

**HHS PTSA MEETING MINUTES – date**  
**November 11, 2010**

**Call to Order** 7:08 PM

**Handouts:** Meeting agenda; (last meeting) minutes, budget, “Codes You Should Know”

**Attendees:** Ann Marie Ruskin, Lee Fortna, Jeanne Loveland, Dana Harold, Kerri Gilmore Mesiah, Cindy Wei, Jennifer Boysko, Jeanne Loveland, Vania Breight, Claire Levin, Joann Skinner, Sue Altschuler, Elizabeth Gibson, Garn Frazer, Kathy Blystone, Tammy Lemmons  
Special Guests: Garland Cooper, Greg Ferentinos, Clarence Jones

**Minutes of 10/14/2009 meeting (Kerri Gilmore Mesiah)**

- Motion to approve (M Lee Fortna ,
- S Anne Marie Ruskin ), unanimous

**Special Guest: Greg Ferentinos**

NW Federal Credit Union is the official business partner of HHS. Business development works with PTSA and students to encourage them to save. The foundation gives a grant to the school annually. Students that are Credit Union members are eligible for the over \$85k of scholarship money disbursed between March 1 – April 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally NWFCU offers a seminar to help address the issues of Student Loans and any gaps. Senior are eligible to take a class with the bank to deal with real life scenarios. Also collecting coats and toys for the holidays.

**Special Guest: Clarence Jones – Student Safety and Wellness Coordinator**

Mr. Jones updates the Student’s Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. His office covers drug prevention, health, bullying, drugs and behavior issues which were covered by the FCPS Survey.

Mr. Jones reviewed how our students are hiding weapons, alcohol and drugs. Many of the concealment tools are found on the internet. Weapons can look like combs, alcohol can be hidden in the heel of flip flops. Students number one drug of choice is alcohol, while marijuana and alcohol are being used together. Beware of OTC drugs

and your prescription drugs. Students will fill varied prescription drugs in a bowl and take random pills to get high.

Inhalants and pressurized containers are another way of getting high with items in your household.

Mr. Jones suggests keeping your kids busy, get to know your kids and their friends, talk to you kids not at them. Parents are the best prevention. (Handout: “Codes You Should Know”)

**Treasurer’s Report –Jeanne Loveland**

- AM Ruskin moved to accept the DAFA budget, Vania Beight seconded the motion
- Tax Return is in and completed, all reports have been submitted to the VA PTA

**Principal’s Report (Garland Cooper - Interim)**

- Great kids and teachers, Mr. Cooper still visits classes and hallways.
- Makes announcements every Friday to highlight Honor Students, etc. A lot of awards –
- Teachers and Staff have been very welcoming: Coaches have given Mr. Cooper jerseys and hats.
- Letter writing campaign to Iraqi soldiers
- 12/01 New principal should be in place
- Five expulsions since Mr. Cooper started for fights and marijuana use
- H1N1 has settled down
- Mr. Cooper enjoyed his stay here and thanked the PTSA

**Faculty Report (Vania Beight)**

- Tech position is in danger of being cut due to budget, please speak out about this potential tech person is very much needed. French teachers want French Immersion
- Discussed the Character Counts program
- Blackboard is important due to the flu epidemic, teachers must keep information up to date. And teachers are lenient with so much illness and absences.
- IG Pro email, parent must contact counselor to make sure their email addresses are correct. All teachers are being encouraged to use the IG Pros. All core classes can do IG Pros.

### **President's Report (Lee Fortna)**

A special thanks to the Levine's for their hard work on the grocery store receipts.

Parent Coffee tomorrow discussing Depression with school Psychologist, Nov. 12, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:00am

Coat Drive on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> for LINK

Community Dialogue meetings occurring around the county. HHS hosts one on Dec. 12, 2009. Pre-register for attendance but you can walk-in.

Jamie Strauss will attend our January meeting to discuss budget concerns.

Safety and Security: traffic and congestion concerns. Please observe the inbound left lane on Bennett St., use Kiss and Ride only when dropping kids off, please observe the "No Student Drop Off Lane".

Principal Interview panel met with great candidates.

Skate Park design meeting Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at Herndon Community Ctr.

Big Thank You for vision/hearing screening helpers

Jeanne Talbot stepped in to be the Reflections Chair at the last minute. Thanks, Jeanne! SGA adopting a family, they have a wish list and need help.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **DAFA (Leslie Petty/Lisa Fagan)**

All Night Grad (Lisa Fagan)

- 90 kids have registered, pushing for the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Lots of fundraisers: blankets and gift cards

#### **Baccalaureate** (Dana Harold/Open)

- This position still needs to be filled. Recommendation that this position not be held by a Senior Parent.

#### **Band Liaison (Tammy Lemmons)**

Four competitions, got number one ranking at West Springfield competition.

Marching season is over and Tag Day concert was Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Band is concerned about elementary schools closing the music programs.

#### **Chorus Liaison (Kara Rider)**

- Chorus will have a car wash fundraiser 9/19 at the Sunoco gas station.

- First concert of the year is the Fall Sampler Concert on 10/22/09

### **Class Liaisons**

#### **Senior Class** (JoAnn Skinner)

- Senior dues are \$80.00
- Dec. 5 College Application deadlines
- Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> FASA (Financial Aid) College Night

#### **Sophomore Class** (Ann Marie Ruskin/Lesley Aschenbach)

- Taking survey week of Nov. 10th

#### **Freshman Class** (Kathy Blystone)

- Calhoun wants an assembly in Jan.
- Selling water at Touching Bases
- Still no SGA reps
- Freshman class meeting on Nov. 17th

#### **Cluster Advisory Council (Judy Murden)**

- Last spring meeting included presentation by Marty Smith on Service Learning initiative for FCPS. Next meeting is 10/28/09

### **Drama Liaison**

- Advanced Theater class performed rendition of Nora's Lost at the VA theater's Competition on 10/30. Received three acting awards: Evi Dobbs and Chris George won All Cast awards and Erika Rodakowski won Best Actress. This play will be performed at HHS on 2/26 during One Act play night.
- The Pie sale will conclude 11/16 (joint fundraiser with Orchestra).
- Oklahoma cast performed in the Thanksgiving Parade at RTC Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Oklahoma performed 12/3 and 12/5 at 7:30 and 12/6 at 2:00 pm.

### **Membership (Sue Altschuler)**

- Collecting memberships

### **Orchestra (John Dudzinsky)**

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> dinner Serenaded Spaghetti Dinner at Herndon United Methodist Church

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Kennedy Center field trip

Pie Orders due by Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Recent fundraisers were a success: 10/29 sold raffle tickets at Jimmy's. Raised \$528.00

Two rehearsals on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and Winter concert on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parent Advisory**

County discussed eliminating the Band and strings programs as well as the full day kindergarten programs

***Reflections (Jeanne Talbot)***

- 25 entries for Reflections, Best Interpretation was selected and all other entries can be returned to students as soon as the comment sheets are completed.

***Robotics Team Liaison (Elizabeth Gibson)***

- Need a Faculty sponsor, only have one and it is too much work for one teacher.
- Kids participated in the Congressional Caucus and showed robotics to Pres. Obama

**Old Business** None

**New Business**

**Corresponding Secretary**

**Adjourn** time 9:30 pm

**Next Meeting:** date: January 13, 2010

**Note meeting will begin at 6:00pm in cafeteria**

Submitted by Kerri Gilmore Mesiah  
Recording Secretary