

**PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, November 29, 2007**

Call to Order: The November 29, 2007 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA, Inc. was called to order at 9:22 AM at the District Administrative Offices. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. President Sue Smith presided and Secretary Michele Bittel recorded the minutes.

President's Report: Sue Smith thanked Marcia McCracken for producing the District Directory and Linda VanNewkirk for the photography/literary selections for the Directory. The photos and stories were from the Reflections contest last year. Sue and the PTA said goodbye to Cara Zanella who will be leaving Peters Township for a position in the Gateway School District. Sue mentioned a posting on the USC website which told of children being offered candy from a man in a car. This was later reported to not be true.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 18, 2007 meeting were approved after one correction was made.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Sternweis presented the treasurer's report. There were no November expenditures. All District Directory bills have been paid by the PTA's. Bower Hill still owes membership dues. The PA sales tax exemption needs to be renewed within 60 days. Paperwork for the tax exemption was distributed to each PTA President.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Superintendent, Dr. Timm Mackley: Middle School construction is going very well and should be completed as planned. The Safety Audit Team will be starting before Christmas. It is a serious topic and everyone seems encouraged about it. The Boy's High School Soccer Team was crowned state champions. All schools have had visits by the canine dogs and no issues were reported. Dr. Mackley will chair the Safety Committee, for the time being, since Cara Zanella is leaving. The new strategic plan is on the website, however, it is not complete because the plan itself is not complete.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Nina Zetty: All PTA president's received standardized testing information. World language in elementary schools is going well. McMurray Elementary's 4th grade class had 90% proficiency and they are kicking it up a notch. The 5th grade writing ~~scores~~ scores were average and new software should help. Physical education software was purchased to monitor student's activity/fitness level at the lower levels; it is already at the high school. Guidance software is also being looked at. They are looking into on-line classes at the high school and may pilot a course next semester. Mr. Scott at the high school may take a field trip for the US Presidential inauguration in January 2009. High school PE is now a life skills class and they are getting good feedback. Some of the high school students went to the "Body Exhibit" at the Carnegie Science Center and more will be going. A video presentation was presented to Area Council by the students. Chinese may be introduced as a language at the high school next year if there is enough student interest.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lyn Logelin: There are 24 student service policies. Twelve were approved. They are working on replacing staff including Mr. Hartbauer, Mrs. Murdoch and many maternity leaves. Clearances for all staff are good for as long as the person is employed without a "break in service". If someone leaves the district and comes back, that qualifies as a "break in service" and they will need new clearances.

Technology, Toni Sulkowski: Hoping that Channel 19 will look more like Channel 17 which is web-based. This is a “hardware” year rather than a “software” year. Updates are needed and there is a big turnover of hardware at the HS. There is a 3rd lab at the middle school now. Thanks to all at the individual schools who helped with Power School. PA Information Management System (PIMS) is a program in which every school has to upload demographic information to the state. It is required by law. Slight grading glitch on Power School. Schools have Mac's and PC's in the schools.

Communications, Cara Zanella: Cara is leaving and wrapping things up in her department. Everyone is taking on a little bit of her duties. People are being trained to get the Channel 19 messages and constant contact messages out to everyone. The winter newsletter information is compiled and it can go out soon. Dr. Mackely will take over the Safety Audit. Thank you PTA.

UNIT REPORTS

Mrs. Gustafson, (Bower Hill): They are getting a new traveling Smart Board. They are working on indoor recess activities and parents are volunteering to lead exercises. In January, they are having a game night. Parents and kids will come to school and play board games.

Beth Gamble: Mentioned the “Walk to be Fit” campaign and pedometers. Will also participate in the Holiday Mart.

Mrs. Hamrick, (Pleasant Valley): PV received a new laminator; the PTA and the district shared the cost. Thanks to PTA for dinner on conference day. PTA provided 2 programs to students, one on nutrition and one on bullying. Toni Sulkowski brought a DVD to introduce Power School to the parents and parents can watch it in the PTA room. A Language Arts committee initiative changed the time frame from every year to every two years to review/write new curriculum.

Lisa Anderson: A story-teller is coming in to school. The Health & Wellness committee ran a clean hands campaign. They are participating in the Holiday Mart with Bower Hill and McMurray Elementary. They may do an exercise activity with Bower Hill and any other school who may be interested in purchasing pedometers.

Dr. Bob Freado, (McMurray School) – On behalf of the school and Character Counts, thanks to all who participated in the Walk for Awareness (250+ attendees). He went to Arlington, VA for the National Schools of Character Conference. Peters Townships schools were a K-8 finalist. The “No Tune Left Behind” band was invited to perform at the conference next year. An “Abe Lincoln” impersonator came and was very good. A leadership activity was conducted after and students wrote a letter to him.

