

PTSA Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2011

Submitted By: Elisabeth Thibeau, Secretary

The meeting commenced at 7:05pm, with all officers present.

Officer and Committee Reports

Secretary: The May 2011 minutes were accepted, with public reading waived.

President: The FY 2012 budget was presented and passed.

Membership Chair: As of 10/18/2011 the QO PTSA has 610 members, as compared to 634 participants in the prior year. The PTSA received \$2,700 in voluntary donations.

Treasurer: QOHS PTSA successfully passed the financial audit. Results will be submitted to the MCPTA.

MOC SAT/ACT: This event raised \$700, with \$1,500 income net of \$800 room rental costs. Individual test results will be distributed at the 11/16/2011 PTSA Meeting, to be held after the College Fair.

Reflections: The Committee's objective is to support QOHS student participation in Writing and Arts competition. Ms. Newcomer and Ms. Hardinge are teacher sponsors of this Committee.

College Fair: The Fair will be held on 11/16/2011, in the QOHS Cafeteria, to be followed by the November PTSA meeting. Twenty-two colleges committed to participate as of 10/18/2011, and the Committee Chair is waiting on responses from more colleges. The PTSA plans on surveying student participants to learn more about their profile, such as which grade they are in, to help plan future College Fair events.

Book Fair: This Fair will be held on 12/8/2011, at the Rio Barnes and Noble in Gaithersburg, MD, from 9:00am to 10:00pm. Purchases may also be made on-line at Barnes & Noble from 12/8/2011 to 12/13/2011, with orders credited to QOHS PTSA.

Academic Achievers: This Program recognizes student academic achievement. At the September Academic Achievers Assembly, over 700 students were recognized with lanyards and other unexpected treats. These students were recognized for achievement during the fourth quarter of last year. The next Academic Achievers Assembly, recognizing achievement for the first quarter of this year, will be held on 11/18/2011. In addition to recognizing academic achievement, this Program provides free tutoring to students.

MCCPTA Cluster Representatives: The Cluster Representative Report noted the monthly MCCPTA Meeting discussed Construction Improvements for all QOHS cluster schools. The representatives also reported that MCCPTA stands opposed to the proposed Montgomery County student curfew.

Principal Report:

The Principal reported that QOHS is a Top 25 feeder school to University of Maryland College Park's Clark School of Engineering. This is the second year of recognition.

MCPS restored the "loss of credit" policy. Expect MCPS to send a warning letter after three unexcused absences and another letter after five unexcused absences. After the second letter, students must work out a program with the school to be reinstated.

QOHS has a new, automated attendance program. Absence notifications were sent from the school in the old system, allowing QOHS the opportunity to "vet" the messages before they were sent. The new system is completely automated and some processing is out of the school's control. Therefore, as the system works out its "kinks", the principal put forth a reminder to be patient with it. The QOHS community is directed to contact the QOHS Administrative Office if any questionable automated attendance messages are received.

Maryland is moving towards Common Core State Standards. Maryland is one of forty-four states adopting these Core standards, which will replace the MSA and HSA. Expect several transitional years of straddling both systems. New assessments are expected in 2014 and 2015.

On 11/9/2011, the new MCPS Superintendent, Josh Starr, will hold a Town Hall with QOHS students.

QOHS is on Twitter, which provides real-time updates regarding QOHS events and other information.

Special Presentations and Activities

Navigating Edline: A tour was presented of an Edline site to share all the types of information available on-line, in addition to grades.

ACT/SAT Prep and Tutoring: Representatives from three ACT/SAT and/or tutoring services companies made presentations. They each provided free services that were won by raffle. The companies represented were: E-Prep/"Learning Essentials", Peer-to-Peer Tutoring, and Revolution Prep.