

TMS PTA General Membership Meeting
October 26, 2009 – 7:00pm in the Lecture Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were 52 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 October 26th TMS PTA Executive Board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
(*Note: In an effort to reduce paper, limited copies of the minutes will be available at the meetings, as they are also sent out prior via e-mail for review*)

2. **President's Report**
 - The PTA contributed \$12,500 to the school for the purchase of (5) SmartBoards.
 - There was an anonymous Thoreau family's donation of \$5000 to the PTA for school technology.
 - Membership goals have been met.
 - Note: The next meeting will be changed to Monday, December 7th at 9:00 AM in the Lecture hall.
 - New Business will be tabled until next month, to keep the meeting short for the Parent program presentation. Thanks and welcome to Iris Beckwith for her presentation.

3. **Treasurer's Report** was distributed: highlighting the \$12,500 in PTA donations to the school, School Store/T-shirts is on target for the year (already met 22% of their goal) and income target for Membership/Directories/Contributions has been met.

4. **Principal's Report**
 - **Thanks to PTA** for choosing to enhance technology at the school via (5) SmartBoard donations. Special recognition to the anonymous donation for their children's consideration to increase technology. The school will look to also order (3) additional SmartBoards within the next few weeks from another source of school funding. He would like to be sure that this year's 7th grade benefits from the Magazine fundraiser.
 - **School budget cuts** - Next year's impact will be more significant, assuming the \$0.10 raise in property tax rates passed (*if it is not passed, there will be an even more severe budget cut*). Because of the economy, there is also an increase in flight to public schools (from private schools), which also strains the system. Please keep involved with meetings regarding school budget with your supervisor (who controls tax and transfer rates) and public hearings. The message should be to maintain quality schools through funding.
 - **Behavior Progress updates** - Grading and Reporting will be enhanced at the 2nd semester interim to include homework, behavior and effort (will not be on the final report card, 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, making kids accountable for their own education and strive to get better. Will discuss in more detail at next month's meeting.
 - **Monopole** – Thoreau will be the first FCPS middle school to attract (5) wireless carriers for a monopole installation by spring (already in neighboring high schools). The school will get \$35,000 donation and \$350-600/month lease. Community group input will be forthcoming.

5. **Committee Reports.**
 - **Hospitality Report** - A new 100 cup coffee urn has been purchased and delivered. Snacks were provided for the vision/screening day volunteers. A Halloween treat will be provided on Friday, Oct. 30 for the teachers and staff. Plans are still on to give each staff member a pie for Thanksgiving. Since the day before the school break is a half-day, Tuesday of that week, November 24 is a suggested day of delivery. Anyone who would like to donate an apple, pecan or pumpkin homemade or bakery bought pie, please let me know at pjsanford2@earthlink.net.
 - **Upcoming Budget Community Dialogue Meetings:** Citizens are invited to provide their input to help meet a significant projected budget deficit for FY 2011 by attending an upcoming community

dialogue meeting, sponsored by Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools. Registration is required; visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget or call 703-324-2391, TTY 711.

* *Thursday, October 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the South Lakes High School cafeteria and the Woodson High School cafeteria.*

* *Saturday, November 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Kings Park Library, the Sherwood Regional Library, and the George Mason Regional Library.*

- **8th Grade Event** – All is confirmed with School of Rock and potluck family dinner for the event on Tuesday, November 10th. Chaperones and volunteers are needed.
- **7th Grade Dinner** – order forms go home tomorrow, volunteers are needed.
- **Landscape** – mulch day went well on Saturday. There were about 9 volunteers present to assist (down from last year). There will be (1) more event on Nov. 21st. Carey Sienicki has connected Maureen Alonso with the Rotary to apply for funding a landscape project in the Spring.
- **School Directory** – are in teacher’s boxes for distribution (every student receives one; extras will be for sale at the school store).
- **School Magazine Fundraiser** - raised \$39,700 to date (40% of proceeds go directly to the school). Does not include future proceeds from reach-out booklets. Student awards for sales are being given. We have our co-chairs for next year. Kellie Owens will be the 8th grade chair and Carol Adcock will be the 7th grade chair.
- **School Store/T-shirts** –Still rocking and rolling. Halloween items and “Boos” were added this month.

6. Announcements

Teacher Workdays (*no school for students*) Monday, November 2nd & Tuesday, November 3rd

8th grade event – Tuesday, November 10th

Early Closing 1pm and Mini-Conferences 2-4pm Wednesday, November 11th

7th grade dinner – Thursday, November 19th

Landscape Day – November 21st

2 Hour Early Release - Wednesday, November 25th

Thanksgiving - no school on Thursday, November 26th and Friday November 27th

PTA Meeting – **note date change:** Monday, December 7th, 9am Lecture Hall

7. Parent Program: Iris Beckwith presented an Internet Safety discussion emphasizing “Sexting” and Social networking issues after the meeting.

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