

Peters Township Middle School PTA Meeting - Minutes

March 1, 2012

I. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

- a. President Gina Wells called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. There were approximately 26 people in attendance. (see attachment)
- b. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

II. President's Remarks- Gina Wells

- a. PT Police Department Officer Dave Stanton is requesting volunteers to preview a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program *for parents*.
- b. The PTMS received a Pennsylvania state PTA award: the September Award for "Roster" Certification of Participation.
- c. EZChild ID CD's are available for parents to pick up in the MS office.
- d. PTMS Nominating Committee volunteers were selected: Cindy Chapman, Mary Lou Bulseco, and Laura Spernak.
- e. Gina introduced the PTHS guidance counselors, Mrs. Vicky Cunningham and Ms. Heather Wawrzeniak, to address concerns and answer questions from parents of current 8th grade students regarding course selection and scheduling. The counselors recommend using the PTHS web site and navigating through the "Guidance" link to help answer questions concerning course descriptions, course levels (A/P, Honors, Academic), and factors to take into consideration when choosing courses based on individual student needs and interests. The guest speakers announced March 21st as the date that the "Summer Gym" course option becomes available. Also, Geometry will be offered to incoming 9th grade students for the first time in the 2012-2013 school year as a Math course selection.

III. Principal's Report- Dr. Freado

- a. Dr. Freado thanked Mrs. Cunningham and Ms. Wawrzeniak for attending. Dr Freado then introduced the PTMS guidance counselors, Bianca Barnabei (8th grade) and Mary Beth Kenny (7th grade) to address questions and concerns for 6th grade to 7th grade course scheduling. The counselors noted the date of August 15th as the date for orientation for incoming 7th graders. The students will receive their schedules and locker assignments and, after the orientation program, will have time to practice walking their schedules and opening their lockers. It was also announced that the deadline for changes in World Language selection is May 1st.
- b. Dr. Freado updated the assembled parents on the PTMS Community Chat. This program has, in the past, been formatted as a parent advisory meeting. The current format has been changed to include not only parents, but also students, teachers, and administrators. The goal is to have productive input from each contingency on issues, ideas, and topics relevant to the middle school (for example, dress code, leadership, etc). It was suggested by a parent in attendance to have homeroom teachers encourage any student to attend as opposed to appointing the students who will attend.
- c. Dr. Freado discussed possible future options for MS students who attend the PTHS for math and/or science classes. One option is to have these same courses available here in the MS building. The PT School Board is in the process of making the decision to see if this will take place in the upcoming 2012/2013 school year.
- d. Mr. Henaghan, Assistant Principal, updated parents on the progress of proposed changes to the current Math curriculum. The objective is to revise the current math programs in grades 4 through 8 to meet international standards, focusing specifically on what needs to be changed at each grade level to prepare our students for pre-algebra

- readiness. This goal needs to be a collaborative effort to transition students from 4th grade on, so that by 8th grade, each student is prepared for a level of Algebra I.
- e. The March PSSA schedule was announced.

IV. Secretary's Report- Beth Quinn

- a. The minutes from the February 2, 2011 PTA meeting were approved without change.

V. Treasurer's Report- Jodi Hannah

- a. Jodi presented the updated monthly budget.

VI. First Vice President's Report - Barb Calfo

- a. Thank you to Karen Bovalina and the volunteers who provided hospitality for the meeting.
- b. The next Area Council meeting will be held March 22nd at the Administration Building's board room, beginning at 9:15 a.m.
- c. It was requested at the February Area Council meeting for each building in the school district to have volunteers for the Directory Committee. The responsibilities for this committee would include data input and distribution.
- d. Cash Back Programs chair, Deb Smith, made a \$241.30 submission to BoxTops at the end of February. Carol Planitzer submitted 10,990 points for Labels for Education.
- e. The Student/Faculty Basketball Game will be held Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the MS gym. Co-chairs Deb Antonucci and Cindy Chapman are in need of 8 volunteers for this event.
- f. There were 3 PTMS students who will proceed to the national level of the Reflections Contest after making it through the state level: Will Ketyer (8th grade) – 1st Place, Visual Arts; Cindy Hsieh (7th grade) – 1st Place, Music; Hannah Falcione (8th grade) – 3rd Place, Photography.

VII. Second Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer

- a. Thank you to Staff Appreciation co-chairs Maureen Brugger and Jackie Platt for organizing food donations and volunteers for a successful Mardi Gras luncheon.

VIII. Old Business – Gina Wells

No old business to present.

IX. New Business – Gina Wells

- a. Rita Reo announced the program Operation Troop Appreciation, a collection drive for deployed troops. A local Boy Scout troop is proposing a 1-2 week period in May to collect the many needed items and will then deliver the donations to OTA.
- b. Karen Bovalina has tickets available for the MS play "School House Rock".
- c. To commemorate PTSD crossing guard Evelyn Jozefkowicz's upcoming 90th birthday, a free will offering was collected to purchase a book for the PTMS library. The book will have a nameplate in her honor.

X. Adjournment

E.C. Selinsky made a motion for adjournment at 10:49 a.m.

These Minutes were recorded by Beth Quinn, Recording Secretary, PTMS PTA

Approved April 13, 2012

Beth Quinn, Secretary