

## **CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019 6:30 PM, CHS Media Center**

Welcome:

Guest Speakers:

The President, Shiva Sobhani, welcomed 64 parents and students, and introduced our speakers at 6:40 PM. Jodi Gershoni (College Unlimited) and Amy Kosoff Smih (Power Hour Editing) shared inside tips on how to navigate the college prep/search and essay process. Jodi Gershoni is an independent educational consultant based in the Washington D.C, metropolitan area and Founder of College Unlimited, a leader in higher educational consulting. Jodi advises high school students through the college search, application, and admissions process. Her mission is to help students and families create a smarter path for academic and career success. Jodi is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and is an active member in three higher education associations: NACAC, IECA, and HECA. Amy Smith owns Power Hour Editing and is a writing coach who helps students tell a compelling story to stand out in the competitive admissions process while amplifying their own unique voice. She graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism where her article on offbeat tactics students used to catch the eye of admissions officers won first place in the William Randolph Hearst "Pulitzers of college journalism" contest. Amy has been featured on The Today Show, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and in several books. More information can be found at: [www.PowerHourEditing.com](http://www.PowerHourEditing.com) and [www.MyCollegeUnlimited.com](http://www.MyCollegeUnlimited.com)

The President called the regular meeting of the CHS-PTSA Members to order at 8:07 pm. and welcomed all new and returning members. 11 members stayed for the business meeting and achieved quorum - their names are starred on the attached sign-in sheet (which includes other names of those that were present just for the speakers)

The agenda for tonight and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (motions by Karen Ward) and are posted on the CHS website, Parent page PTSA section.

### REPORTS:

Executive Board Reports:

President's Report -The President, Shiva reported:

- Membership Report - There are currently 304 PTSA members, 61 staff, 63 students, and 180 parents. We need members' help in reaching our goal of 500 members – and Seniors especially are encouraged to join and be eligible for our PTSA Scholarships. Membership form is located online.
- Since the last meeting, members of the Board completed a Restorative Justice Circle. They have also been invited to a training with MDPTA in April or May, whichever date they can attend. The Board has yet to receive the financial books back, as the MDPTA Treasurer had a family emergency.
- Ms. Cao, CHS Resource Counselor, requested support for the Junior class who will be taking the SAT during school on 4/9. She shared that the counselors are making it a full

day for the Juniors and would like to offer snacks after the SAT, then discuss college planning, the essay process, and looking ahead to senior year. Christie Worthman made a motion that the PTSA contribute \$250. It passed unanimously.

- Post Prom is set for Friday, April 26 at CHS. More information will be shared as the committee continues to finalize plans. Many volunteers will be needed that night
- Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10. Staff appreciation will be planning a luncheon. More information will be shared soon
- The Boundary Study and first round of options was discussed. Some local elementary school PTA's and HOA's are meeting and planning to submit position papers. It was discussed that at the high school level it is quite difficult to speak to any of the options and not isolate part of our CHS community. Christie Worthman made a motion that the CHS PTSA not submit a position paper. It unanimously passed. Everyone is encouraged to write to the BOE/Superintendent and complete the survey by 3/31 to have their voices heard, and help ensure the need to reduce the population at CHS.

Treasurer Report - The Treasurer, Ms. Denise Ratcliff Sackey was not able to distribute a report because the books have not been returned from MDPTA yet. She verbally reported that membership continued to increase and the current funds were approaching \$17,000. The President reported that community donations were also starting to come in for Post Prom.

MCCPTA Report- Our delegate, Arpita Ramkaran, stated that the Delegate's Assembly is next week and all are invited. A thorough report from last month is on our Parents web page from Zoe Tishaev, under MCCPTA notes.

NAACP Report-

- Our NAACP Rep was not present but emailed a report to the President encouraging members to go and meet the BOE on 3/27 at 6:30 at the Carver Building. Game Changers is hosting a male conference on Saturday, 3/23, theme: THE URGENCY IS NOW to help save our sons, at the Universities at Shady Grove 9-3.

Principal's Report - Mr. Owusu reported that 4/9 will be a delayed start day since the Juniors will be taking the SAT in the morning. Freshman, sophomore, and seniors will only attend periods 6,7,8 that afternoon. Anyone not taking the SAT who comes to school that morning will have SSL opportunities in the cafeteria, and 5 teachers are offering mock AP tests as well. More information will be shared soon. Graduation is set for Monday, 6/3 at St. Mary's. Mr. Owusu explained the Xfinity Center is only reserved for the top 5 biggest high schools in MCPS and we are not in the top 5. This may be our last year that is true. The only other options are graduation at CHS, DAR which would limit us to 2 guaranteed tickets per graduate, or St. Mary's which allows for 5 tickets per graduate this year. A lottery system will be announced at the Senior parent night in May for additional tickets, and of course parents are encouraged to share those tickets they do not need. He also shared they are hiring more staff, and had a job fair just today. We may get more portables next year, and they would take up the basketball courts in the front most likely. He is also very thankful for the community coming together and the \$10,000 from WTOP, and of course extremely proud of Mr. Bassett who received the Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Teaching Award for high school

