

**HHS PTSA MEETING MINUTES –**  
October 12, 2011

**Call to Order:** 7:06 p.m.

**Handouts:** Meeting agenda; September 14, 2011 minutes; Proposed 2011-12 Budget; Calendar

**Attendees:** Lee Fortna, Kerri Gilmore Mesiah, Ann Marie Ruskin, Diana Fields, Jennifer Boysko, Carol Sinclair, Al Chester, Kathy Blystone, Robin Handy, Alan Altschuler, Steve Crichton, Indira Sidhu, Jennifer James-Samuel, Susan Harford, Marcia Stewart, Tammy Meyers, Kimberly Sensley, Mary Mann, Jeannie Johns, Cindy Wei, Teresa Dunbar, Karen McDonald, Susan Michaely, Margo Sagan, Lee Fortna, Terri Ricks, Stephanie McClellan and Sue Altschuler

**Treasurer's Report (Diana Fields):**

- The 2011-2012 budget was distributed. Motion to approve (M: Lee Fortna and S: Stephanie McClellan)
- All Night Graduation budget was presented and will be voted on at the November meeting.

**Principal's Report (William Bates):** In lieu of the typical Principal's Report, he made a presentation on video surveillance. The school board will be reviewing whether to allow interior video surveillance in schools and has asked schools to get feedback from parents. The Department of Facilities and Transportation Services, in collaboration with the High School Principals' Association support the expansion of the use of video surveillance cameras to monitor cafeterias and building interiors. The use of interior cameras is widely accepted in public schools across the country to enhance security and safety programs. In Virginia, they are used by Virginia Beach, Prince William, Loudoun, Stafford, Fauquier and Culpeper school systems. The use of any video camera is limited to public areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Video surveillance is currently used in all school buses and by 30 schools on the exterior of the buildings. There are two reasons this is needed (1) acts as an

efficient deterrent to reduce incidence and (2) enables administration to identify students who may be subjects of incidence, and may confirm that an act may have not occurred. There would be a cost savings because less staff would be required in places such as the cafeteria. Fairfax County is a diverse school system and some schools are close to Metro and have gang problems. They are asking the School Board to not make a blanket policy on video surveillance. Other counties in the Metro region allow video surveillance. It may help deter incidents of flash mob behavior. Existing external video surveillance has been instrumental in identifying offenders and illuminating the context of incidents on numerous occasions. The cameras would be limited to public areas. This would also provide a level of security for after hours events as well. There are 3 options for the implementation of internal video surveillance systems: (1) authorized for cafeterias only, (2) authorized for cafeterias and high volume areas; or (3) authorized for the entire interior. The High School Principals' Association prefers option (2) above. Cost would be approximately \$8,000 for the cafeteria. The challenges include (1) initial and recurring costs, (2) staff with technical knowledge to leverage existing technology to minimize financial expenditures, (3) staff training to operate; and (4) community may feel this intrusive.

**QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:**

Q: If accepted and implemented, is it optional or mandatory?

A: Because of the school systems diversity, some principals will use it, others will not.

Q: How are video's used after? Will parents and students be able to view?

A: Yes, parents have been shown video from external camera's. This may be a school by school decision, but it seems like student/parents will be able to view as standard procedure. Pictures are currently used to show parents/students.

Q: How long will the tapes be archived?

A: Unknown at this time.

Q: Is the County planning on writing rules on video surveillance?

A: I believe that if approved, this wouldn't be implemented until procedures are agreed on.

Q: What is Mr. Bates opinion?

A: This could assist in investigating incidences.

Q: Could you clarify the cost savings?

A: The staff on duty in the cafeteria can be reduced.

Q: How can incidence be prevented?

A: Camera's would be a deterrent.

Q: Is it monitored live?

A: No, but it will help to identify the students afterwards.

Q: Could you clarify the number and type of problems at HHS to justify the camera's?

A: Students thought we had camera's because of the motion detectors. Believes that students don't view surveillance as punishment; they are open and communicative.

Q: Do the teachers support this?

A: Yes, the teachers voted overwhelming to support this 121-17.

Q: Has it ever been recommended for parents to see the situation?

A: HHS has an open door policy. Parents are always allowed to come and visit the school.

Herndon High School would not necessarily have interior surveillance; there would need to be a cost analysis done before deciding. Herndon has had multiple issues including weapons, drugs, breaking and entering, etc. that they have dealt with that has led to explosions.

#### **President's Report (Kerrie Gilmore Mesiah):**

- The PTSA is still looking for volunteers. The number of volunteers is down significantly from last year.
- Thank you to those who worked at the PTSA table at Back to School night.

#### **Minutes of 09/14/2011 meeting (Carol Sinclair):**

Motion to approve minutes (M: Ann Marie Ruskin

S: Jennifer James-Samuel), passed unanimously.

