

HHS PTSA MEETING MINUTES – date

March 9, 2011

Call to Order 7:12 PM

Handouts: Meeting agenda; (last meeting) minutes, GRACE Arts Center Events, Student Services information flyer, Survey results and ANG/AP Gift Card fundraiser

Attendees: Lee Fortna, Cindy Wei, Kathy Blystone, William Bates, Diana Fields, Tammy Lemmons, Jeannie Johns, Sam Eaddy, Herson Matta, Karen McDonald, Elizabeth Gibson, Alease Haynes, Carol Sinclair, Beth Krauser, Anne Marie Ruskin

Special Guests: Dr. Carlyn Floyd, Allison Ayoub and Dave Paganin

Dave Paganin/Allison Ayoub, HHS Student

Services: 65% of HHS Seniors have applied to colleges, 60% of those have applied to VA colleges.

The Returning Grad panel was conducted during Christmas break.

Faculty members are polled about their colleges and share their experiences.

Dr. Carlyn Floyd: Going Green Initiative

HHS is keeping track of all the paper being used. Average printed pages per month at HHS is over 700,000. HHS is striving to be as paperless as possible: online/internet tests/quizzes, podcasting and wireless meetings. HHS is closing down the school “paperlessly” and we can expect a virtual opening for the school year in 2011.

Please send all documentation to be included in virtual opening to Dr. Floyd by August 1, 2011. Fall packets will be online, those without internet access can use school computers.

Schedules will be still be picked up.

Course catalog is now online.

Principal’s Report (William Bates)

April 4 – 8th is Wellness Week for the faculty, Ellen Reilly is the Wellness Liason. The focus is on nutrition, healthy breakfast/lunch. There will be a yoga class, blood pressure screening and a boot camp workout.

Private business owner working with faculty to gear a program toward the students.

McLean HS had a Dating Abuse Seminar:

When Peer Pressure Goes Too Far. The program is geared to senior girls: safety and information to prepare them for college.

Community business leader is putting this together with Officer Davis. Mr. Bates is considering paying for this session.

National Board Certified Teachers Meeting was on March 10, 2011. HHS has three teachers: Kimberly Belt Knapp, Erin Zimmer and Kristy Rudolph. HHS has the most NBC Teachers in Fairfax County.

HHS is using substitute funds to allow teachers to attend trainings and do AP testing.

VAStar Computer Program: Mr. Bates met with a business man who provides refurbished computers to needy students. Mr. Bates is trying to figure out how to expand the normal definition of the needy student.

Tree planting ceremony for Joel Newsome has yet to be determined. The scholarship will be offered through the career center.

Please consider serving on the PTSA Board next year.

Securing HHS will start March 14th. The west end parking lot gate will be closed during the day allowing one person to monitor the entrances and exits.

SGA Report: (Sam Eaddy and Herson Mata) Election interest meeting being held on March 10th, election packet due March 21, 2011.

March 21 – 25th is Disease Awareness week: Monday - Prostate Cancer, Tuesday - Cancer, Wednesday - AIDS, Thursday – Colon, Friday – Lung Cancer.

March 29th is PeerAMid Leadership program; the student government reps in the pyramid cluster.

Sadie Hawkins is April 1, 2011; pre-selling tickets for \$5.00.

Minutes of 02/09/2011 meeting (Kerri Gilmore Mesiah)

Motion to approve (M :Elizabeth Gibson
S:Anne Marie Ruskin), unanimous

President’s Report (Lee Fortna)

Thanks to the All Night Grad Party committee and After Prom committee for working so hard to provide a safe party for our students.

Thank you to Jennifer Boysko, Angie Smith, Dana Harold, and all the panelists who contributed to our “Race to Nowhere” event at St. Thomas a Becket church. Thanks to all the church volunteers as well who worked hard on

this event. It was a huge turnout, and I think the movie was a powerful message to our community about the dangers of “stressed out” kids.

I also want to thank everyone who contributed to the “Friend in Need” campaign for Randall Holmes, our evening custodian. Because of the generous donations of the HHS community, we were able to give Randall over \$1500 to help him with a new automobile to get to/from work every day!

We are still working on next year’s PTSA Board – if you are interested in running for an office next year, please see me.

Thanks to Carol Sinclair for stepping up to be our Recording Secretary next year!

I will be asking each chairperson to submit their plans for next year, so that we will know what holes need to be filled.

Congratulations to the PTA Reflections winners – there will be a reception for all participants during stinger on Friday, March 11th.

Treasurer’s Report (Diana Fields)

DAFA total: \$18,558.92

AP total:\$116.82

PTSA total: \$19,207.65

Two teachers have requested their mini-grant funds. Casino Night deposits for the ANG fundraising was more than \$6,000.

