

HHS PTSA MEETING MINUTES –
November 9, 2011

Call to Order: 7:09 p.m.

Handouts: Meeting agenda; October 12, 2011 minutes; 2011-12 Budget; Calendar

Attendees: Lee Fortna, Stephanie McClellan, Kerri Gilmore Mesiah, Diana Fields, Carol Sinclair, Robin Falci, Cindy Wei, Jennifer James-Samuel, Indira Sidhu, Sue Altschuler, Alan Altschuler, Kevin Wallace, Tammy Lemmons, Jerri Ricks, Gabriele O'Bryan, Beth Krauser, Marcia Stewart, Laurie Dodd, Prosperanta Calhoun, and Krisna Taylor

Call to Order (Lee Fortna):

- Recognized special guests: Prosperanta Calhoun, Kay Rice, Mary Wolfe, Stephanie McClellan.
- Special Election was called to vote on new PTSA President. Beth Krauser nominated Stephanie McClellan and the motion was seconded by Karen McDonald. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of 10/12/2011 meeting (Carol Sinclair):
Correction was made to spelling of Jennifer James-Samuel's name. Motion to approve minutes (M: Sue Altschuler S: Jennifer James-Samuel); passed unanimously.

SGA/Student Government: Thanked the homecoming volunteers. They are working on Movie Night during basketball season. They are conducting a charity drive during Christmas by adopting a family (Salvation Army) and participating in an Angel Tree (HUMC).

Special Presentation (Library): Ms. Kay Rice and Ms. Mary Wolfe gave a presentation on the online resources available to students in the library. They are having a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble from November 18-25 with voucher; online orders also qualify with HHS code during this time.

President's Report (Lee Fortna):

- Touching Bases this Friday – 3 hour delayed opening. Please get here early and keep your mini conferences to 3 minutes so everyone can meet the teachers. Report Cards will be given out in the gym at 7am. Hospitality is doing brown bag breakfast for all staff before Touching Bases.
- Thank You's: Vision/Hearing Screening Volunteers, Homecoming events: Powder Puff Game Volunteers, Floats for the parade, parade volunteers, game volunteers, dance volunteers, Jeannie Johns (Newsletter), Jeanne Talbot (Reflections), Jennifer Boysko and Freddi Donner (Non-Partisan Candidates Forum for School Board Candidates) – Herndon Community Television taped the event and will provide it "On Demand" on their website soon at www.hctv.org.

Principal's Report (Prosperanta Calhoun):

- New to Herndon:
Krishna Taylor (DSS)
Alison Mackey (WAT teacher)
- Linda Irons will be retiring.
- Homecoming was a major success
- Senior parents, guidance counselors expect the counselor recommendation packets by December 2.
- Financial Aid Night for parents and students will be held on December 12 in lecture hall at 7:00 pm. The program is focused for seniors and their parents but all grade levels may attend.
- Check Career Center link on website for visiting colleges
- 23 National Merit Semi Finalists and Commended Scholars
- Cheer – Concord district champions. Headed to States this Saturday
- Herndon High School was awarded the **2011-2012 Wellness Award** for their dedication to health, wellness and nutrition

- 35 top students from the theatre arts program at Herndon High School were inducted into the International Thespian Society for the 2010-2011 school year
- English Honor Society inducted more than 20 new members on 10/31/11
- Touching Bases on Friday, November, 11th
- National Honor Society induction ceremony 11/17/2011 at 7pm
- This last Saturday, the HHS Robotics Team competed in **and won** the inaugural [IROC Offseason Competition](#)
- Fine and Performing Arts had a number of students selected to perform at the district, region and state competitions for band, chorus, and orchestra
- Writing center is operating (providing tutoring and assistance to those who are struggling with writing)
- Winter sports tryouts are underway
- Federal Impact Aid forms have been distributed and are due now.
- Traffic is better but we still have students crossing Bennett not using the crosswalks and not paying attention!
- Discipline – 6 expulsions in past month (various reasons) including 5 possessions and 1 for a fight
- Overall students have still been pretty well behaved
- Remind students to be mindful of surroundings and encourage them to walk in groups when walking to and from school. Rash of incidents including assaults and attempted abduction in Fairfax County
- In the next few weeks principal will be sending a message to students and parents allowing students to bring Personal Devices, PD's (laptops and I Pads) to school to use in the classroom for instructional purposes Teachers will have final say and all students must have their computer checked and imaged by HHS TSPEC, Mr. Everett. More information to come
- Prox card system will be put into use within the next 10 days. All exterior doors will be locked between 7:30 am – 3:00 pm

and outsiders will be buzzed in by the front office secretaries. Cameras are placed at door's 1 and 6.

