

PETERS TOWNSHIP PTA AREA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 2/21/09

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:13 am. President Lori Cuervo presided and Michele Bittel recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

President's Report

*Thanks to all who provided food/beverages for the meeting.

Secretary's Report

*The minutes of the January 2009 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

*There are no bills this month. The year-to-date income/expense statement was provided.

Bower Hill - Rochelle Saxon, PTA President

*It was a slow February. There were over 100 participants in the Reflections contest. The newsletter next month will be on-line and on paper.

Pleasant Valley – Maureen Watson, PTA President

*The PV Hero program is underway. Students and teachers nominate other students for Acts of Kindness. They celebrated the 100th day of school. Winter Carnival 2/27.

McMurray – Geeta Welden, PTA President

*Reflections program 2/20. They had teacher's appreciation luncheon. They do a weekly bulletin and a monthly newsletter on line. Mrs. Burke presented the children's mosaic. They have their nominating committee.

Middle School – Jodi Hannah, PTA Officer

*They had brunch with the principal. Formed the nominating committee. Spring dance 3/6. Pennies for Patients is a program where they are collecting money for leukemia patients. Spring musical "Fiddler on Roof" is 3/13 and 3/14.

High School – Sue Clark, PTA Officer

*Department heads came to the meeting on 2/20. It was a very long, but informative, meeting. There is a prom fashion show on Saturday. The play, "Little Mary Sunshine", is coming up soon.

Assistant Superintendent, Lyn Logelin

*Boys and girl's basketball quarterfinals are being played at North Allegheny this Saturday at 1:30 and 3:00. The Middle School had a poetry reading at Farmhouse Coffee and 50 students attended. The High School Dance Team finished 3rd at Nationals. They made \$3,700 at the dodgeball tournament. Math Counts took first place in Washington County. Joe Elias from Pleasant Valley retired. People in attendance asked about traffic from PV during dismissal at the high school, had questions about the field trip form, and indicated that some changes needed made to the Building Use Form. Friday was a wellness day for the staff.

Director of Special Education, Betsy Somerville

*Gifted programs are a priority this year. There was a meeting 2 months ago with 100 high school parents. There will be a special education/life skills curriculum at McMurray and a sensory room will be added due to the number of autistic children. Many high school students are volunteering and working throughout the township. Through an OVR Grant, seniors can take a 10-week course in the spring through CCAC and the school district only pays for transportation. They have had four parent network meetings and they will continue to have them every month. A universal screening for reading was put in place this year for K-6 grade. They are working on math and it will be in effect in the fall.

Director of Technology, Toni Sulkowski with a technician, Jason

*We now have a technician in every building. Thanks for the efforts to get POS (Point of Sale) in the cafeteria-a committee has been formed. We have received some federal funding and one teacher per school will be trained for videoconferencing, we received 2 units (\$5,000). Students can take virtual field trips and talk to groups all over the world. It is “interactive and live”. We also have webcams for each school and a document projection camera (demonstration provided). We have “Study Island” software, Earobics software for the elementary schools, and “Write to Learn” software for McMurray. There have been a lot of infrastructure changes.

Communications Director, Shelly Belcher

*Working on “State of the District” which is a publication which will cover the whole district in one document. It will be on the website and they would like it to replace a “Perspectives” paper once/year. They used Global Connect to inform parents of the delay. Calls for this will generally go out around 5:30-5:45. Pleasant Valley has a new entry which aids in safety. Safety flip-charts were updated and at the printer. The entry at the Middle School is being analyzed.

Director of Curriculum, Bev Hall

*Bev is new to this position and has been here for one month. She is working on LA/English and Family Consumer Science curriculum. There have been 2 training sessions for staff about “21st Century Learning” and many in-house meetings. She wants to focus on STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and wants us to be leaders in this initiative. They are trying to articulate the writing of curriculum so that all can understand it.

School Board Director, Diane Ritter

*Report from “Long Range Vision Committee” was received and will be incorporated in the District’s plan and goals. From March – June they will work on the budget which will be adopted in June. We are currently running a deficit budget. Meeting in March include 3/9-Goal Setting, 3/12-Finance, 3/16-Monthly school board meeting and 3/19-Personnel (closed session).

Committee Reports:

Reflections- Linda Van NewKirk – We received 13 f 69 places (1st-3rd) at Regional Finals

Directory – No report given

School Photos – Michele Bittel - dates will be set for the next meeting

Character Counts – Lori Cuervo – Six people or groups were recognized at Character Counts Award Ceremony including the Lindsay Family (pajama/book drive), Jessie Parham (collected \$ for Washington County foster kids for Christmas gifts), Katie Schultz (children’s programs), Mr. Davies (service at the Middle School), Roberta Samson (Food Bank), and Sarah Kohl (community support).

Membership – If you are not using your membership cards, return them or you will be charged for them.

New Business:

*A nominating committee was formed: Pleasant Valley – Maureen Watson, McMurray – Suzanne Mackay, Bower Hill – Rochelle Saxon, Middle School – Bethany Frizzell, and High School – Michele Bittel. The committee was approved by Karen Bovalina and seconded by Linda Van NewKirk.

*Directory Committee: We need one member from each school. Try to have a representative by March meeting. Good time to contact advertisers and printers. Much discussion on this issue.

*The individual PTA’s will not be participating in the Canonsburg Hospital Read-a-Thon

Meeting Adjourned: 11:22