

PTA Meeting Minutes

Patapsco Middle School PTA Meeting

September 19, 2011

Final, As Approved on October 18, 2011

Attendance: Cindy Dillon – principal, Carol Ketterman – vice principal, Kim Hopkins – teacher representative, 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 7:02 pm in the library of Patapsco Middle School. Twenty-eight members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

Principal's Report: Cindy Dillon reported that 70% of students were represented at Back to School Night September 15. Feedback good, some comments from new parents not used to being shuttled. Generally smooth transition with some scheduling glitches with new software now fixed. Staff is gearing up for outdoor education and fall conferences. School is \$30 away from goal of purchasing cobblestone in honor of 9/11. Upcoming events: BWI Walk Run in support of Kennedy Krieger Institute Down Syndrome Clinic on September 25. Hoping families will attend, or support the school team. New parent portal testing due to be complete and open to parent sign-up on Thursday at noon. Parents need local ID # (from report card or school schedule).

President's Report: PTA goals this year are for increased involvement at the school, and more communication between teachers, parents and PTA. Allison reported that PTA hosted successfully back-to-school buffet for staff in August, and circulated the staff thank you card to the PTA.

Staff Report: Kim Hopkins reported that 6th graders went on field trip to guidance office, learned procedures there, and will focus on anti-bullying techniques next week. Staff is in process of collecting membership forms/PTA dues. Some teachers have emailed PTA with requests for help.

Treasurer's Report: Allison Anderson presented the Patapsco PTA Proposed Budget for 2011-12 (attached) as a category budget with funds allocated toward general categories of fundraising (i.e., flyers for events, spirit wear), programs (after school, cultural arts, hospitality), organizational (PTA dues to county, state national) and operational programs (bank fees, if applicable). PTA plans to conduct "tissues for teachers" drives to solicit donations, so has removed tissues as budget item. Suggestion made that PTA purchase tissues if not enough donations received. Budget was approved as presented by unanimous vote of attendees.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Terry Purnell and Dana Hemelt have received 330 registrations for PTA membership as of Back to School Night, raising \$2237.00 in dues and \$4209.00 in donations (already more than was raised last year for donations). Terry Purnell reported that they expect to send membership cards in mid-October. Last year, PTA had approximately 405 members. Dues payments increased this year: Patapsco PTA must pay \$3.75 for state and national PTA dues, and a flat fee of \$170 for Howard County dues.

School Spirit Committee: Caroline Bodziak reported there are four spirit events planned: Movie Night for families September 30 (students will vote on movie selection in class); Winter/Snow Ball dance in January; Spring Fling with DJ in March; and Beach Blast in spring. PTA also will sponsor the 8th grade dance. Looking for volunteers!

Volunteer Coordinator: Debbie Jacoby reported that PTA has received many forms from parents who are volunteering for specific activities, or to be called in the event someone needs help. Sign Up Genius will be used to coordinate volunteers for PTA activities. This is same system used by Mt. Hebron High School. Debbie will update the sign-up to indicate that chairs are still needed in specific areas (PTAC Delegate, Beach Blast, Play Liaison, Spirit Dinner Nights, Green Team, Substance Awareness, After-School Programs). Krista Suri suggested that Patapsco combine Growth/Planning Committees with St. John's Lane's committees (for 2013 elementary redistricting/2015 middle school redistricting).

In response to teacher requests for parent involvement in projects (i.e., writing, careers unit), Debbie will create a sign-up tool for parents to indicate their career and/or talent; Allison will request specific needs from staff. Cindy Dillon indicated that the PTA may be able to support after-school programs by funding an additional day of bus transportation; the budget for these programs should be provided by county at end of October.

New Business:

No new business presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next meetings: Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 22 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted
Tina Siedlecki