

Peters Township Middle School PTA Meeting - Minutes

February 2, 2012

- I. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. President Gina Wells called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. There were approximately 22 people in attendance. (see attachment)
 - b. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

- II. President's Remarks- Gina Wells
 - a. Gina welcomed the assembled parents and administrators and thanked the parents who have volunteered during the first half of the school year.
 - b. Area Council is in need of volunteers from each school to help with the School District Directory Committee.
 - c. The PTMS Community Chat will be held on February 23rd from 6:30 to 8:00 in the PTMS library.
 - d. If your child participated in the EZChild ID program, CD's are available in the office for pick-up.
 - e. Gina introduced Dr. Nina Zetty, PTSD Superintendent to discuss the PTSD budget.
 - f. Dr. Zetty has been attending the PTA meetings at each school in the district to discuss the current PTSD budget situation. **hand-outs and graphics on file**
 - Topics discussed relating to the PTSD budget included: staff being our district's most valuable resource; new budget challenges; generating additional income; other options for paying bills; ways to cut expenses; and outcomes due to the budget crisis.
 - Dr. Zetty then answered questions and listened to suggestions from the assembled parents.

- III. Principal's Report- Dr. Freado
 - a. Dr. Freado also mentioned the upcoming Community Chat and encouraged attendance.
 - b. The PTMS Kindness Challenge is a school-wide initiative to inspire students to make a difference in the lives of others. The belief is that in doing something kind for someone else, a "chain reaction" of more intentional acts of kindness will occur.
 - c. Dr. Freado introduced the PTMS guidance counselors, Bianca Barnabei (8th grade) and Mary Beth Kenny (7th grade). The counselors also talked about the Kindness Challenge and the t-shirt sale to promote it. Next, the guidance staff explained the 7th to 8th grade transition and scheduling. Scheduling will take place on March 26th and class choices include chorus, band, orchestra, art, and world language. Academic choices are based on teacher recommendations. Finally, they announced that the date for the PTHS counselors to talk with 8th grade students about high school course selection and scheduling will be February 21st.
 - d. Mr. Henaghan, Assistant Principal, addressed forthcoming changes in the Math curriculum, targeted to begin in the 2013-2014 school year. He explained that a strong math-based foundation requires Algebra I at the 8th

grade level for success in state-level assessments as well as the SAT. The future changes will affect grades 4 through 8 so that the logical sequence of the math curriculum will then follow through to the high school level.

IV. Secretary's Report- Beth Quinn

- a. The minutes from the January 5, 2011 PTA meeting were approved without change.

V. Treasurer's Report- Jodi Hannah

- a. Jodi presented the updated monthly budget and requested a motion to make an adjustment. A motion was made by Laura Spernak; Karen Bovalina seconds the motion and the voice vote carried. The motion was made to move \$60.00 from the September Dance budget to the Reflections 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 February 23rd at the Administration Building's board room, beginning at 9:15 a.m.
- c. Cash Back Programs chair, Deb Smith, will be making a Box Tops for Education submission at the end of February.
- d. Please continue to submit the Labels for Education which can be sent in loose or attached to forms. You can also follow Labels for Education on Facebook.
- e. Our first ever Hot Chocolate Café was attended by more than 70 students. Many thanks to Lisa DiCello and Lora Reardon for their efforts to make this event a success. Twenty-one acts were performed by PTHS students who shared their talents with our students. There was a variety of refreshments served throughout the event as well.
- f. Artwork submitted for the Reflections program will be returned to students. The 7th grade students will receive their artwork and their ribbons; however, the 8th grade students will receive only their artwork because ribbons will be awarded during the year-end 8th grade ceremony.
- g. The Student/Faculty Basketball Game will be held Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the MS gym. Volunteers interested in helping can contact Deb Antonucci or Cindy Chapman who are co-chairing this event.
- h. The date for the 8th Grade Dance will remain as the originally scheduled day of June 2nd.

VII. Second Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer

- a. Co-chairs Maureen Brugger and Jackie Platt have planned a Mardi Gras themed Staff Appreciation luncheon for Tuesday, February 21st.

VIII. Old Business – Gina Wells

No old business to present.

IX. New Business – Gina Wells

- a. Parents of current 6th graders will be invited to attend our April PTMS PTA meeting. The date of the meeting has been changed from Thursday, April 12th to Friday, April 13th due to a conflict with the PTHS PTSA meeting.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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

Approved March 1, 2012 _____
Beth Quinn, Secretary