

TMS PTA General Membership Meeting
December 7, 2009 – 9:00am in the Lecture Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. In attendance were Gay Campbell, Nancy Socher, Carey Sienicki, Mark Greenfelder, Dana Walker, Bob Simmons, Gretchen Schofield, Michele Sanford, Jill Hecht, Tracey Zillian, Debbie Bacigalupo, Julie Hirka, Amy Currin, Michelle Kang.

1. **The Secretary submitted meeting minutes for review.** A motion was made, Nancy Socher, and seconded, Tracey Zillian, to approve the minutes from the October 26th TMS PTA General Membership meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. **President's Report**
 - Landscape Day was rescheduled to Sat. Dec.12, 9am - 11am. Please contact Maureen Alonzo to sign-up in case of last minute change due to weather.
 - Science Fair - A meeting with the 7th grade science teachers to discuss a science fair around March.
 - Membership over 400 with 134 opting out of Thoreau Matters.
3. **Treasurer's Report** was distributed: highlighting dues payment to Fairfax and VA PTA, \$50 sponsorship payment was made to Marshall All-Nite Grad event.
4. **Principal's Report**
 - **Technology update** - Laptop initiative is being implemented; teacher's replaced desktops will go towards computer lab upstairs. Projectors and Smartboards will also be placed there. (6) SmartBoards have been purchased since the last meeting.
 - **School budget cuts** - Next year's impact will be more significant, realistically needed is a \$0.12 levy in real estate tax rates (*if it is not passed, there will be an even more severe budget cut*). Please keep involved with meetings regarding school budget and public hearings. This could impact:
 - Safety and security in the school (i.e. Fairfax County Police Officer Byer's post at the school). Currently there is more influx from outside (i.e. day laborers from across the street). Recently there was a drunken person, passed out on the grounds. Thankfully the officer was there to take care of that situation.
 - Front office staffing changes – Cathay Raboy will be retiring on December 17th and will be looking to staff the position for the rest of the year. This position and another could be lost next year. The school would especially suffer if an Assistant principal position is cut.
 - Class sizes may increase (greatly impacting high schools) and/or Full-day Kindergarten may go away.
 - **Student Effort and Behavior Report Rubric** samples were distributed at the meeting. Each student will receive this report in the 2nd semester interim progress report. Look for it in the mail. It will communicate in each class Organization/Preparedness, Homework, Participation and Citizenship assessed on a 4 point scale. These reports will be placed in the records in Thoreau files (not on permanent record, i.e. will not be on the final report card, sole purpose is to let parents know how their child is doing in class). Standards based assessments (tests) for grading will be on the final report card. Student Achievement is high. 250 All-A honor roll. It will probably take a year for all teachers to adjust to the new grading scale. Thanks to the staff for implementing this program.
 - **Monopole** – Balloon test was just done for the further investigation into installation of (5) wireless carriers on a monopole (smaller option was proposed). Community group input will be forthcoming.
5. **Committee Reports.**
 - **Hospitality Report** - Each staff member received a pie for Thanksgiving. This event was a hit and there were many thank you notes. Thanks to the committee members who donated 123 pies. This month's event will be cookies for the staff on December 18th.

A locker treat for the winter break for the students was also proposed. It would be distributed on Wednesday, Dec 23rd during the last period. Marshmallow Snowman making kits, costing between \$.06-.07 was suggested.

January Soup and Salad will be next month's event for the staff.

- **8th Grade Event** –School of Rock and potluck family dinner for the event went well for the 40 families who attended (low attendance resulted in a \$178 loss). Suggestions for next year: more of a buzz from students to generate interest coordinate date better (possibly a Friday). If theme will change, do so this year, longer lead time will be required.
- **7th Grade Dinner** – A popular event for families and overall successful. Grossed \$2580 from the 295 in attendance. There was a lot of left over food (Skorprios was very generous and some families who RSVPed did not attend).
- **School Store/T-shirts** – expanded current operations at lunch times to include Mondays and Fridays. Holiday items were added this month. A poll was taken about future merchandise to include sweatshirts and pants.
- **Parent Programs** – Parenting with a purpose, Organizational skills for teens, Truth about Drugs and Communication skills were discussed as potential future programs.

6. Old Business

- **Online PTA payment options** – in an effort to move forward with online payment options, Jay D. Bass, Ed.D., President Payment Partners, Inc. presented his product to the board. You can access a tutorial of some of the items demonstrated at: <http://www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com/>. A flyer with an analysis of the other options were handed out.
- **After Action report** – since there is a large turnover in the board, this form could be used to document activities for future chairperson's use.
- **Board Position Job descriptions** – look over the job descriptions and modify as required, especially including timeline, checklist and hours expected. Please give any changes to Carey Sienicki. We are looking to identifying new board members for next year.

7. Announcements

SULLY DISTRICT- MONDAY DEC. 14TH 7:30PM - MADISON HS

Kathy Smith, Sully FCPS school board representative and Chairman of the board will be joining us at our PTSA meeting. This will be a good opportunity to hear what's going on at the county level and to hear first hand about the challenges the school board is facing in regard to the budget.

HUNTERMILL DISTRICT- MONDAY, DEC. 14TH 7PM- CUNNINGHAM PARK LIBRARY:

Meeting with Stu Gibson, the Hunter Mill District School Board member, for all of the Madison pyramid schools to discuss the FCPS budget issues: how the budget process is going, whether advocacy efforts have been heard, and what more parents can do.

Wednesday, December 23rd - Two Hour Early Closing (12:50pm Dismissal)

Thursday, December 24th - Winter Vacation Begins

Monday, January 4th - School Resumes

Thursday, January 14th - 3 Hour Early Closing Staff Development

Next PTA Meeting –Monday, January 25th, 7pm Lecture Hall

Submitted by: Carey Sienicki Approved: _____