

PETERS TOWNSHIP AREA COUNCIL PTA MINUTES REGULAR MEETING, April 19, 2007

Call to Order: The April 19, 2007 meeting of the Peters Township Area Council PTA, Inc. was called to order at 9:20AM at the ESF building. President Sue Smith led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Sue Smith presided and Secretary Sue Clark recorded the minutes.

President's Report: Sue Smith asked that everyone take a minute to reflect on the Virginia Tech tragedy. The PTHS students who had planned to participate in the unofficial "assassin game" canceled it due to the tragedy. She urged anyone who suspects that they have received solicitations by virtue of being in the School Directory to let her know. Sue reminded everyone that the PTA is a non-partisan group. Anything done as officials of the PTA must be impartial. When expressing personal opinions, we should make it clear that these opinions are personal and we are not speaking on behalf of the PTA. Sue passed around a packet with information for people to review.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the March 15, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Sternweis presented the treasurer's report. The current cash balance is \$12,392.

Unit Reports:

Lisa Anderson (Pleasant Valley): The teachers are forming a team for Relay for Life. They held a PV Idol contest and raised \$3,000 for the team. The spring "buy one get one" bookfair is going on. The PTA is encouraging turn off TV week. They are having the children be environmental detectives at home.

Ellen Garcia (Bower Hill): Lunches with the principal were much better attended this year than in past years. They sponsored a kindergarten tea; preschool parents and teachers came to bridge the gap to kindergarten. 151 kindergarten students are signed up so far for the fall. Family Dinner night ("Bee"stro) will be held on Friday, the theme is a Hawaiian Luau.

Jodi Hannah (McMurray): The talent show went very well. Today is the last day for the bookfair. The McMurray Chorus will be singing the national anthem at the Pirate game on April 27. Boxtops for Education earned \$2,000 for the school.

Lori Cuervo (Middle School): Nominations for next year's officers were made at the last meeting, as follows: President – Lori Cuervo; 1st VP – Carol Aurin; 2nd VP – Bethany Frizzell; Treasurer – Jodi Hannah; Secretary – Kathy Zrowka. The PTA donated a set of "Clickers" and a wireless chalkboard to the school. For teacher appreciation week in May, they will hold a teacher tailgate party.

Patty Hartenbach (High School): SADD is sponsoring looking out week; encouraging kids to do something other than drink. The prom's grand march will start at 5:00 and is open to the public for a small fee. The PTA will sponsor a staff appreciation luncheon in May. "Drive to Stay Alive", a safe driving program, will be May 12th and is geared toward young drivers. Nominations for next year's officers were made at the last meeting, as follows: President – Sue Yundt; 1st VP – Leslie Huber; 2nd VP – Sharon Ward; Treasurer – Dawn Pustay; Secretary – Debbie Meadows.

Committee Reports:

School Pictures: The schedule for next year's pictures is as follows: High School – September 4; Middle School – September 6; McMurray – September 18; Bower Hill – September 25; Pleasant Valley – September 27.

Membership – Linda Jewison: All dues should be submitted to state and national PTAs.

By-Laws: The revised Middle School bylaws have been approved.

School Board – Diane Ritter: At the building, grounds and transportation meeting on Monday, engineers were interviewed to give a report on the pool. The results of the education committee meeting will be discussed by Dr. Zetty at next month's area council meeting. The board is accepting bids for paving the parking lot at Pleasant Valley and the high school track. Diane explained the process of a first reading and a second reading for policies.

Reflections – Linda VanNewkirk Several Peters Township students either won or placed at the state level. Two students will be going on to the national competition.

Directory – Marcia McCracken: We have three people who have volunteered to take over the directory next year.

Character Counts – Sue Ralston: Site visits are currently going on at Pleasant Valley, Bower Hill, McMurray and the Middle School for the National Schools of Character.

Unfinished Business: Toni Sulkowski had requested money for podcast stations at the schools. Jodi Hannah made a motion to provide \$11,175 for podcast stations. Karen Bovalina seconded the motion. During the discussion, Mary Sternweis suggested that we spend only \$4,000 toward the podcast stations. Toni Sulkowski joined in to answer questions. The motion was amended by Mary Sternweis to provide \$5,500 for podcast stations (\$1,100 per school to purchase the computer for the station) and not pay the \$1 per student cost for directories next year. Karen Bovalina seconded the motion. The amended motion was passed unanimously. This will mean that each school's PTA will need to include \$1 per student in their 2007-08 budget to help pay for the district wide directory.

The Nominating Committee (Lisa Anderson, PV; Ellen Garcia, BH; Jodi Hannah, McM; Carol Aurin, PTMS and Sheril Wilson, PTHS) presented their slate of officers for PTA Area Council, 2007-2008, as follows: President- Sue Smith, First VP – Lisa Smith, Second VP – Sue Clark, Treasurer – Mary Sternweis, Secretary – Michele Bittel.

New Business: . The School Board Candidates' Forum, which is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, The Peters Township Chamber of Commerce and the PTA Area Council will be held on April 26, 2007 at 7:00pm. Volunteers should be at the middle school auditorium by 6:15. Sue Ralston made a motion to transfer \$50 from hospitality to be used for refreshments at the forum. The motion was seconded by Patty Hartenbach and passed unanimously.

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh was formed to promote the understanding of community issues. They sponsor programs at local schools and libraries. Some of these programs are free and may be something we are interested in.

PTA Leadership training is being planned for this year. Training is especially important for all new officers and the membership chairperson.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

In attendance on April 19 were: Sue Clark, Linda VanNewkirk, Jodi Hannah, Debbie Smith, Sue Ralston, Sheril Wilson, Linda Jewison, Sue Smith, Karen Bovalina, Patty Hartenbach, Marcia McCracken, Diane Ritter, Carol Aurin, Lisa Anderson, Cathy Luzier, Lori Cuervo, Barbara Murphy, and Ellen Garcia

Submitted by _____ Date Approved: _____
Sue Clark, Secretary