

PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, March 15, 2007

Call to Order: The March 15, 2007 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA, Inc., was called to order at 9:23 A.M. at the District Administration Office Building. President Sue Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. She presided, and Marcia McCracken recorded the minutes in the absence of the secretary.

President's Report: Sue Smith passed around a scrapbook containing 1969-1970 PTA "Accomplishments." She reported a message from Carrie Weaver expressing concerns that she and Margaret Dietzer have about selling PTA District Directories to anyone who comes into the township library and asks for one. They believe that only school district families should have access to these directories because of the large amount of personal information that they contain. Dr. Mackley's secretary was married recently, and Sue Clark sent a card of congratulations on behalf of Area Council. Kathy Oberschelp just had her baby and is unable to attend for that reason.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February 15-22, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Sternweis could not attend, so Karen Bovalina presented the treasurer's report. Jodi Hannah made a motion to move \$425.00 from the amount budgeted for Founder's Day Lunch to the District Directory line item to cover expenses. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Michele Bittel made a motion to allocate \$1,500.00 from the Balance for Start-up costs for the District Directory for next summer. The motion was seconded, and approved.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lyn Logelin: Reported on her research into the use of Act 33 and 34 clearances for volunteers in the district schools. Based on legal advice from the solicitor, she developed guidelines which are attached. Only volunteers having direct contact with students more than 10 hours a week need to submit copies of their Act 33 and 34 clearances. Volunteers should keep the original. The copies will be shredded at the end of each school year, and personal information such as social security numbers can be blacked out.

Technology, Toni Sulkowski: Channel 7 productions will soon be available on the Internet through the Community Television website. The high school is putting the newspaper on-line, and are investigating further use of technology. Myra Oleynik at the Bower Hill library is making podcasts of children's book reports, which are available on the BH webpage. Ms. Sulkowski would like to raise \$1000 for each school to build pod-casting centers where students and teachers can make podcasts. She expressed interest in having PTA Area Council consider contributing money to help pay for the pod-casting centers.

Communications, Cara Zanella: April 10, 2007 will be the snow makeup day for students. She and the superintendent's office are developing a Question and Answer document to explain how decisions are reached about delays and cancellations. That should be available soon on the website. She distributed copies of the wording for the referendum that will be on the May ballot concerning school district taxation. The district will host the Senior Citizen lunch at the DAO on April 24th. PTSD has 4 finalists for the Teacher Excellence Awards, plus 2 teachers who will be inducted into the Teacher Excellence Hall of Fame.

UNIT REPORTS

Mrs. Hamrick (Pleasant Valley): PTSD will be evaluated for the K-8 school district award by the Character Education Council. PV's Service Learning Project to their adopted New Orleans sister school resulted in many boxes of donated supplies and clothing for the school. PV now is using 4 Smart Boards, 3 of which were purchased by the PTA. Teachers Kelly Zajicek (PV) and Beth Wardzinski (BH) are Keystone Technology Award winners. PV is busy this week with PSSA testing.

Lisa Anderson: Started spring enrichment classes. PV students read over 3,500 books in 2 weeks for the Principal's Reading Challenge. Money for a Smart Board came from boxtop collection. Also, money from the Kiducation donations at the Dentica offices on Morganza Road goes to PV.

Mrs. Gustafson (Bower Hill): Once a month, students "Stop, Drop, and Bee Fit" for 5 minutes. Also can choose to follow videotaped exercises done by Mr. Kerekes and BH students during indoor recess when parent volunteers can be available.

Lisa Smith: Math Mania raised \$4,200 for Habitat for Humanity. Family Fun and Fitness raised \$500 for DARE. The third graders collected 155 pounds of supplies for the school adopted by PV. Paper recycling close to 7 tons in the first 3 months (their goal was 6). Kindergarten registration is coming up. They will host a Kindergarten Tea Party for area preschool staff members to talk about expectations for kindergarten readiness.