New Business:

A question was asked about the nominating committee and plans for next year. The President shared that following the general membership meeting the Board was meeting to elect the nominating committee and other committee chairs, and also to discuss scholarship information.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Submitted by Shiva Sobhani, President

**CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2019 6:30 PM, CHS Media Center**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The President called the regular meeting of the CHS-PTSA Members to order at 6:34 pm on Tuesday, February 19th and welcomed all new and returning members.

Those in attendance achieved a quorum. The number of attendees that signed in was 20 and are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

The agenda for tonight and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (motions by Zoe Tishaev) and are posted on the CHS website, Parent page PTSA section.

REPORTS:

Executive Board Reports:

President's Report -The President, Ms. Shiva reported

- Membership Report - There are currently 300 PTSA members, 61 staff, 62 students, and 177 parents. We need members' help in reaching our goal of 500 members – so please help us get the word out. Membership form is located online.
- The PTSA was reinstated to Active Status on 1/23/19. MDPTA has not conducted any training or meeting with the board yet. There was a conference call with two board members on 2/8/18. The Board has yet to receive the financial books back, although it was stated on the conference call that they would get our financial books back to us very soon. The board is conducting a Restorative Justice Circle that is completely voluntarily and conducted by MCPS, but due to snow days and delays and scheduling conflicts has not yet been completed.
- Boosters and OOMPAH were thanked for continuing the annual PTSA tradition of Staff Holiday Treats in December
- Boundary Study was briefly highlighted - how PTA's are no longer part of the committee but can submit position papers and emails directly to the Superintendent and BOE. There was no formal vote but the membership was asked if they'd like to create a committee or meet to draft a position paper as a PTSA as was done in the past. Several concerns were raised, how with a HS boundary study it would be difficult to have representation of all

communities affected, however it was also discussed that as a CHS community and a PTSA advocating for our school, that it would be important to take a position or at least comment on how each option would affect our community. The consensus was to wait for the options to be released on 3/11/19, then an email will be sent to the community and any interested parents will be invited to a separate meeting because the discussion is too robust for a PTSA meeting.

Treasurer Report - The Treasurer, Ms. Denise Ratcliff Sackey was not able to distribute a report because the books have not been returned from MDPTA yet. The president verbally reported that membership continued to increase during the inactive status and the current funds were over \$16,000.

MCCPTA Report- Our delegate, Arpita Ramkaran, stated that the past few Delegate's meetings were not attended due to the inactive status of the PTSA. She did share that the boundary study has been much of the discussion. Our student member, Zoe Tishaev, shared that she has been acting secretary at the Delegate's Assembly meetings and shared that roadside safety, Vision Zero, and parents driving with their students has been a topic of discussion. Election season is also coming up, and if anyone is interested in being a Cluster Coordinator or serving on MCCPTA's board to please visit their website as nominations are due soon. Our cluster coordinator, Teddy Wu, will not be continuing next year as he will focus on the new elementary school opening in Clarksburg Village. Wendy Davis is still undecided, and there is currently one opening already. Delegate's Assembly is next week and all are invited. To learn more about MCCPTA, please visit [www.mccpta.org](http://www.mccpta.org)

NAACP Report-

- Our NAACP Rep was not present but last month's meeting was cancelled due to snow. HBCU College Fairs are coming up and listed on our website and Ms. Somerville's website. The Parents Council Meeting is also next week for February.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Erin Berman, a Clinical Psychologist at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland presented "Coping Strategies for Anxious Kids, What Parents Need to Know". She discussed how to identify an anxious child, how to change anxious thinking, the science and biological roots of anxiety in children, how computer technology is transforming the understanding of anxiety, and current treatment options (medications & CBT: cognitive behavioral therapy). Key Notes are below:

- Thorough evaluation & Participation in studies at NIMH provided free of charge. Travel reimbursement available. To participate please call 301-402-8225 OR 301-496-6642
- Children Ages 8-17
- Participation Includes:
  - Medical evaluations
  - Psychotherapy (CBT) or medication (Outpatient visits over 12 weeks)
- Participants must:
  - Be medically healthy
  - Must not be taking any psychiatric medications

RESOURCES:

