

TMS PTA General Membership Meeting
January 25, 2010 – 7:00pm in the Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were 53 persons (*list on file*), quorum was met.

1. **The Secretary submitted meeting minutes for review.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2009 TMS PTA Board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. President's Report

- Thanks and welcome to Neil Mc Nerney for his presentation. Thanks to Debbie Bacigalupo for arranging the program.
- The next meeting will be Monday, February 22nd at 9:00 AM in the Lecture hall.
- To keep the meeting short for the Parent program presentation, there will be only a few essential business items. The floor was given to the Secretary to conduct the following:
 - Thoreau Matters Etiquette was distributed for those who plan to submit items (note procedure for attachments).
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the PTA online payment program which will be implemented by Debbie Bacigalupo. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Thanks to the board members who have already responded to the request for job updates, if additional updates, please forward to PTA Secretary. This will assist the Nominating Committee to better perform their duties for next year's slate.
 - We are looking for a cross section of parents to serve on the Nominating Committee and/or those interested in Board positions for next year. If interested, please contact Carey Sienicki at Secretary@ThoreauPTA.org.

3. **Treasurer's Report** was distributed: not many financial changes due to low activity during winter break; highlighting the School Store/T-shirts is has met 36% of their full year target of \$4000 and additional income for Membership.

4. **Principal's Report School budget cuts** - Next year's impact will be more significant, possibilities include:

- Loosing an Assistant Principal and/or School Resource officer (*ensures 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 who are not from the neighborhood*). Recently there was a drunken person, passed out on the grounds. Thankfully the officer was there to take care of that situation.
- Increasing class sizes (*especially impacting High Schools*).

This is assuming an increase in property tax rates passed (*if it is not passed, there will be an even more severe budget cut*). Encourage the school system to cut extras that do not directly impact the students. Please use your influence and connections and keep involved with meetings regarding school budget with your supervisor (*who controls tax and transfer rates*) and public hearings. The Tax Rate will be set on March 9th.

5. Announcements

- Keep up to date by **subscribing to The Bottom Line**, the latest budget news, facts, dates and rumor busters regarding the Fairfax County budget crisis. <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/bottomline012210.html>
- **Budget Forum** hosted by the Fairfax County School Board on Saturday, **February 6**, at Marshall High School from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will learn more about the budget (the FY 2011 advertised budget is scheduled to be adopted by the School Board on February 4) and the budget process as well as how to communicate effectively for change. Other session topics include principals who will share the budget impact on their schools, how central office staff supports schools and budget realities and misconceptions. If you are planning to attend, please e-mail budgetforum@fcps.edu or call 571-423-1075.
- Stu Gibson, School Board Member, will be at Louise Archer Tuesday, **February 16** at 7:30pm
- Join the Madison, Oakton and Marshall Community for Project Sticker Shock **February 25**, 7:00 pm at the Vienna Community Center, visit www.viennacommunitycoalition.com for full details

Calendar:

Friday, January 29 & Monday, February 1 - Teacher Workdays – Student Holidays

Wednesday, February 3 - Madison High School Rising 9th Grade Orientation – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 4 - Student of the Quarter ceremony – 3:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall

Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day Holiday

Monday February 22 - PTA Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

7. **Parent Program:** Neil Mc Nerney, director of the ScreamFree Institute, presented "*Parenting with a Purpose*" after the meeting. Additional information can be found on the website: www.screamfree.com

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