one half day at the school
- \* They are having Math Mania in November to raise money for Habitat for Humanity

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

- \* Their second PTA meeting was very well attended.
- \* They finished their "Read-A-Thon", had their book fair, and are having Halloween parties next week.
- \* Kelly Gufstason and Mr. Hennigan came back from the Character Counts ceremony in VA

#### **Pleasant Valley - Mrs. Yavelak, Principal:**

- \* All grades at PV will have on-line report cards
- \* PSSA results for PV and BH are almost identical 95% reading and 97% math
- \* School theme is "PV goes Green" and they are going to eliminate the Thursday folders, no flyers will be sent home, everything will be on line
- \* Giving Day will support the website [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com). You go on site, choose a subject and when you get it right, you gain grains of rice for the hungry.

- \* They want to correspond with soldiers in Iraq and if you know anyone in Iraq, please let them know at PV
- \* Visit [www.elmersgluecrew.com](http://www.elmersgluecrew.com) You can return empty glue bottles and win prizes.
- \* They are getting extra Smart Boards from the PTA
- \* 11/10 is conference day, 11/30 is Haunted Hallways 5:30-7:30

**Pleasant Valley - Kim Morrow & Maureen Watson, PTA Co-Presidents**

- \* Formed a tech committee to help with implementation of no Thursday Folders and the newsletter going on-line. The goal is to be paperless by next year
- \* Halloween parade and parties are next week
- \* Allergy concerns are a big deal with food treats, a small committee was formed to look into this, apples will be the treat for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- \* There is an assembly on 10/24 combining math and tap dancing
- \* The traveling fire house was there and the collected money to donate to the fire house
- \* There are 665 PTA members and they met the budget for donations
- \* They are giving the kids green t-shirts for the Dennis Bowman visit in November to stick with the "PV Goes Green" theme
- \* Giant Eagle donated "recycle" bags for Open House
- \* They made more money at the Book Fair than in previous years

**Middle School - Dr. Monsour, Principal:**

- \* Apple Crunch Day was successful
- \* "Students Who Believe Will Achieve" is the school theme. PSSA science scores were between 84-87% for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the math and reading scores were also high
- \* They are reviewing the LA curriculum and will be re-writing it through the year
- \* 11/10 is conference day
- \* Red Ribbon Week is next week, the kids will dress up, decorate the school, etc
- \* Halloween Dance 10/24 from 8-10:00
- \* Take your parent to school day had a large crowd and was a lot of fun
- \* They have 2 new musical directors and are planning a big musical this year
- \* The school is getting recycling bins for paper
- \* On 10/28 "Obama and McCain" will be visiting the school and giving speeches thanks to Mr. Dailey
- \* Thanks to the PTA for the poster maker

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

- \* A parent advisory meeting was held on Monday
- \* They discussed parking and there will be no parking after 1:30 in front of the school
- \* The Apple Crunch recipes are on line, Simmons Farm donated the apples
- \* There is a coat drive that ends on 10/30 and the bin is full
- \* Bring 30 boxtops and you can get into the Halloween dance free or pay \$3/child
- \* 11/10 - teacher appreciation dinner with a Chinese theme
- \* Shelly Belcher will be speaking about "Global Contact" at the next PTA meeting

**McMurray Elementary - Dr. Freado, Principal**

- \* The No Tune Left Behind band went to Virginia and performed a concert at the Character

- \* Counts conference. "Follow the Queen" and "No Bullying on the Bus" are on YouTube
- \* Thanks to PTA for getting the school year started
- \* They are working to implement a new schedule and a 2-hr delay will now adjust each class instead of missing a class completely
- \* There are concerns that there are not enough cafeteria workers
- \* They are also aware of all the food allergies
- \* Dr. Freado introduced Blair Stroeth, the new assistant principal who considers himself fortunate to be here
- \* They have a school-wide enrichment program with a better student/teacher ratio

