

PTA Meeting Minutes

Patapsco Middle School PTA Meeting February 21, 2012

Attendance: Cindy Dillon – principal, Carol Ketterman – assistant principal, Alexandra Bloom – teacher representative; PTA Board members Allison Anderson – president, Emily Rice – first vice-president, Caroline Bodziak – second vice president, Patti Lizzo – corresponding secretary, Tina Siedlecki – recording secretary.

The meeting was called to order by president Allison Anderson at 7:05 pm in the library of Patapsco Middle School. Ten members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

Meeting minutes from January 17, 2012 were presented for review, and approved as written.

Middle School Curriculum Changes: Cindy Dillon provided an update on the middle school curriculum changes designed to meet Race to the Top program and Common Core State Standards. The changes have been approved; staff has a full year to implement changes by 2014. Rising sixth graders will be exposed to world language (French and Spanish); all will have P.E. class. Those who are on or below grade level will still have a reading course with a semester of transition. Those at below level will have targeted intervention. The focus will be more on reading content literacy and is a way for teachers to get kids away from compartmentalizing their learning. At Patapsco, students will be able to choose more than one music performing group. For parents of current middle schoolers, the program will be similar to now, but reading and innovation/inquiry modules will change. School will send home student recommendations in spring.

Financials: Ms. Anderson provided monthly report of expenditures to date vs. approved budget. Copy attached to minutes. We've brought in more money than expected. Suggested that some funds could be used to purchase platters, crock pot liners, etc. for hospitality, or to cater an event. PTA will provide \$400 to assist with purchasing recess equipment and will check with MESA and after school programs to see if there are any needs. PTA budgeted \$500 for student recognitions/incentives; is there something PTA can fund, i.e., pens, highlighters, water bottles, or for Patapsco Promise? Ms. Dillon will ask staff members about needs. PTA budget this year transferred \$1,000 in tissue funds to cultural arts and we have no event or project yet. Some ideas subjected: Buck Wilde (wildlife expert), hip hop group, slam poetry.

Deadline for teacher reimbursement submissions is April 1; so far, have received less than ten requests.

Principal's Report: Ms. Dillon reported that Patapsco Promise started today with penny wars. Home room with most wins bragging rights. Every quarter negates pennies. Money raised goes to Ulman Cancer Fund. There will be a culminating activity in March. 7th and 8th graders doing large block on cancer awareness.

School Spirit: Caroline Bodziak reported that winter dance had 200 kids attend and \$350 ahead in budget; can move to 8th grade dance as PTA approved category budget. 8th grade dance committee will meet in March to pick themes for student vote. Al Eissner volunteered to help with 8th grade dance. Need volunteer to lead Beach Blast. Next event is Spring Fling on March 9: bingo in media center, dj in cafeteria, basketball and obstacle courses in gym. Concessions will be in hallway in front of cafeteria. Must have permission slips and purchase tickets in advance of dance. No tickets at door. Volunteer on sign-up genius (PTA website), or contact Caroline Bodziak (cbodziak@aol.com).

Principal's/Staff Report: Ms. Dillon reported that school is getting ready for MSA testing in March, with reminders to students about early to bed and breakfast. Student council is up and running. Administration spoke with sixth graders about not rushing through entry door in the morning.

Staff Report: Alexandra Bloom thanked parents for supporting the Notebook Doctor program. Parents should contact Kim Hopkins to volunteer for Notebook Doctor program to help students with organization. Also, she expressed thanks on behalf of the staff for the soup and potato bar and treats during parent/teacher conferences.

Committee Reports:

Vice President's Report: Emily Rice reported that Patti LeConte will be meeting with the spirit wear company next week. Looking for any suggestions or feedback. Also, need nominees for spirit wear position and music boosters president for next year.

President's Report: None.

New Business: No new business presented.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Tina Siedlecki