

PTMS PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2013

- I. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
 - a) President Rochelle Saxon called the meeting to order at 9:17 am. There were approximately 20 people in attendance (see attachment).
 - b) The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

- II. President's Remarks – Rochelle Saxon
 - a) Rochelle thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone that volunteer forms are due September 13th.
 - b) The new PTMS PTA Board was introduced.

- III. Principal's Remarks – Dr. Robert Freado
 - a) Dr. Freado welcomed all first-time middle school parents.
 - b) He explained that the students had an assembly on the first day about Core Values. The Core Value presentation was shared at the meeting. These values are Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Compassion (caring in action) and Integrity.
 - c) There was much discussion about the lack of textbooks and on-line versions not being user-friendly. Algebra I textbooks are on back-order. Social Studies books are available in the classroom with an on-line license. This was necessary to update the text and provide material to the students while balancing the budget. Potential issues discussed were:
 1. Server crashes during homework. The teacher should be aware of this and everyone gets one freebie. This could happen more than once, so the teachers and staff will have to rely on feedback from the parents.
 2. Families cannot be required to or may not have a working computer. Dr. Freado said that no one has said they don't have a computer and studies show that most have computers. If they don't, then students can use library computers or use computers during study-time. Also, copies on the new books will be available at the library any day now. Those in attendance suggested that people may have working computers at home that they would be willing to donate to those in need. Dr. Freado thought this could work, but would need to be done on a person-to-person basis.
 3. It is more difficult to study from an on-line book--will more study guides be provided? 7th grade relies on study guides while 8th grade relies on outlines. Some teachers want hand-written outlines for better learning, but typing provides speed. Also, the way 8th graders outline is not the same as needed for high school AP class. Keyboard time is important.

- IV. Guest Speaker – Shelly Belcher
 - a) New safety procedures were discussed.
 1. The big change is that visitors must press the silver button and talk to a staff member before being admitted. There is a camera so the staff can see to whom they are talking.
 2. Items being dropped off for middle schoolers is now in the vestibule, so parents can come in the first set of doors after being admitted, but do not need to go any farther.
 3. Visitors should allow more time and be patient. The ID policy is still in effect for visitors who need to enter the building for any reason.

4. Police officers will be seen. They will include the schools in their rounds in addition to being stationed at the schools. Officer Stanton is assigned to the Middle School and McMurray, where he will be based. Officer Stevick is at the High School. Students are more likely to engage police officers, particularly when they become familiar with them.

- b) Ways to communicate information were discussed (see attached handouts).
1. District news will be in the In Community magazine.
 2. Phone calls and emails are now through Power School and information can be updated there. Emergency cards will also be used to input this information, but hopefully the cards will not be necessary in the future.
 3. Sign up for both PTA and district emails.
 4. Drop off and pick up is in the circle before 8:00 am and after school. Car-rider notes are not needed, only walker forms.

V. Secretary's Report – Cathleen Faina

The minutes from the May 2, 2013 PTMS PTA Meeting were approved as presented.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Cathy Vargo (see attached documents)

- a) The Audit Report from the 2012-2013 school year was presented and approved by Margaret Rauscher and Lisa Anderson.
- b) The 2013-2014 PTMS Budget was presented. The budget is unbalanced. Gifts to School will now be called Academic Enrichment. A motion to approve was made by Lisa Argent and seconded by Lisa Briegel. All were in favor.

VII. First Vice President's Report – Cindy Chapman

- a) Please fill out membership forms. It is important to be a member in order to volunteer.
- b) The Reflections theme is Believe, Dream, and Inspire. It is a national program that encourages the arts. Forms are on the PTA website and the deadline in October 28th. The program is judged locally and then nationally. Peters Township has had a good showing with 7 going to the state.
- c) Cash back Programs
1. Boxtops are very important as the budget decreases. There are homeroom drawings throughout the year. Boxtops can be taped to a sheet or put in baggies with the count and student's name and homeroom. There is a dropbox in the vestibule or give them to the homeroom teacher. Also sign up on the Giant Eagle website to register your card and school.
 2. Campbell's Soup Labels are also being collected. Just send them in or attach to a form from the Labels for Educations website. The labels should be grouped by the number of points.
- d) The Character Counts 15 year celebration is September 17th. All schools will present and all are welcome. Banners were ordered from Page signs.
- e) Cindy thanked all volunteers and Rochelle thanked Cindy for providing the food the meeting.

VIII. Second Vice President's Report – Michele Thomas

- a) Committee Chair is needed for the Directory and library volunteers are needed. Keep in mind that the Student/Faculty Volleyball Game is in November, although it was not included on the volunteer form. An email blast will go out closer to the date. Lisa Anderson was thanked

for chairing the 8th Grade Awards and Lori Gummersbach for chairing Welcoming.

b) Student Pictures are September 10th

c) Open House is September 12th . This is for parents only. Parents will follow their child's schedule.

d) The Welcome Back Dance is September 27th and is being chaired by Sharon Traummuller who will be contacting volunteers.

IX. There was no old business.

X. New Business

a) New bowlers are welcome for the Area Council Bowling League—contact Lisa Briegel. This is a fundraiser that meets during the day at Mt. Lebanon Lanes.

b) Area Council meets September 19th. This is a great place to present issues and find out what is going on in all the schools.

c) It is not too late for extracurricular activities. The guidance office can provide information. School announcements can be found on Power School.

XI. Adjournment of the meeting was at 10:42 am.

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

Approved on 10/3/2013 , _____
Cathleen Faina, Secretary