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

- \* Andrea Gairheart, the science teacher at the high school, was a guest speaker about drug awareness and character programs
- \* They are implementing a new art program with Mrs. Burke - they are making a mosaic mural in the hallway and all kids will help with it
- \* They made \$19,000 from book fair and 200 new books
- \* Sally Foster sales were down almost one-half, but you can still order on line
- \* They are still trying to go paperless soon
- \* Brunch with the principals for all grades will be held in October
- \* Character Counts Week - they collected coats and food
- \* "Respect" theme also
- \* Next week is "Red Ribbon Week" with a lot of different theme
- \* Halloween parties are on 10/30
- \* They are working with the gym teacher to establish a walking club, they will hand out pedometers - they need parent volunteers

### **High School - Dr. Hazjus, Principal**

- \* He went to a retreat in early August, there was a lot of great team building, it was fun and hard work, the communication between the schools has carried over and Dr. Zetty was instrumental in making this happen
- \* They received a Classrooms for the Future Grant which gives them many technological tools.
- \* The homecoming parade had great attendance and participation, the dance was great with 50-800 students attending
- \* Faculty will dress up for Halloween and the kids will vote on best costume
- \* Girls tennis will go to state championship, boys golf was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state, boys and girls soccer are doing well, cross country are going to WPIAL championships, girls field hockey lost in double overtime in the playoffs
- \* 10/30-11/1 the theater group is performing "The Man Who Came to Dinner"
- \* The PTA is doing fabulous and they provided a nice lunch

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

- \* The HS is very busy, but the PTA has a little downtime right now
- \* Spirit Week - the different grades decorated the hallways and the sophomores won

- \* Permanent directional signage will be put in at the school
- \* There is no book fair, however, on 11/8, Barnes and Noble will have PTA day and we get a portion of the sales

**School Board Director - Diane Ritter:**

- \* Dr. Zetty acknowledged Bower Hill Elementary and the No Tune Left Behind Band who were honored at the “Character Conference” in Virginia
- \* Concerns about classroom space at PV were presented
- \* Building and Grounds meeting will include the softball field and safety audit recommendations (10/27)
- \* Policy meeting on 11/3 will deal with creating open records policy, cyber-bullying policy, alcohol on school grounds
- \* The long range vision committee will report on progress and initial thoughts - meeting 11/10
- \* We hired Dr. Beverly Ann Hall to be Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instructional Technology
- \* We hired a new chemistry/math teacher at the HS, the girl’s lacrosse coach resigned, and we added some coaching staff as needed
- \* In March, the music department will be going to Chicago in lieu of going to Disney World
- \* The PTA’s have been donating a lot to the schools technologically
- \* The approved the purchase of new wrestling mats
- \* The approved global connect calling program

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Sue Clark:**

- \* Reflections: 10/30 is the deadline, judging will by on 11/12, Bower Hill was giving prizes for early entries, tally people are needed
- \* School Wide Directory: Should be distributed the first week of November
- \* Area Council Directory: Data is being collected
- \* Scholarship: No report
- \* By-laws: No report

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Lisa Smith:**

- \* School Photos: Michele Bittel reported that retakes were scheduled
- \* Character Counts: Celebrating 10 years. Walk for awareness is 10/26 with a Steeler Tailgate Theme, SADD, the high school band, sports teams, etc. will be represented. Donations are coming in, the committee has limited funds of approximately \$300 in the bank.
- \* Membership: Jodi Hannah has packets for all schools. Please file by 11/15 if you have a 10% increase
- \* Publicity: No report

**Old Business:**

- \* Classroom size and building space - Calvin Clark from PV is putting together a concerned parents committee from PV
- \* Follow up with Shelly Belcher to put the word out about what the different school board

committees do and what the meetings are about

**New Business:**

- \* Questions arose about how we give and get copies of the school-wide directory. We need to keep the kids and the families safe. This should likely be discussed with the safety audit and safety committee.

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:35**