

PTMS PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2014

- I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
 - President Michele Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:24 AM. There were approximately 4 people in attendance in addition to the PTA Board and PTMS Principals (see sign-in sheet).
 - The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.
- II. President's Remarks – Michele Thomas
 - Thank you to Carol Planitzer for helping with the newsletter until a chairperson was found, and thank you to Rochelle Saxon for taking over.
 - We currently have 370 PTA members. Everyone's help is needed, so please get involved in the PTA. The next event is the Fall Celebration (re-scheduled Welcome Back Celebration) on Oct. 23rd. Thanks to all involved.
- III. Secretary's Report – Cathleen Faina
 - The minutes from the September 4, 2014 PTMS PTA Meeting were approved as presented.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Vargo
 - The budget was presented without question (see attached).
- V. Guest Speaker – Dr. Murphy, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Murphy discussed the Expanding Excellence Grant that was received by the district. The \$25,000 is contingent upon mentoring a partner district. The selected district is Arsenal Middle School in Pittsburgh. Our testing scores had to be above 90 (we had 98) and the partner had to be below 70. A tool for mentoring will be created and a conference will be held in December. Mr. Henaghan explained that the tool will be to provide support to kids who need help through teachers and study lab. Teachers' schedules need to be rearranged in order to be available during study labs. Mr. Sikorski added that Mr. Henaghan wrote the grant application which was awarded to 27 schools in 16 districts. We can learn from surrounding schools and at the conference in December.
- VI. Principals Remarks – Adam Sikorski
 - There will be two themed weeks in October—Character Counts and Red Ribbon. The Children's Home in Pittsburgh will be the recipient of donations collected during Character Counts Week.
 - A new program, "Cool to be Clean," is being initiated by the police department and local businesses, but will be launched by middle school students. The hope is to expand this to all schools and other districts
 - The dance-a-thon will take place again this year. The benefitting charity will be voted on in homeroom on Friday.
 - There will be a career fair, December 13th. The hope is for students to see what careers exist outside of the well-known. Finch Robots from the PT Library will be utilized in the Middle School, probably during study lab.
 - The Chief of Police talked to students, especially Friday walkers, about the concerns of safety and deterrents for businesses. Citations will be issued.

- There will be a collaboration with McMurray principals to determine how to make the transition to the Middle School easier. A parent committee is needed.

VII. First Vice President's Report – Melanie Hutnik

- The Fall Celebration planning is underway. It is being chaired by Doreen Bartczak and the DJ will be Vanessa.
- Apple Crunch is being chaired by Maureen Watson. The apples will be donated and bakers will be provided with recipes.
- Red Ribbon week will have a door decorating contest and dress-up days.
- We can get easy cash for our school from Labels for Education and Box Tops. Robin Ferrari is looking at prizes for the most box tops.

VIII. Second Vice President's Report – Ria Kartsonas

- The Area Council meeting had a lot of conversation about textbooks
- Fingerprinting for clearances will take place next Wednesday.
- There is a new procedure for library volunteers where sign-up is through Viadale for two-month periods.
- Reflections due date is October 15.
- Picture retakes are October 28.

IX. Old Business

- Still need a Bylaws Chairperson.

X. New Business

- It would be nice if Field Hockey pictures could be included in the yearbook with other club sports.
- Mr. Merrell from the School Board clarified that there will not be \$5 million in renovations to the middle school, but there are heating and air needs. Volunteers and employees must have background checks. A new system, Raptor, will scan licenses to check for any state custody or child abuse issues, etc., and issue badges with pictures. The common core is being revisited and may be removed. Campus-type improvements, such as benches, are being added.

XI. Adjournment of the meeting was at 10:54 AM.

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

Approved on November 7, 2014, _____
Cathleen Faina, Secretary