- A parent suggested leaving the outdoor lighting on after events especially near the concession stand and parking area.

Faculty Report:

- A discussion was held concerning communications between school and parents. Parents have 3 sources for information (KIT, website, and email) which have been in conflict or contain incorrect information. School should provide plan to insure that information is consistent and accurate in all sources. Website should be updated in a timely fashion.

Treasurer's Report (Diana Fields):

An audit was conducted and Jennifer James-Samuel offered the following recommendations:

1. Bank reconciliations should be reviewed by someone other than the persons signing the checks.
 2. Directors and Officers insurance should be renewed (expired in June 2011).
 3. Attempts/inquiries into the possibility of obtaining/viewing cancelled checks should be explored. This would assist with reviews/audits.
 4. The general ledger and other relevant accounting records should be printed or saved electronically at the close of the financial year (prior to any transactions for the new financial year being posted).
- Sue Altschuler motioned to accept the audit, seconded by Kevin Wallace, passed unanimously.
 - Alan Altschuler motioned to accept the DAFA budget, seconded by Sue Altschuler, passed unanimously.

DAFA (Leslie Petty):

- Gift cards are being sold as a fundraiser – order forms on ANG website (www.herndonang.org)

- Parent Casino Night January 21st at The Breeze. Tickets (\$35) are on sale now.
- Donations are being accepted for auction items. Contact Gail Russell at gailrus@aol.com or Jennifer Wilson at jn.wilson06@gmail.com.
- Personalized graduation yard signs will be sold after the new year.
- Early purchase incentives continue through December, which include gift cards and extra casino cash.

After Prom: Stephanie McClellan asked for a volunteer to chair event.

Band Liaison (Tammy Lemmons):

- Herndon earned a superior rating at the VA Assessment of Bands at West Springfield.
- The 100th Anniversary concert was a success – video clips can be seen on the Herndon Patch.
- Vendor Night will be November 30.
- Band BINGO will be held in January. They are asking for prizes and baskets.

Senior Class Liaison (Anne Marie Ruskin):

- Senior's won Class Float competition in Homecoming Parade. Thank you's to the Hills, Ms. Eckert, Mr. Hannon, Mrs. Barlow & Mrs. Crawford.
- Senior baby ads due Friday.
- Senior dues should be paid ASAP.
- Another Herff Jones night is planned for January.
- First wave of college applications are in and processed by Guidance for early action and early decision and seniors will be attending the Returning Grad Panel program on December 21, featuring members of the class of 2011 who will talk about college transition.

Junior Class Liaison (Kathy Blystone):

- They sold water and checked coats at Homecoming

- Ms. Calhoun will meet with the class president to make initial prom plans. Prom will be held on April 28 at Dulles Hilton

Sophomore Class Liaison (Courtney Nyren):

- No report

Freshman Class Liaison (Jerri Ricks):

- Class officers are being chosen.

Cluster Advisory Council (Judy Murden): The first meeting will be held on November 16 at 7 pm at Herndon High School.

Directory (Gabriele O'Bryan): Directories are still being sold in guidance.

Grocery Receipts Programs (Sue Altschuler):

There are direct links on the website to sign up.

Guitar Booster Liaison (Dana Harold):

- They finished selling Butter Braids.
- The next fundraiser will be a dinner at HUMC on Nov 16. Cost is \$15/family

Hospitality (Beth Krauser):

- Brown Bag Breakfast will be held on November 11 prior to Touching Bases (6:45-8:00). Visit website to sign up for food donations.

Membership (Sue Altschuler):

- There are 170 parent members and 98 staff members. Last year we had 359 parent members and 109 staff members.
- Donations are down \$4800. Paperless opening has affected membership.
- Members are listed on website.
- PTSA will be selling memberships at Touching Bases.

Newsletter Editor (Jeannie Johns):

- Thanks to everyone who contributed to the November/December 2011 HHS PTSA Newsletter.
- The homecoming pictures and articles were great.

- This newsletter was significantly shorter (eight pages shorter) than last month.
- Submissions from PTSA committees were about normal but staff and faculty submissions were way down compared to normal, not sure why this occurred. Did not receive any staff or faculty article emails after two requests.
- The deadline for the January/February 2012 PTSA Newsletter will be Wednesday, December 21, 2011. The publish date will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

NJROTC Liaison (Gabriele O'Bryan):

- Orientation trip to New York City, Philadelphia, Valley Forge and Annapolis.
- Yearly inspection will be held on Wednesday 11/16
- 99 cadets are enrolled.