Hospitality and DAFA will require funds in the next month.

DAFA (Leslie Petty)

DAFA is holding a Gift card fundraisers and a Community Yard Sale to benefit ANG and AP. 3 Gift card orders will be placed between now and June. Yard sale is April 9th, Sale space is available to rent to any group or individual for \$25.00 for 3 parking spaces – and they keep all their proceeds. Agreement forms are available on HHS Website.

All Night Grad (Laura Medvene)

Finalizing Activities contract and remaining under budget. Adding massage therapists this year. Fundraising going well, have one more GIFT dinner and possibly 1 more Guest Bartending event. Business donation letters have gone out; ANG raised approximately \$6,000 for AP and ANG. Next meeting is March 16th at the Breeze.

After Prom (Jeannie Johns)

Thanks to Mr. Bates for his suggestion to use student groups to staff the Craft Fair which is a fundraiser for AP. AP now has enough people to work the event.

Still looking for volunteers to help with security.

Robotics (Elizabeth Gibson)

The team will be attending the competition in DC at the convention center on March 24-26 and the Bayou Regional outside of New Orleans, LA on March 17-19. Competition events are free and open to the public.

Band (Tammy Lemmons)

Band assessment at WLHS March 11 and 12th. Spirit Night at Jimmy’s: Guest Bartending Entire music department going to Orlando, FL.

Drama (Courtney Nyren)

Children’s Theatre presents Aladdin.

Class Liaisons

Senior Class (Karen McDonald)

Cap and gown pictures March 16, 2011, times were given

ANG Gift dinner April 13th.

Junior Class (AnneMarie Ruskin)

Sophomore Class (Kathy Blystone)

Selling class tshirts this week “D13SEL”

Selling water at Sadie Hawkins dance

Looking for dates for prom next year.

Cluster Advisory Council (Judy Murden)

Next meeting March 16th, 7:00 at HHS

Parent Education (Jennifer Boyska)

On February 24th HHS PTSA and St. Thomas A Becket co-sponsored a screening of the Race to nowhere followed by a short panel discussion. It was a sold out crowd. We offered a very brief survey, results have not been tabulated yet but they will help us guide our next steps in engaging the community as we follow up.

Special thanks to the Mr. Bates and HHS administration for supporting the program and especially to our panelists-

Jim Hannon

Kevin Wallace

Beth Evans

Diane Eckert

To the volunteers at St. Thomas A Becket and

the parish for helping sponsor it and providing the space and the snacks. To all of the PTSA members who volunteered during the event-especially to Angie Smith spearheaded the event and who developed the idea and brought the film to us. We will be contacting those who expressed an interest in the near future to set up a community meeting. Stay tuned for details.

Membership (Sue Altschuler)

Membership:
371 Parent Members
140 Faculty Members

Superintendent Parent Advisory (Cindy Wei)

BUDGET:

Dr. Dale presented his recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this week.

Comments:

- Fairfax County will have the same tax rate for next budget year
- Transfer rate is kept flat
- \$30M of undesignated funds remain.....hopeful to get some of that money for FCPS

FCPS news: Dr. Dale to present a plan for a 3 year implementation for full day Kindergarten to be in place for the remaining 37 schools in FCPS that don't currently have full day K. Estimated cost=\$8.1M; most of that cost is for teachers and rest is for materials and supplies. Dr. Dale doesn't know if there will be enough \$\$\$ to implement this. Does not anticipate class size to be increased in other grades with implementing full day K.

State Legislature news: Fiscal bills are going through looking to give FCPS a little more money than originally projected. Good news is that since enrollment is going up, we will also be hopeful for more sales tax revenue since the economy is getting a little better. State is to make decisions on Saturday, 2/26/11.

VARIOUS NOTES:

Attorney General said FCPS cannot charge AP fees. Dr. Dale is proposing a refund be given to those that paid and will be his recommendation to School Board. Potential option for those that paid to "donate" their \$75 fees to FCPS general fund. School Board will make final decision.

Honors Classes will only exist if there is no AP or IB class that a student could take.

Comment was made why there was no "regular" Calculus class for Seniors to take. Athletic fees have generated ~\$1.8M (guesstimated by Dr. Dale). Don't expect to drop the fee for the foreseeable future as School Board people are uneasy about economy and would not want to stop fees and then reimplement them so it will remain as is for foreseeable future.

First year inexperienced beginning teacher's salary with BS/BA degree = \$44K; \$47K with Masters.

