

Peters Township Middle School PTA Meeting- Minutes

October 6, 2011

- I. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. President Gina Wells called the meeting to order at 9:16 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 members. Gina introduced the proposed use of a child identification software program called EZChildID.com with the targeted population as middle school students.
 - b. Parents must sign a permission slip and the student will be briefly pulled from class in order to participate. The permission slip will include the exact 5 questions that the student will be asked.
 - c. The program includes the student's fingerprints as well as photos of the child's face, profiles, and back of the head. All information will be recorded onto a CD which then becomes the property of the student's family and the information is then immediately removed from the database.
 - d. The week of November 7th is the proposed week to begin the program and it will require a volunteer staff to facilitate the turn-around of students.
 - e. The population is Middle School aged students as this is most commonly targeted age for child abductions.

- III. Principal's Report- Dr. Freado
 - a. Dr. Freado also welcomed parents in attendance. Dr. Freado discussed this year's theme of "Building Achievement, Character, and Community, one brick at a time" as a current focus for the newly allotted Homeroom period. During this class time, the students will commit to an act of character and write their personal pledge on a "brick" that will then be used to build a "brick wall" in the cafeteria. Dr. Freado explained that the staff was excited to use this theme of "building" to produce a video called "Extreme School Makeover". The video was shared with the students and showed the teachers and staff tearing down an old wall and building up a new wall of character.
 - b. Dr. Freado then shared with the assembly that the Welcome Back Dance was well-attended and the students were very well behaved - a success!
 - c. The month of October is busy with school events: Character Education Week will include dress-up themed days from Monday to Thursday; Red Ribbon Week will include a door decorating contest, dress-up themed days all week, a presentation from the Peters Township High School SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) group during homeroom; and Community Chat, a new event with the goal of facilitating a discussion among staff, parents, students and student representatives from each team to promote our school as a community.
 - d. Mr. Henaghan, Assistant Principal, discussed the topic and format of the new Homeroom class period. He explained that Homeroom is a seventeen minute period that was designed to be a blend of academic focus and character building elements. It includes Project Wisdom, for example, a character education initiative that sends "common sense" messages to our students, as well as "Make a Difference Monday" that may include an inspirational video clip. Homeroom

can also have an academic perspective. For instance, RTII (Response to Instruction and Intervention) can focus on students who may benefit from extra academic help. In addition, on Wednesdays, all students receive a writing prompt that addresses a particular skill important to one of the different academic disciplines.

IV. Secretary's Report- Beth Quinn

- a. The minutes from the September PTA meeting were approved without change.

V. Treasurer's Report- Jodi Hannah

- a. Jodi presented the updated monthly budget.
- b. Jodi reminded us that the PTMS PTA is still welcoming membership.
- c. Due to the higher attendance than in previous years at the Welcome Back Dance, an unexpected profit was reported.

VI. First Vice President's Report - Barb Calfo

- a. The next Area Council meeting will be Thursday, October 20th. Principals from each school within the district will be in attendance to report updates from the individual school.
- b. Thank you to Karen Bovalina who has volunteered to be our PTMS Hospitality chairperson.
- c. Current membership for the PTMS PTA is 313 members.
- d. The Reflections contest has a deadline for entries on October 31st. This year's theme is "Diversity Means" and entries may be dropped off in the school office where Brenda Falcione will collect them.
- e. Kim Morrow has volunteered to be our Eighth Grade Dance chairperson.

VII. Second Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer

- a. Thank you to Rita Reo for chairing this event. There were 149 students, mostly seventh graders, in attendance. Rita reported that the students were very well-behaved and fun was had by all. Thanks to Cindy Chapman for decorating the entryway.
- b. Any information to be included in the upcoming Newsletter needs to be submitted to Carol Aurin by today, October 6th.
- c. Picture re-take day is scheduled for October 13th.
- d. Apple Crunch Day will be on October 26th and Greta Pardini or Cindy Chapman will contact you if you have signed up to help on that day with serving or baking. A sign-up sheet was passed out.
- e. The Library is still in need of volunteers for an early morning shift of 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Monday through Friday.

VIII. Old Business – Gina Wells

- a. A revision of the PTMS Standing Rules was presented for approval (copy included in file). A motion to approve the revisions was made by Lori Cuervo. Karen Bovalina seconded the motion. A voice vote carried and the revisions stand as approved.

IX. New Business – Gina Wells

- a. Mary Pat DeRienzo, Character Counts Committee chairperson, announced the "Buy a Pie" initiative sponsored by Pleasant Valley Elementary

School. The Market Day program will provide the pies for sale and each pie purchased will be donated to the Peters Township Meals on Wheels organization.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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

Approved November __, 2011 _____
Beth Quinn, Secretary