

PTMS PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2014

I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

- President Rochelle Saxon called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. There were approximately 13 people in attendance in addition to the PTA Board, High School and Middle School Guidance Counselors and PTMS Principals (see attachment).
- The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

II. President's Remarks

- Rochelle Saxon asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee to get members for next year's PTMS PTA Board. The volunteers are Cindy Chapman, Michele Thomas and Ria Kartsonas.
- There will be an evening McMurray PTA meeting on Tuesday February 11th. The high school leadership team will talk about social media in the LGI.
- Thanks to Cindy Chapman who has been handling hospitality during the chairperson's absence.

III. Principals Remarks – Dr. Freado

- The Blue Ribbon Celebration on January 31st was a great way to celebrate the award with teachers and the community. The students' conduct was outstanding. Funds of \$11,411+ were raised for the Ronald McDonald House. This may become an annual or every other year event. Thanks to all who helped. Dr. Freado passed around the awards received from the Department of Education and politicians—John Maher, PA House; Matt Smith, PA Senator; and Tim Murphy, US House of Representatives.

IV. Guest Speakers

- Middle School Guidance Counselors, Ms. Mary Beth Kenny and Mrs. Bianca Goodwin, spoke about the upcoming scheduling for 7th and 8th graders in March. a) Current 7th graders will be given options (there aren't many) for 8th during homeroom from March 3rd to 5th. b) Current 8th graders will do on-line scheduling during Social Studies, March 10th to 11th. They will be walked through it, but it becomes more independent in high school. Courses are requested and schedules happen later. Signed print-outs will be due on the 14th. c) Current 6th graders will be addressed at McMurray and on-line scheduling will be done with them February 24th and 25th. Math teachers make recommendations. Parents can make changes, such as for orchestra. Orientation is March 6th, schedules will come home the next day, and will be due back by the 12th.
- High School Guidance Counselors, Mrs. Heather Wawrzeniak and Mrs. Vicky Cunningham, spoke about upcoming high school scheduling. They are 2 of 5 high school counselors and case loads are by alphabet. They will present to current 8th graders on February 27th about graduation requirements, activities, and intro to the high school. Information will be available on the website the week of the 18th. There are 79 pages of course descriptions that are student friendly. Shelly Belcher will send an email blast when everything is ready. Classes can be chosen on February 28th. There will be a parent meeting at the high school on March 10th that is geared to 8th graders transitioning into 9th. There is a PTSA HS curriculum meeting on March 13th. The website and monthly newsletter are the best sources of communication.

- V. Secretary's Report – Cathleen Faina
- The minutes from the January 2, 2014 PTMS PTA Meeting were approved as presented.
- VI. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Vargo (see attached budget)
- The budget was presented without question.
- VII. First Vice President's Report – Cindy Chapman
- The variety of the activities at the dance-a-thon made it fun. There were bean bags, beach balls, hula hoops, food vendors, and face painting. It was nice to see spouses and families of the staff. The length of time challenged the dancers and there was a line dance that the dancers performed every hour.
 - There is a box top drawing on Wednesday to win donuts on Friday. This will probably change to Mondays because teachers often buy donuts on Fridays.
 - Area Council update was provided by Lisa Anderson. Changes to graduation requirements were discussed. The graduation project is being replaced by the Keystone exams. Freshmen have to do 4 reflection papers. NHS requirements were discussed.
- VII. Second Vice President's Report – Michele Thomas
- Staff Appreciation is schedule for February 18th during lunch.
- VIII. Old Business – none.
- IX. New Business – none
- X. Adjournment of the meeting was at 10:26 a.m.

These minutes were recorded by Cathleen Faina, Recording Secretary, PTMS PTA

Approved on March 6, 2014, _____
Cathleen Faina, Secretary