

PTSA Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 18, 2008

7:00-7:15 pm Meet and Greet

7:15 pm President Molly Jackman called the meeting to order

1. Molly thanked all those who worked on the Directory which was recently published and sent home with students
 - a. Molly will post an announcement on the electronic bulletin board to remind all those who still haven't received a directory that they are available in the front office
 - b. A Connect Ed message may also be sent about the Directory
 - c. Connie Raab will thank the Directory advertisers in the next Quantum Quest newsletter
 - d. Nancy Mendez, who worked in the Directory, suggested that for next year, more funds might be raised from advertising to try to cover the cost of postage (in an effort to avoid some of the distribution problems that arose this year).

2. Linda Jasper was on hand to offer the TENTATIVE schedule for January 20, 2009 (Inauguration Day).
 - a. Albert Einstein High School is NOT closed for Inauguration Day, however, only students who need to take the make-up Algebra HSA exam will need to be at school
 - b. The make-up Algebra HSA will be administered from 7:25 until 10:00 am
 - c. A suggestion was made to post the January Exam schedule in a number of different places, including the Quantum Quest newsletter, the listserve and as part of a Connect Ed message as parents struggle to understand what days and what times their kids need to be at school, especially parents of 9th and 10th graders new to the school

3. Molly reminded everyone of the upcoming Gift Wrap fundraiser at Westfield Mall in Wheaton and encouraged all to volunteer and to reach out to new volunteers.

4. Rich Lerner reviewed the Budget with those present.
 - a. Rich suggested the PTSA review the Budget again after the Gift Wrap fundraiser
 - b. There was a motion to approve the Budget with agreement to discuss possible reallocations of the Budget at a later date
 - c. The motion was seconded
 - d. Discussion focused on possibilities to allocate funds for the school newspaper
Suggestions were made that the newspaper moderator apply for a special mini-grant which may offer more than \$500
This topic and a further discussion of the After Prom will be added as an agenda item to the January PTSA meeting
 - e. The Budget was approved by a unanimous vote

5. Emily Sudbrink introduced two guest speakers from Kensington Wheaton Youth Services (KWYS)
- a. Krystal Smith offered information about their Community Connections Program, including ***Go Girls*** and ***Man to Man*** (offered in collaboration with the YMCA), serving high school boys and girls
- Both programs meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm to 5pm (with food!) at Einstein in the cafeteria and serve over 180 students.
 - Activities of this afterschool program include movies, speakers, discussions on a variety of topics such as nutrition, tutoring, mentoring, a “professionals” program that offers a job fair, resume and interviewing support and a “professionals” dinner.
 - Membership in the Community Connections Program also brings access to other services offered through Kensington Wheaton Youth Services, such as counseling resources/services and information and support in receiving scholarships
 - All students are eligible to join in on this after school program
 - KWYS also supports Study Circles and it was announced that a Study Circle is currently underway at Einstein, including students, parents and faculty/staff to discuss the achievement gap based upon issues of race. Contact Mary Peterson at miheywood@comcast.net for more information
 - Clearly KWYS is very involved in Einstein and many of their available resources and services remain untapped!
 - Check out www.infomontgomery.org for details about free services and scholarship ideas
- b. At this point, Kelly Giblin mentioned that the funding for these programs as well as funding for the YMCA afterschool program is **potentially to be cut in half for this year.**

Kelly reminded all present that the Montgomery County Council will review all potential cuts this coming Monday, November 24, 2008 in Rockville at the 2:00 pm meeting. Both parents and students are invited to testify or to write letters or email Valerie Ervin in support of these afterschool programs.

Please contact Kelly Giblin at Ktplus4@juno.com for more information.

c. Beatriz Balbontin, also of Kensington Wheaton Youth Services, offered direction and support on “How to Communicate with Your Teenager Effectively”

- “What is Normal?” for a teenager included an emphasis on changes, weirdness, distance, peer influence, inexperience, self-consciousness and risk taking
- “What Doesn’t Work when Communicating with your Teenager” included spontaneous problem discussions, nagging, insight transplants and arguing
- “Four Effective Ways to Communicate with your Teenager” involve active listening, talking about yourself, shared fun and positive reinforcement

It was suggested that the key points of Beatriz’s presentation be offered in the newsletter, with translation into Spanish. Copies of the handout should also be made available.

6. The meeting ended with one topic for new business: The question was raised as to whether the information in the Directory might be offered to someone who offers financial planning for college, as this is a valuable resource that all in our community may not know how or where to turn to for assistance.

- a. Initial response was that the information found in the Directory is only to be used within the school community
- b. Suggestions were made to encourage the businesses that offer these services to place advertisements within the Directory, that representatives of these businesses rent a table at next year’s College Fair, that suggestions for financial aid could be posted on the listserv by individual parents who have found success, and that suggestions could also be posted in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

Submitted by Mary Murphy, Secretary