

TMS PTA General Membership Meeting
April 19, 2010 – 9:00am in the Lecture Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. In attendance were Gay Campbell, Carey Sienicki, Mark Greenfelder, Bob Simmons, Michele Sanford, Nicole DuBar, Tracey Zillian, Debbie Bacigalupo, Julie Hirka, Michelle Kang, Dana Miller, Shelly Koshuta, Kristene Fisher, Cheryl Billingsley, Patty Shields and Jill Hecht.

1. **The Secretary submitted meeting minutes for review.** A motion by Tracey Zillian and seconded by Shelly Koshuta was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2010 TMS PTA Board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. **President's Report**
 - The next meeting will be a NFCU/TMS PTA luncheon, Tuesday, May 25th for the incoming and presently serving board members.
 - The June 15th General Membership meeting (election) will be held before the Orchestra event at 7:00 (possibly a lawn concert? Will wait for final decision from teachers).
 - Thanks for the many volunteers wishing to assist Ms. Toner with rides to the Metro to the field trip to the DC Soup Kitchen. She has been taking students after school for community service.
 - Whole Foods of Vienna has generously provided the materials to get a community garden started and have sent employees to Thoreau to teach students about gardening. They will also conduct some cooking classes so the students can learn healthy ways to cook the produce that is grown. A portion of the produce grown in the garden will be donated to local food banks, like Food for Others. Help in maintaining the garden throughout the school year and over the summer is needed.
 - Thanks to Maureen Alonzo for her work with landscaping over these past two years, we will miss her next year. The blooming tulips outside the school were beautiful. In the recent spring clean-ups, there were trees, blueberry bushes and seeds planted, beds mulched and the pond was cleaned. The next clean-up is scheduled for May 8th. Please watch Thoreau Matters for updates and contact Maureen Alonzo to sign-up to volunteer.
3. **Treasurer's Report** was distributed: School Store/T-shirt income has met their goal due to sales to rising 7th grade student and sweats sales.
4. **Principal's Report**
 - **Student Achievement** is high. 245 on All-A honor roll. NFCU will sponsor pizza lunch and ice cream. Dilemma: Since there is no bell curve, is this grade inflation? It will probably take time for all teachers to adjust to the new grading scale. Thanks to the staff for implementing programs to encourage achievement. Rising high school parents should support initiative by challenging high schools to change mindset to achievement based practices (will be more difficult in schools with long track record of success).
 - **Oklahoma** play opens this week. Thanks to Mr DeLeo for bringing enthusiasm to program (similar to Art program by introduction of Ms. Physioc). He gets a Friday administrative day for organization of the play.
 - **Rumor dispelled:** Last week, there was not an incidence of drugs; rather it was cigarettes that were brought to school. Thankfully, there has not been a case of drugs this year. This year's students are good.
 - **Bullying Issues** – no fix, must manage and educate students how to cope. Additional programs next year for students. Programs are best if introduced in elementary schools (where there is more of a buy-in") and continued in middle and high schools. Most issues addressed are begun out of school (especially internet related, i.e. texting and social networking). Parents should monitor student's on-line use closely and share information with other parents. Do what is right for your child (don't be reluctant to do what is needed/best).
 - **Visitors** – from North Carolina and Scotland are in the school observing classes.
 - **Rising 9th grade orientations** will be offered to students during school day including open conversations from High School students. In the Summer, organizing a panel discussion with Mark Merrill (principal at Madison) and Jay Pearson (principal at Marshall).
 - **Staffing** – current projection that incoming student population is down due to demographics: currently 808, expected 735 for next year (could mean a difference of 5 teachers; protecting hold for some staff, could see additional 40 students in summer registration). Values people over resources (i.e. textbooks). Goal is to maintain 6 teams and core curriculum standards. Elective choices, including languages, orchestra/band and remediation, may

be impacted. Transfer rate is still being debated (12% vs. 9%); this could impact resources. There was assistance from Richmond to FCPS, based on stimulus funds, will be a 2 year fix. SRO is still uncertain by FCPS budget cuts. Retiring staff for after this year will be:

- Bob Simmons - Assistant Principal – ~100 applications were received, narrowed to 6 candidates. School panel will review to narrow choices to 2-3 candidates, selecting preference. Then will go to Administrative panels at school and FCPS for final decision.
- Maggie Rasnic – Director of Student Services - scheduled for as early as July or as late as November. Will have a process similar to AP to find replacement.
- Ms. Corcoran – 20+ years as a science teacher will retire at end of the year.
- **Cell Tower** developing 3D site presentation for the community outreach phase (neighborhood, PTA, staff). Scheduling of meeting by the wireless provider.

Thanks from the board was offered to the teachers and staff for afterschool boot camp program for struggling students and the innovative thinking and positive tone set by the entire school on behalf of the parents and students.

5. Committee Reports

- **Nominating Committee:** Thanks to the following school reps who volunteered to serve on this year's Nominating Committee: Jill Hecht, Aimee Davis, Tara MacCall, Shelly Koshuta, and Amy Currin. They presented the slate of officers to the board: Gay Campbell, President; Nancy Socher, Vice President; Donna Bobalek, Secretary; Kristene Fischer, Treasurer. A motion was made by Jill Hecht and seconded by Debbie Bacigalupo to accept the new slate of officers. Motion carried by voice vote. There are still a few board positions open for next year. If interested, please contact Carey Sienicki at Secretary@ThoreauPTA.org. The proposed slate for the board is under separate copy for your reference.
- **Hospitality** – Special thanks to the committee for the successful March Italian dinner in the library and the April Georgetown cupcakes. May - Teacher appreciation week featuring luncheon on Cinco de Mayo with special treats each day, i.e. 4th you are a “Lifesaver”, 6th Animal crackers: “A zoo without you”, 7th “Burst” with out you. June will be an Ice cream treat.
- **T-shirt sales**– successful orders for updated design for sweats and table at the rising 7th grade introduction session at PTA table; met sales expectations for this year, over \$2500 in sales since last meeting. Will deliver this week.
- **8th Grade dance** June 11th from 7-9. Will have a budget of \$750. Thanks to committee volunteers who will have an organizational meeting on Monday, April 26th in the evening. Will recycle Madison’s Mardi Gras decorations (Thanks to Phil Charlwood). Need donations of small raffle items such as I-Tunes cards; possibly look to Madison and Marshall for donations of apparel as prizes. Will put out dress code and “non-date” event information to students. Contact Cheryl Billingsley or Nicole DuBar at 8thgradedance@ThoreauPTA.org if interested in volunteering/donating.
- **Online Payment System** Debbie Bacigalupo has implemented the pay4schoolstuff online program for possible small trial use for rising 7th grade trial in Spring/Summer with spirit wear.
- **Next Year Parent Education seminars:** 5 strategies for Academic Success (Ann Dolan), Anxiety and Depression (Dr.), Principal/Counselor seminars, Summer in the Suburbs (Drug reality check).

6. Calendar:

Thursday, April 22 nd	First show of <i>Oklahoma</i> play at 7:30 p.m.
Additional shows: Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24,	at 7:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday, April 24.
Saturday, May 8	Landscape day
Tuesday, May 25	PTA Meeting – noon at NFCU
Friday, June 11	8 th Grade event from 7-9

Submitted by: Carey Sienicki _____ **Approved:** _____