NEW PHYSICAL EDUCATION

REQUIREMENT: Bill came out of nowhere with apparently no thought to implementation. Recess does not count toward time requirement of 150 minutes/week for K-8 grades. Expected cost to implement is \$18-\$24M plus gym space. There is no other subject in school that has a time limit requirement. Biggest question is "Where does the time come from?????" One thought.....make elementary Mondays a full day with no early dismissal. Must be implemented in 2014. Dr. Dale is going to ask the governor for a veto on this bill proposal. Vote for bill was 3-1.

ECONOMICS & PERSONAL FINANCE

REQUIREMENT: Bill proposed for one credit class. Possible online class will be available. FCPS perhaps to work with George Mason to offer a finance class as dual enrollment (Who will pay for? Unknown at this time.) Incoming 9th graders for 2011 will be required to take the class.

<http://www.virginiabusiness.com/index.php/opinion/article/giving-virginias-students-a-strong-financial-foundation/>]

DISCIPLINE ISSUES:

Dr. Dale asked for attendees comments on discipline issue. (It is the first time I have ever seen him take notes during one of the SPAC meetings!) He will take comments made at the meeting to the School Board and report back at next SPAC meeting. Very long discussion on this issue. [See attached pdf; shows how discipline suspensions, etc have been improving.]

Some comments include:

- Don't send a child to another school where they don't know anyone as a suspension. "Everyone there will know

why he/she is there thanks to 'Social Network' in today's age."

- Have the 'victim' speak via written statement about what the incident did to him/her.
- Make the "punishment" fit the "crime".
- Lots of talk on how unfair 'getting caught' with an Advil has seemingly same results as 'getting caught' with Percocet (for instance)
- Dr. Dale said there IS ability to take circumstances of student's actions when making decision on how to discipline

NEW "FOUNDATION FOR FCPS":

New Foundation formed with Chamber of Commerce and FCPS.

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/educationfoundation/index.html>

- Larger businesses partner with FCPS to benefit both (ie-Exxon/Mobil, Northrup Grumman, Deloitte)
- '501C3' used as a 'pass through' of money
<http://www.irs.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=96099,00.html>
- Sometimes foundations will only give \$\$\$ to other foundations; this is an advantage to this new FCPS foundation set up
- Can "Buy A Teacher" through this foundation set up
- Looking for continuity (ie – put FLES in a school for one year and not in the next year is not recommended)

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

FCCPTA (Fairfax County Council PTA) is looking to put together a FOCUS GROUP for elementary school internet security.

<http://www.fccpta.org/> If interested, please contact the FCCPTA President, Ramona Morrow, at president@fccpta.org
April 26th is the next meeting.

Volunteers (Sue Altschuler)

Nothing new to report.

Hospitality (Beth Krauser, Jennifer Wilson and Gail Russell)

Teacher Luncheon will be determined soon.

PTSA agrees to restore the hospitality budget due to extra events this year.

The Hospitality Committee is meeting this Friday to set the date for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon will be held the first week of May, which is the national week for teacher appreciation. Please look for an email in late March/early April re: donations for the luncheon. We will be asking for food/drink donations, as well as gift card donations. The main dishes will be catered again, most likely by Mamma Lucia.

Sports Boosters (Kathy Blystone)

Spring sports are in full swing and the winter banquets went well.

Newsletter (Jeannie Johns)

March/April Newsletter was published March 1st.

Calendar (AnneMarie Ruskin)

Mar 9	PTSA Meeting 7 pm
Mar 10	Chorus Concert 7:30pm
Mar 12	SAT
Mar 14	Sports Boosters Meeting
Mar 16	ASVAB Test (pre-reg required in Career Ctr)
Mar 16	Senior Cap & Gown Pictures (by appt)
Mar 17	Chorus Concert & Art Show 7:30pm
Mar 18	Most Improved Breakfast 7:45 am
Mar 23	Fundraising Dinner for After Prom at the Herndon United Methodist Church 6-7 pm
Mar 23	Fashion Show 7pm
Mar 23-26	Spring Music Trip
Apr 1	End of 3 rd Quarter
Apr 4	No School – Teacher Work Day
Apr 6	Partners for Safe Driving 7pm
Apr 7	AP Test Reg. for Seniors
Apr 7	Theatre – <i>Fools</i> – 7:30pm
Apr 8	Theatre – <i>Fools</i> – 7:30pm
Apr 9	AP/ANG Community Yard Sale @ HHS 8:30am
Apr 9	Theatre – <i>Fools</i> – 7:30pm
Apr 13	PTSA Meeting – 7pm – Cafeteria

2011 Homecoming is October 22nd.

Old Business

Need a nominating committee to work on the 2011-12 slate of officers. We need President, 1st VP, 2nd VP and Corresponding Secretary.

New Business

Adjourn time 9:20 pm

Next Meeting:

April 13, 2011 at 7:00 in the cafeteria.

Submitted by Kerri Gilmore Mesiah
Recording Secretary