Dr. Nancy Hobbs, (McMurray School) - A new concept of “neighborhoods” which combines 4th, 5th & 6th grade classes is being piloted this year. The children chose names and character traits for their neighborhood. On 12/13, each neighborhood will do something for a specified group such as the military, meals on wheels, etc.

Karen Bovalina: The PTA had a tailgate party for Teacher Appreciation. Thanks to the high school for donating board games to McMurray Elementary. Chief Freucht is working with the PTA on the CHIP program. Parents will receive a DVD of the child being interviewed along with a DNA kit. Mrs. Chipple is helping with Student Council which was just started. There is one representative for each class. Intramurals are being held after school. Thanks to Toni Sulkowski for all of her help.

Dr. Monsour, (Middle School): Phase 5 of construction will be done 12/21. During Phase 6 a lot of teachers will be moved. The 2nd floor computer lab is up and running thanks to Toni Sulkowski. There

is a wireless lab by the library. The library is open and the volunteers were awesome. A Mexican fiesta was held during parent conferences – thanks to the PTA.

Jodi Hannah: Membership drive achieved a 10% increase. Donations exceeded expectations. There were 300 kids at the Halloween dance where a raffle was held for those students who donated boxtops. A holiday dance, variety show, band concert and chorus concert will be held in December.

Mr. Paul Galloway (High School): Happy holidays to all. The HS is having a blood drive and a shoe drive. HS boy's soccer are state champs and 2 girls received tennis awards. New teachers are fitting right in at the HS. Mrs. Murdoch, Dr. Hajzus' secretary, is retiring. Thanks to PTA for providing snacks to students attending the Body Exhibit. Winter carnival will be held in December and winter sports are beginning.

Sue Yundt: The concession stand is now closed. The PTA helped when over 500 students went to the Body Exhibit. The photography teacher encouraged students to participate in Reflections and 50 did. Toni Sulkowski will talk at the HS on January 10 on how to check the kids websites; ie Myspace, Facebook, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1ST VP REPORT – Lisa Smith

Cultural Arts, Linda Van NewKirk: Judging was conducted in the new Middle School cafeteria. Judging went very well. There were 267 entries. There were 317 last year. The middle school only submitted 12.

School Photos, Michele Bittel: Photo retakes were done. No feedback.

Character Counts, Sue Smith (reporting for Sue Ralston): Discussed Operation Safe Surf which was introduced by the Attorney General. May do a contest on “What internet safety means to me”. They may do this in video format and present it in May which is “Child Predator Awareness Month”.

2ND VP REPORT – Sue Clark

Directory, Marcia McCracken: All directories were delivered.

Membership, Linda Jewison: Four of the five school turned in their list. Currently 3,508 members.

AC Directory, Cathy Luzier: No report given.

Scholarship, Sharon Ward: Sharon was not at meeting. No report was given.

By-Laws, Dawn Pustay: Updating the by-laws will begin in January. There may be a workshop.

School Board, Diane Ritter: Approved an organizational chart. Approved Act 93 which is a 4-yr. employment agreement. Act 93 includes administrators and principals. Building and Grounds has money (\$900,000) remaining on a bond issue. Not yet decided how to spend it. May do an addition to the MS project (LGI room). Discussing if we should add things that were cut from the original project to be cost effective. Part of this can be reimbursed by the state. They refinanced some bond issue money. Twelve policies were adopted. Ten will be presented as a first reading. All policies are on the

website. Mr. Hartbauer is leaving to become Asst. Principal at Thomas Jefferson. Jay Thornton is resigning as the Intervention Specialist at the high school. Boy's lacrosse is now a school team, not a club team. Baseball and girl's lacrosse got an assistant coach.

New Business: No one seems interested in a Founder's Day Luncheon this year. Sally Ride may be a speaker at the schools. Individual school PTAs are encouraged to not overspend their budget for Teacher Appreciation.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:48.

In attendance on November 29th were: Sue Smith, Lisa Smith, Sue Clark, Michele Bittel, Mary Sternweis, Marcia McCracken, Kelly Gustafson, Jodi Hannah, Debbie Smith, Sheril Wilson, Gina Wells, Karen Bovalina, Lisa Anderson, Sue Yundt, Linda VanNewkirk, Diane Ritter, Beth Gamble, Mary Hamrick, Paul Galloway, Dr. Tony Merante, Dr. Mary Monsour, Toni Sulkowski, Cara Zanella, Dr. Lyn Logelin, Dr. Nina Zetty, Dr. Timm Mackely, Dr. Bob Freado, Dr. Nancy Hobbs.

Submitted by: _____
Michele Bittel, Secretary

Date Approved _____