

PETERS TOWNSHIP PTA AREA COUNCIL MEETING

Call to Order: The September 25, 2008 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA was called to order at 9:16 am. President Lori Cuervo presided and Michele Bittel recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

President's Report:

- * We need committee chairs for Character Counts, Publicity and Founders Day Luncheon
- * Sheila from Parks and Rec needs volunteers for the Haunted Trail
- * There are 2 boxes of school directories from last year available if anyone wants an extra one

Secretary's Report:

- * The minutes of the May 22, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

- * The budget was approved by Carol Aurin and seconded by Jodi Hannah. The motion to approve the budget was passed.
- * Linda VanNewkirk approved the paying of the bills. It was seconded by Sheil Wilson. A motion to pay the bills was passed.
- * Laura Spernick approved the audit and Kathy Luzier seconded the motion. A motion to approve the audit was passed.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nina Zetty:

- * Many improvements in technology
- * A "Wii" theme was presented at a retreat and Dr. Zetty presented how "we" are moving forward and working together not competitively
- * District vision is Learning (from the past), Listening (to the present), and Leading (for the future)
- * Discussed "Focus on Excellence" and the 4 "C's": communication, cooperation, celebration, and continuation
- * McMurray Elementary needs cafeteria workers
- * The district will unveil a new webpage on 10/1
- * We received a \$1,500 grant to teach everyone about hand washing in the elementary buildings
- * As a district, we are working on 21st century skills. "Wii" are working together!

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lyn Logelin:

- * We overhauled personnel policy. We have 32 new policies, employee forms are updated, and a summary employee handbook was given to all employees
- * We hired a new assistant principal for the high school and a new principal at McMurray Elementary. We need a Director of Curriculum and a Director of Transportation.
- * We are working on an anti-bullying policy including cyber-bullying

Director of Special Education - Betsy Summerville:

- * We are piloting K-6 grade response to intervention and providing instructional support
- * There are a lot of changes going on and she would like to come to the individual schools
- * There is an academic center at the Middle School now
- * At the high school, they are working on gifted programs and 2 parent workshops
- * A consultant from the Watson Institute can give some information to parents on study skills and organization skills
- * There are over 550 students who are gifted or who have learning disabilities. WE have approximately 4,500 students
- * She is interested in putting together a parent advisory program for students with disabilities similar to an outreach program

Director of Technology - Toni Sulkowski:

- * Power School is up and running
- * This will be a big year in technology
- * There is a Scope and Sequence program for the 6th grade. Keyboarding is now being taught in 4th and 5th grade.
- * We are joining a regional network which will open up video-conferencing and virtual field trips
- * Pleasant Valley (PV) and Bower Hill (BH) have new labs. They are getting PC's and will no longer use Macs. McMurray is getting a mobile lab. The middle school teachers are getting a mobile lab. The high school is getting a mobile lab for the library. The high school also received a "Classrooms of the Future" grant
- * We are getting rid of "Building Use Forms" and we can now complete them on line
- * We would like to implement a "paperless" lunch ticket
- * She is very thankful for the additional technology staff

Communications Director - Shelly Belcher:

- * We are about to launch a new website. The webpage will be down for a couple days before it can be activated. It will be shut down on Friday
- * We are putting in a phone emergency system that can make 5,000 phone calls per minute
- * We are putting in a Raptor program for visitor's passes. It can scan a driver's license and do a background check
- * Staff ID's are coming soon
- * The middle school will be next for a safety audit
- * The bus lane at the high school has to stay open

School Board Director - Diane Ritter:

- * There were 4 national merit finalists at the high school
- * Diane Ritter was elected as the school board vice president
- * Sue Smith was named to the school board
- * Building, Grounds, and Transportation is making improvement to the girl's softball field at Elm Grove and are working along with the community
- * Long-term substitutes were finalized
- * The high school secretary is retiring
- * Pete Serio was hired as the girl's high school basketball coach
- * We are getting new equipment (camera) to film school board meetings

Pleasant Valley Elementary School - Maureen Watson & Kim Morrow:

- * Theme for the year is "PV Goes Green"
- * Highly recommend having "co-presidents"
- * Activities include book fair and open house (10/9)
- * Major concerns about enrollment and the lack of space at the school. They are one classroom short next year. Questioned if there was a policy on class size (there is not). Looked for advice on what they can do to call attention to their situation.
- * Established a technology committee - there is too much double input!

Bower Hill Elementary School - Rochelle Saxon:

- * Theme for the year is "Here We Grow". They have approximately 800 students
- * Instituted a "bus buddy" program
- * Open house is scheduled for 10/22 and 10/23
- * Kicking off the "Read-a-Thon" which is their fundraiser
- * Held a kindergarten tea to network with pre-school teachers and staff

McMurray Elementary School - Geeta Welden:

- * They used the Ambassador Program to help welcome new families to the school
- * McMurray Kickoff was very well attended
- * They are doing the Sally Foster fundraiser
- * Activities include photo day, open house and bookfair
- * They will have Brunch with the principal" for all grades in October
- * Also in October, Character Counts activities and Red Ribbon Week
- * They are in the process of trying to go paperless
- * They are starting a wellness program for recess with an indoor recess walking club

Middle School - Carol Aurin:

- * New email notification system is in place - called "Constant Contact". The newsletter will also be using this service. You can sign up on line to get on the list. It costs \$252/year for 2500 email entries and it will give a report on usage.
- * Membership drive is going well
- * Theme for the year is "Students Who Believe Will Achieve"
- * The Apple Crunch will be coming up soon and promotes healthy eating
- * The Halloween dance will be held on Friday, October 24

High School - Sue Yundt:

- * They are a PTSA - parent, teacher and student organization
- * They are looking for a student editor for the school newsletter
- * Welcome Back Night was a success
- * They needed a teacher to help with school photos due to student pranks
- * Academic awards were announced at Open House: 500 students were mentioned, only 200 participated
- * Open house went well. There is a teacher appreciation luncheon on Friday
- * There was no "Wall of Fame" for teachers and administration - no volunteers to put it together

- * Homecoming football game 10/10 and homecoming dance 10/11
- * Homecoming parade 10/8 - prizes for the floats will be given

1st Vice President - Sue Clark:

- * Reflections: Linda VanNewkirk reported that the theme was “WOW”. 10/30 is the due date and judging is on 11/12
- * School Wide Directory: Marcia McCracken thanked all for getting information to her so quickly. Almost everything is to the printer and she is hoping to get it distributed in Oct
- * Area Council Directory: Kathy Luzier will try to put it together
- * Scholarship: Sharon Ward will be chairing this again this year
- * By-laws: Dawn Pustay is the chairperson. Nothing needs updated this year

2nd Vice President - Lisa Smith:

- * School Photos: Michele Bittel reported that all seems to be going well and retakes will be scheduled soon
- * Character Counts: We need a chairperson. Geeta Welden gave a report. Character Counts/Red Ribbon Week is in October. 10/6 is a “Stomp Out Bullying” assembly with Jay Banks at McMurray Elementary - “No Tune Left Behind” will perform. 10/26 - Walk for Awareness (drugs, alcohol, etc) with a tailgate theme - parents, students, and administration are encouraged to attend.
- * Membership: Jodi Hannah reported the following dates: 10/1 Due date for early birds; 10/15 for the 10% membership increase; 11/1 everything is due
- * Publicity: No chairperson. Linda VanNewkirk will help with photos when needed

New Business:

- * A suggestion was given to post on the website what the different committees do. This would help new people in the school district.
- * How can changes be made to our menu? What is the wellness committee policy for the food served in the cafeteria?

Meeting Adjourned: 11:44