#### **Student Government/SGA Report (Chris Gannon):**

- Homecoming Dance: Tickets are on sale during lunch for \$20. Forms will be posted on the website. Students will need an ID to get into the dance. Guests and recent graduates will need another form.
- Spirit Week is planned.
- Bonfire: Friday at 8 pm.
- Volunteers are needed for the dance.
- The class of 2013 will be selling water.
- Parade: Convertibles are needed.
- Powder Puff Game: Wednesday, 7 pm.

#### **Faculty Report (Margo Sagan):**

- 96 faculty are PTSA members
- Teachers must be PTSA member to apply for mini grant.
- On October 15 volunteers will be planting a memorial garden for Paige Saucedo.

#### **DADA (Leslie Petty):**

- About 84 ANG tickets have been sold.
- After Prom chairperson still needed.

#### **Baccalaureate (Laura Hellstern):**

- She received the information from last year.
- It will be held on June 10 at 3 pm.

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

- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert will be on November 5 at 6 pm. Mr. Bergman and 2 other alumni will be guest conductors. They will be unveiling a new piece written for the anniversary.
- At Richmond competition, the band received best in category; 1<sup>st</sup> place in music/marching and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for drum major/drumline
- They have an upcoming competition at Virginia Beach.
- Homecoming game with the middle school band.

- October 29<sup>th</sup> VBODA competition at West Springfield high school
- October 28<sup>th</sup> Senior night football game.

**Chorus Booster Liaison (Courtney Nyren):**

- No report.

**Senior Class Liaison (Lesley Aschenbach):**

- They are working on the float.
- A discussion was held on 'Senior Skip Day'. It was recommended that an email be sent to parents warning them of a potential 'Senior Skip Day' and that it is not acceptable for senior students to be absent without a valid excuse.

**Junior Class Liaison (Kathy Blystone):**

- They are working on the float.
- There was some confusion on selling water at the homecoming dance. Kathy will coordinate.
- Volunteers are needed to sell concessions at the Powder Puff game.

**Sophomore Class Liaison (Courtney Nyren):**

- No report

**Freshman Class Liaison (Jerri Ricks):**

- They are working on the float Friday afternoon and Saturday's.

**Cluster Advisory Council (Judy Murden):** No report.

**Directory (Gabriele O'Bryan):** no report

**Drama Booster Liaison (Courtney Nyren):** no report

**Grocery Receipts Programs (Sue Altschuler):**

- Participation is down this year.
- Giant: 78 participants
- Harris Teeter: 48 participants
- Safeway: 87 participants
- Bloom: 103 participants

**Guitar Booster Liaison (Dana Harold):**

- They will be selling Butter Braids as a fundraiser for \$11 each beginning 10/17.

**Hospitality (Beth Krauser):**

- Touching Bases breakfast for teachers and staff will be on November 11 from 6:45-7:45 am. Donations of food and drink are needed; more details to follow.

**Landscaping (Jeanne Talbot):** No report

**Membership (Sue Altshuler):**

- There are 149 parent members and 79 staff members. A list of members is on website.
- A discussion was held concerning the rate of return on forms from the virtual opening.
- Only 20 volunteer forms were returned; most forms came from Back to School night.
- A suggestion was made to have a PTA table at Touching Bases
- At what cost to the PTSA will it be to go green?
- Donations are down as well.

**Newsletter Editor (Jeannie Johns):**

- Deadline is October 25 and will be published on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Newsletter Folding (Susy Nixon):** No report

**NJROTC Liaison (Gabriele O'Bryan):** No report

**Orchestra Booster Liaison (Marcia Stewart):**

Marcia Stewart volunteered to be liaison.

**Parent Education (Jennifer Boysko):**

- October 27: School Board Candidate Forum. It is imperative that the PTSA not wear shirts/buttons/signs supporting a specific candidate. Volunteers are needed. It will be advertised in the local papers and the Patch.

**Pyramid Coordinator (Lesley Aschenbach):** No report

**Reflections (Jeanne Talbot):** No report.

**Robotics Team Liaison (Tammy Lemmons):** No report.

**Special Education Liaison (Sylvia Richardson):**  
No report

**Sports Booster Liaison (Kathy Blystone):**

- Phase 2 of the brick walkway is on sale and construction will begin in June
- The Sports Banquet will be on Nov 21 & 22.

**Superintendents' Parent Advisory Council (Cindy Wei):**

- Will meet on October 25.

**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.
- A discussion was held concerning distributing PTSA packets for parents to fill out while standing in line.

**Volunteers (Karen McDonald):**

- 20 volunteer forms received to date (25% of last year). No paper forms have been returned.
- Volunteers will be contacted by the representative committee chairs.

**Old Business:**

- Lee Fortna reported that she made a presentation at the September staff meeting on the Teacher Mini Grants. \$2000 is budgeted, with a maximum of \$250 per teacher. Teachers must be a member of the PTSA. Forms are due 11/30.

**New Business:**

- Homecoming will be 10/22
- School Board Forum will be on 10/27

- Prom will be on April 28 at the Dulles Hyatt

**Next Meeting:** November 9, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria.

**Adjourn:** 8:55 pm

Submitted by Carol Sinclair, Recording Secretary