

PTHS PTSA

MEETING MINUTES –NOVEMBER 9, 2016

12 in attendance

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Mary Pat DeRienzo at 9:16am

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARY PAT DeRIENZO

-Thank you for coming. We need to vote on the Bylaw amendment change. The amendment is for Bylaw Article 12 Section 3 titled Annual Meeting. We need to move our annual meeting from September to May to comply with the state and national PTAs. Our Bylaw amendment will read - The annual meeting shall be held in May which time the budget for the upcoming year shall be presented to the membership for a vote. Motion made by Jody Hannah. Motion seconded by Margaret Rauscher. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

-No December PTSA meeting. Next meeting is in January.

-Thank you to everyone helping with the concession stand. Some rainy weather but still doing well. Have enough for scholarship money. We host a playoff game Friday.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – KATHY LaBELLARTE

-Minutes from the October 13th, 2016 meeting was approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BETH QUINN

-Copies of updated budget are available.

-Concession update. Last game weather was not good. Hopefully we'll make up funds with Friday's playoff game.

-Membership being updated. Mary Ulan will have total update ready in January.

1st VICE PRESIDENT – TINA BEINHAUER (REPORT GIVEN BY MARY PAT DeRIENZO)

-Reflection update. Wednesday evening judging will take place. Local winners will be announced a week or so after.

WRITING LAB PRESENTATION – CARLA GOLDSMITH (11th grade) and DEVON MILLEY (10th grade)

-Gave Writing Lab presentation with Mrs. Groninger. Carla approached Mrs. Groninger to start building a student writing center at PTHS. She tutored her peers at PTMS's Writing Lab with Mrs. Renee Brown. Current seniors are founders of writing center. We have no physical space right now, but we are hoping to have a space in place when projected plans are more solidified. Students come to Writing Lab already having written or come for ideas. Traffic picked up tremendously. Spreading by word of mouth. Mrs. Groninger is the faculty sponsor and advisor. Students can attend the Writing Lab periods 2-9. Periods 2-4, 6, 7, and 9 in library. Periods 5 and 8 in Room 141. Writing Lab going very well. Flyer available. Michael Barry, a senior, presented the Writing Lab presentation at George Mason University School of Law. Carla and Devon will present the Writing Lab presentation at the Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association Conference (CAPTA) on November 11th at Arlington, Virginia to a national audience. The conference topic is Vision And Revision In The Center. News about the Writing Lab spread via morning announcements. Students sit side by side with a tutor. First we give them a compliment. Then we give them something to improve followed by ending with a compliment. We are open for any student needing help with a writing assignment. Client benefits from the Writing Lab are improvements in writing, confidence, open to criticism, and correlation with better grade. We have ten writing tutors. We are trying to promote ourselves more and help as many people as possible. We have monthly meetings to discuss what we can do better, our experiences, etc. Our website is <http://pthswritinglab.wixsite.com/home>. Colleges have many writing centers. The Writing Lab fosters college readiness, improved writing, and builds confidence. Mrs. Groninger said the Writing Lab will become part of PTHS culture going forward.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – LORI PAVLIK

-PTHS won the WPIAL Sportsmanship Award. Athletic Director Brian Geyer is attending the WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit on Thursday to receive the award. PTHS was selected as one of five area schools to receive the 2015-2016 Sportsmanship Award. This is the second consecutive year.

-Annie Michalski, a senior, was recognized in L.A. as Education Foundation Student of the Year, a huge accomplishment. We have ten students total. Candidates to receive special scholarships.

-We wrapped up the Dracula play. Play was phenomenal. It had one of the biggest turnouts.

-Mrs. Pavlik gave a report on an incident from this morning. Report circulating that students were waving confederated flags. Report is not true. A student was wearing a confederated flag scarf and another student was offended. We took care of it. It is not a violation to have it, but it is a violation to use it to intimidate. That was not the case this morning.

-Interesting conversations regarding elections amongst students. We are making sure it stays appropriate and focused. We are modeling that for them.

-Tomorrow is Parent Teacher Conference Day.

-We reminded teachers to sign up for PTSA. Late start of school may have had impact.

-There was a conversation between parents and Mrs. Pavlik about the Chemistry teacher. Teacher on leave. There is a shortage of Science certified teachers to take short-term positions. Current substitute received full-time position elsewhere. Then we found a replacement who left. We had day-to-day subs. We have reached out

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – LORI PAVLIK (continued)

everywhere to find Chemistry sub. November 21st or 22nd, regular teacher will be back. Five PTHS teachers are teaching the classes. Classes only a week to a week and a half behind. They should be able to get classes close to where they need to be prior to teacher coming back. Teachers have stepped up to help. They want to ensure classes all in same place.

GUIDANCE REPORT: HEATHER WAWRZENIAK

-For the FAFSA Completion evening, we had twenty people and three sessions. It was successful. We will do it again next year.

-Thursday, we will have Financial Aid 101 with informational session with Bernadette Collins. Family Connection/ Naviance workshop will be in the library.

-We are updating our website. We will show it at next PTSA meeting.

-SAP (Student Assistance Team) information given by Heather Prinsen and Vicky Cunningham. Talking to faculty and making people aware of it. Increased number of referrals this year. Teachers are making referrals. We want to see more parents and students making referrals. SAP has partnerships with outside agencies (Southwestern PA Human Services, Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, and The Caring Place), as well as, with PTHS faculty, parents, and students. SAP is a systematic process to identify and refer students who are experiencing barriers to learning. A case manager presents data and information collected to SAP team. Quick turnaround time in identifying issues, contacting parents, and meeting with students.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MRS. RAGLAND

-NMSI update. Next study session is November 19th. Near holidays so not as high enrollment. NMSI growing in region so harder to manipulate schedule to benefit our students. If unable to attend, encourage your child to get information to study on their own. Website being updated. Since monetary incentive will end after next year, we will push/stress the educational benefits of college readiness and the value of taking the course by getting college credit. There was a brief discussion on maintaining Saturday study sessions when NMSI contract expires. We will continue to utilize information just may not look the same.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – CINDY CHAPMAN

-Directory distribution will be after the Thanksgiving break.

-Character Counts next meeting is at PTMS. Last meeting there was a discussion on sticking with two awards, open nomination process all year, and reward them at ceremony. Get the word out of what Character Counts does and is about.

3rd VICE PRESIDENT – SERENA KING

-Thursday is Teacher/Staff Appreciation Brunch at 11am-12:30pm. Still have gaps in donation list. Help appreciated. A lot has been donated.

-For library volunteers, Debbie Langley has her list and will contact people.

-Next Area Council Meeting is November 17th with District Administration.

-Mary Pat DeRienzo thanked Serena for doing Staff Appreciation Brunch.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned – 10:37 AM

Minutes Submitted by: Kathy LaBellarte
Kathy LaBellarte, Secretary