Orchestra Booster Liaison (Marcia Stewart):

- Thanksgiving pie orders are due this Friday.
- They will be participating in a trip to Chicago with the band in March.
- Glory Days fundraiser through January with 10% of the proceeds when patrons turn in receipts.
- Winter Concert will be held December 15.

Parent Education (Jennifer Boysko):

- Thank you to volunteers who helped with Candidate Forum.
- Planning a Parent Education program in 2012.

Reflections (Jeanne Talbot): The HHS Reflections deadline has passed. Five photography entries were submitted-results will be available on Friday, November 11th. All participants will be notified by email and we will have the results posted on the HHS PTA website. The entry receiving the Outstanding Interpretation award will continue to the Council level for review.

Robotics Team Liaison (Tammy Lemmons): Won competition on November 5.

Sports Booster Liaison (Kathy Blystone):

- The Sports Banquet will be on Nov 21 & 22.

Superintendents' Parent Advisory Council (Cindy Wei):

- Dr. Dale was out of town and the meeting was run by Dr. Richard Moniuszoko, Deputy Division Superintendent for FCPS.
- Peter Noonan, Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services, did a presentation on the new online textbooks that have been introduced to the FCPS school system on a county-wide basis this year. Last year they were tested in select middle and high schools. This year they were introduced county-wide in the Social Studies area for grades 7-12. An online demonstration of one textbook was shown at the meeting; it was very interactive and provided many teaching tools for students such as dictionary for definitions, maps, highlighting capability, reading aloud, videos and flashcards.

Comments:

- Physical books will be available for use in the classroom if needed
- Not used as the only teaching tool in the classroom
- Cheaper than hardback books and can be updated quickly if an error is discovered and/or a map needs updating
- 'Rented' for about the same time frame as a hardback book would last
- Easy to get additional 'copies'
- Less expensive than traditional hardback books
- Teacher Evaluation changes for Virginia. On April 28, 2011, the Virginia Board of Education approved two documents that are to be effective on July 1, 2012:
 - Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers
 - VA Standards for the Professional Practice of Teachers

- New performance standards need to be in place that addresses the following items for a teacher’s evaluation:
 - Professional knowledge
 - Instructional planning
 - Instructional delivery
 - Assessment of and for learning
 - Learning environment
 - Professionalism
 - Student academic progress

A student’s academic progress will count for 40% of the grading and the remaining 6 items will count for 60% total of the teacher’s evaluation process.
- High School Graduation Task Report: FCPS put together a task force to:
 - Review FCPS graduation rate data
 - Develop a profile of FCPS students who do not complete high school
 - Determine the issues for FCPS students that preclude graduation in four years
 - Make recommendations to address the issues identified

Touching Bases (Claudia ElSawy/Laurie Dodd):

- Will be held November 11 from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.. There will be a 3 hour delayed opening for students.

Calendar Update (Ann Marie Ruskin)

Nov 9	PTSA Meeting 7 pm HHS Cafeteria
Nov 11	Touching Bases 7:30–9:30 am (3-hr delayed opening)
Nov 17	National Honor Society Induction 7 pm
Nov 21–22	Fall Sports Banquet 6:30 pm
Nov 23	2 hour early release
Nov 24–25	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 28	Winter Sports Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
Dec 2–3	“Beauty and the Beast” HHS Theater production 7:30 pm
Dec 3	SAT Test
Dec 4	“Beauty and the Beast” 2

Dec 8	pm Honor Roll Reception 2:30 pm
Dec 9	“Beauty and the Beast” 7:30 pm
Dec 10	ACT Test
Dec 10	“Beauty and the Beast” 2 pm
Dec 12	Financial Aid Night 7 pm Lecture Hall
Dec 14	Safe Driving Program for 10 th Grade Parents & Students
Dec 15	Orchestra Concert 7 pm
Dec 18	Honor Roll Reception 2:30 pm
Dec 19	Chorus Concert 7:30 pm
Dec 21	Guitar Concert 7 pm
Dec 11	ACT
Dec 13	Band Concert 7 pm
Dec 21	Returning Grad Panel (during Seminar)
Dec 22	Last full day before Winter Break
Dec 23–Jan 2	Winter Break

Old Business: none

New Business:

- December 6: Facilities Planning Advisory Committee meeting at Herndon Elementary School.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria.

Adjourn: 9:25 pm

Submitted by Carol Sinclair, Recording Secretary