Jodi Hannah (McMurray): 5th grade movie night was successful. Ms. Sulkowski did a power point on the history of McMurray for the PTA meeting yesterday. Students raised \$4,000 for the American Heart Association by jumping rope in gym. The chorus will sing at a Pirate game on 4/27. The after-school drama group will perform a musical in May.

Dr. Monsour (PTMS): Social studies classes collected canned goods for the Food Pantry. Also, teachers had a Can Drive requesting donations in a teacher's can to choose the coach for the Student/Faculty Basketball game, which raised enough money to make a child's wish come true through Make-a-Wish. They just finished PSSA testing. Sad to report that Susan Kriznik, guidance counselor, will be moving to Florida.

Carolyn Bukovich: Just had Spring Dance, with a tropical theme. Student/Faculty Basketball game went well. Inviting 6th grade parents to their next PTA meeting followed by a brunch with the principals. They are having an assembly tomorrow and a Teacher Appreciation picnic lunch next month. *Oliver* will be performed next week.

Dawn Pustay (PTHS): Working on end-of-year projects such as Staff Appreciation, Grand March, and Senior Breakfast. Planning Welcome Back Night for August and will adopt the Academic Awards Ceremony to be held next fall. Dr. Mackley spoke at the March PTSA meeting; Dr. Zetty will speak in April.

Dr. Hajzus: The Dodgeball game run by the National Honor Society raised \$6,000 for Habitat for Humanity.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee: Dawn Pustay made a motion that we elect Lisa Anderson (PV), Ellen Garcia (BH), Jodi Hannah (McM), Carol Aurin (MS), and Sheril Wilson (HS) to the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Cathy Lydic made a motion to spend \$375 on PTA awards. The motion was seconded and approved. Area Council Fund Balance: Discussed ways to use surplus money in the AC budget. General consensus was that we use it to fund Podcast technology as requested by Toni Sulkowski, rather than paying each unit's share of the directory cost next year. Perhaps Area Council could pay unit directory costs every other year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

District Directory: Still need volunteers to do next year's directory.

School Photos: Michele Bittel has informed Spellman that the Student Management Program will change the information flow next year; will coordinate with Toni Sulkowski.

Reflections: Linda van Newkirk reported that the District Award Ceremony will be May 19, 2007. Next year's theme is "I Can Make A Difference." She will post a universal deadline for entry submissions on the district website next year. May accept video and choreography entries, depending on requirements and feedback on how they worked this past year.

By-Laws: Dawn Pustay reported that PTMS is updating their by-laws.

Character Counts: Sue Ralston reported that SAD at the HS is working on pre-prom speaker/activity; also on sponsoring a Children's Hospital safe driving program for parents and teens.

School Board Report: Diane Ritter reported on Buildings and Grounds committee meeting, where they received a swimming pool update with recommendations for fixing the remaining air quality problems. This came from the original contractor, so the board is seeking a second opinion. Fixing PV parking lot will be an emergency addition to the budget. May use additional bond money raised for BH and MS projects for other capital improvements such as repaving and scoreboards. HS track will be replaced this summer. The calendar will be voted on at next Monday's school board meeting. Discussed transitional issues in world language program.

Scholarship: Diane Ritter reported that scholarship information is being publicized at the HS. Students applying for the AC scholarship need exceptional community service to qualify.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M.

In attendance on March 15th were: Sue Smith, Debbie Smith, Lisa Smith, Jodi Hannah, Lisa Anderson, Sue Ralston, Lynn Erenberg, Sheril Wilson, Marcia McCracken, Linda vanNewkirk, Diane Ritter, Michele Bittel, Carol Aurin, Carolyn Bukovich, Karen Bovalina, Michele Hvizdos, Cathy Lydic, Sharon Ward, Mary Hamrick, Kelly Gustafson, Tom Hazjus, Mary Monsour, Cara Zanella, Lyn Logelin, and Toni Sulkowski.

Submitted by _____ Date Approved _____
Marcia McCracken, Acting Secretary