

PT PTA Area Council Meeting Minutes

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION REPORTING

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance - Meeting called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Margaret Rauscher.

President's Report - President, Margaret Rauscher

Margaret welcomed everyone and thanked the McMurray PTA for providing the hospitality.

- Bylaws Annual Meeting Revision - Carol Planitzer reported that the motion to waive provision of bylaws that requires a 30 day notice/waiting period to amend bylaws at the last meeting was not allowed. She reintroduced revision to change annual meeting from September to May. It will be posted for 30 days and then voted on at the next meeting.
- Officer Stevak handed out information sheets on Apps that are of concern.
- Dr. French made an announcement that she received a message from state that they have pulled back school reports and scores. She will be attending a meeting tomorrow, 10/21, to get more detail. Our students are meeting standards but we want to improve on areas and exceed standards. The administration wants to do a better job of getting in the classroom. They will be looking at are we using time to best advantage to challenge our students. The 11/7 Education Committee meeting will be looking at AP and STEM Initiative. The December meeting will be discussing testing scores.

Reading and Approval Minutes - Secretary, Amy Pugliano

- September 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes - There are no corrections. Minutes are approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Kelly Trupiano

- September Financial Reports were reviewed by Kelly. Cathy Vargo made a motion to pay September expenses. Camille Bodnar seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Kelly reminded everyone that 2015-2016 Audits are due to Mary Hess within 30 days of approval by General Membership. Membership Dues should have been postmarked by 10/15. Form 990N due by 11/15 and can be completed online. Check renewal dates on sales tax exemptions.

School Administration with Unit Reports

PTHS Principal Lori Pavlik, PTSA President Mary Pat Derienzo

This year's theme for the HS is "Think Possible". For students this means motivations & goals...how can I push myself? You can do what you think is impossible. For teachers this means push students beyond what they think is possible. Increase rigor to prepare students for post secondary education. Currently only 45-50% of student taking college level. Working to increase number of students taking honors and AP classes. 225 Students received money for 4's and 5's on NMSI. This is a 3 year grant. We have one more year left. NMSI language arts study sessions begin in November. NMSI math & science study sessions will begin in January/February. The HS is ranked 3rd in region for Keystone achievement. Alice Drill scheduled for 10/21. It may be postponed due to weather. Make up date will be 10/27. PSAT test occurred on 10/19. Hope to have results by December. On 11/10 Prudential conducting financial planning sessions for college funding. Dracula will be performed on 10/27,28 & 29. Guidance office sponsored a yoga benefit and raised \$350 for Caring Place. Counseling office sponsoring a Blue Out Day on 11/17 for Grief Awareness Day. Naviance is all set up for students. 2 students were diagnosed with Scarlet Fever. This is a strain of strep and can be treated with antibiotics.

PTMS Principal Adam Sikorski, PTA President Laura Spernak

Thank you to Area Council for the ability of the MS to purchase Virtual Reality Headsets. On Monday, the French classes will be the first to use them to visit Paris. The new HOI- Hub of Innovation is up and running. It is modeled after Google. The December Character Counts meeting will be held in the HOI. Next

week is Red Ribbon week and the kick off for Cool to be Clean. A school in Steubenville has asked to learn about our program so they can model theirs on it. The Thon dance marathon will be held this year on January 27 from 5 PM to 11 PM. Participation will be capped at 200 students. It is held every other year and is modeled after the PSU Thon. This year's charity chosen by the students is Pittsburgh Children's Free Care Fund. The fundraising goal is 20K. Thank you to McMurray PTA for Welcome Back Breakfast. Next Wednesday will be Apple Crunch Day. Thank you to Trax Farm for donating 300 apples. This year the MS musical will be "Lion King". Performances will be on 2/23,24 & 25. Students can sign up for Career Chats to learn about different professions. Guidance tries to schedule within the 9 career clusters.

McMurray Elementary Principal Blair Stoehr, PTA President Cathy O'Neill

Mr. Stoehr thanked everyone for understanding and kindness during the water main break. 8 rooms and the multipurpose room had damage. At this time, only 2 classrooms displaced. Picture day also had to be changed due to break. Book Fair is the week of 10/31. November 1 and 3 will be Open House. Spirit Day went well. Thanked PTA for all of the events. Red Ribbon Week will have themed dress up days along with the annual door decorating contest. The theme is "You Only Live Once". Student Council has held elections and started the magazine sale. Student Leadership has begun and is using the Covey Habits. Mrs. Owens has take over the sponsorship. Cathy reported PTA events had to be rescheduled due to flood but are getting back on track.

Bower Hill Principal Robert Garvey, PTA President Karen Lingis

The Hero program theme is "The Future is Bright". The students received sunglasses to coordinate with this theme. Kindergarten and second grade had their Open House last night. First and third grade have their Open House tonight. Thank you to PTA for all of their events. Book Fair is this week. It is also Spirit Week. Each day has a theme. School is promoting First in Math with a school wide goal of answering 1,250,000 questions. Third grade teachers received Acuasports and will be trained on them. Also received a Chromebook cart. Readathon very successful. It raised over 23K. Will have Alice Drill in the next couple of weeks. Halloween parties will be held on 10/31.

Pleasant Valley Principal Greg Marquis, PTA President Jackie Beck, Camille Bodnar Asst to President

Mr. Marquis thanked the PTA for the iPad cart and providing indoor and outdoor activities for recess. Last week was Fire Safety week. Students had the opportunity to go through the Safety House and a fire truck. They raised \$1,377.87 for the Fire Dept. by brining in spare change. Next week is Character Counts week. Kids will receive a gel bracelet. It will be kicked off with an anti-bullying assembly. Each day will have a different theme. November 4th will Junior Achievement Day for third grade. Next week is the Alice Drill. Open House is on 10/27. Book Fair is next week. Students are also participating in First in Math. Dr. French will check to see if kids can have access to program during the summer. Jackie reported that 10/21 was Crazy Hair Spirit Day. Fall enrichment and dance are underway. From 11/1-9 will be collecting candy for City Mission. Yearbooks currently on sale for \$18. Cost will increase to \$22 in November.

Report of School Board Representative - Lisa Anderson

McMurray and PV will undergo major paving projects this summer. This week pay rates for substitute teachers increased from \$85 to \$105. On 46th day rate goes to \$110. The Board voted to accept Comprehensive Plan with the Dept. of Education. School admin is putting a lot of attention on students completing more writing. Board approved that Judy Alexander could promote a trip to the Rainforest and the Galapagos Islands. In the process of negotiating a fair price for RHCC. Also doing a feasibility study looking at building versus renovating. The Executive Summary can be viewed on district website. Building and Grounds will be discussing pros and cons. A demographic study is being completed. Also looking at finances. Try to attend the meetings there are a lot of parts to this decision.

Committee Reports

1st VP - Carol Planitzer

- Character Counts - Fall Awards will be on 11/1 at PTMS. 11/8 is the next meeting. Coat drive is going on.
- Directory - Is at the printer.
- Welcoming - Suzanne McKay will be the chair. She will be in touch with the schools.

2nd VP – Kathleen Chaudhari

- Membership - All dues are in.
- Ways & Means - Used Book Sale coming back in the Spring.
- Reflections - The theme is "What's your story?". Entries are due 10/28 and judging night is 11/16. Committee is in need of Visual Arts judges.

Calendar

November 17, 2016 @ 9:15 - Next Area Council Meeting in the District Administration Office Board Room.
Hospitality begins at 9:00 a.m. provided by PTMS PTA.

Adjournment - Margaret adjourned the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

Date Submitted: November 17, 2016

Amy Pugliano , Secretary