- <http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov>
- [www.abct.org](http://www.abct.org) (therapists)
- <http://www.aboutourkids.org/families>
- Taking Charge of ADHD: The Complete Authoritative Guide for Parents, by Russell A. Barkley, Ph.D. (1995)
- [Adaa.org](http://Adaa.org)
- <http://www.worrywisekids.org/>
- APA.org
- [http://copingcatparents.com/Information\\_Resources](http://copingcatparents.com/Information_Resources)
- Helping Your Anxious Child: A Step-By-Step Guide for Parents Written by [Sue Spence](#) , [Vanessa Cobham](#), [Ann Wignall](#), [Ronald M. Rapee](#)
- ~ [anxietycanada.com](http://anxietycanada.com) and the book, Freeing Your Child from Anxiety by Tamar Chansky are also excellent resources

Clarification and questions from parents: Students with ADHD, autism, etc. are often ineligible to participate in such studies but anyone can call the above numbers to inquire about their student. Anxiety is often associated with other diagnoses. Anxiety from technology and social media is certainly rising, even with apps like MyMCPS and constant monitoring of grades. Even the newest active shooter drills cause anxiety, but Dr. Berman encourages seeking help and calling and participating in the study. Speaking to our students, especially about the importance of sleep, social media, many things can help educate our community about anxiety. Anyone who would like a copy of her slideshow or more information can contact the our PTSA President.

Principal's Report - Mr. Owusu reported on our current student population, explaining how the number of freshman is actually inflated because "sophomores" may not have met their requirements to be considered sophomores and fall into the numbers for freshman. Grading timelines for staff and posting grades online, testing days and scheduling by departments to help balance student's workload, suspension trends, eligibility and honor roll, and beach week and Prom and post prom safety tips.

<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/police/senior-week-safety-tips>

-The President added that she had emailed Corporal Caplan weeks ago about presenting to our students and parents but has not heard back. She will follow-up with their Public Affairs office. A parent also shared that her family instead of beach week planned a beach week with a group of friends and their parents as an alternative.

The Principal also shared that because of the snow day tomorrow, school has already been extended to June 14th and will likely be in session June 5th now. Graduation is not definite yet, but likely June 3. Vaping is still an issue, but **CHILL** is in full effect: **C**alm down, **H**ear staff and students, **I**dentify needs, **L**earn from it, **LET IT GO!**

New Business:

Reviewed calendar and upcoming events on Parents Page of CHS website

Will email PTSA parents and those who signed up for committees, reminding of all these links on PTSA Parents page as well

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by Shiva Sobhani, President

## **CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 16, 2018 6:30 PM, CHS Media Center**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The President called the regular meeting of the CHS-PTSA Members to order at 6:33 pm on Tuesday, October 16th and welcomed all new and returning members.

Those in attendance achieved a quorum. The number of attendees that signed in was 23 and are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

The agenda for tonight and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (motions by Zoe Tishaev and Denise Ratcliff Sackey) and are posted on the CHS website, Parent page PTSA section.

### REPORTS:

Executive Board Reports:

President's Report -The President, Ms. Shiva reported

- Membership Report - There are currently 283 PTSA members, 59 staff, 60 students, and 173 parents. We need members' help in reaching our goal of 500 members – so please help us get the word out. Membership form is located online.
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Cluster Night and Carnival Games before the home football game. A motion was made by Karen Ward that the PTSA give \$100 to share the costs with OOMPAH and Boosters to feed the middle school band kids who are playing with the CHS marching band that night. Motion passed. There was also a request that Kids Give More have a table that night promoting there basketball event at CHS on 11/20 where a portion of ticket sales and all profits from concessions would go to the PTSA. There were no objections.

Treasurer Report - The Treasurer, Ms. Denise Ratcliff Sackey was not able to distribute a report because the books have not been turned over to her yet. The president verbally reported that totals for membership and donations were close to \$5000, staff appreciation donations were \$450, \$564 was reimbursed to us by MCPS for the door magnets, approximately \$750 was

spent for MDPTA training over the summer, and there was about \$200 in staff appreciation expenses for the welcome lunch in August.

MCCPTA Report- Delegate's Assembly is next week and all are invited. To learn more about MCCPTA, please visit [www.mccpta.org](http://www.mccpta.org)

NAACP Report-

- NAACP Kick Off Meeting and break out sessions are on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Richard Montgomery High School.

Guest Speakers:

Speak Up Save a Life, Steve Chaikin from the State's Attorney's office moderated. A slide show plus presentations from a police officer, parent from MCPS who lost a child, a young person in recovery, a contractor with HHS, and others shared about the opioid crisis and resources available to our students. The State's Attorney office offered CHS a \$500 donation to continue the work of awareness around the Opioid Crisis.

Suggestion from a parent: To partner with local churches and provide more programming and support for our students. Mr. Owusu responded that there are guidelines for schools working with church groups, but that he's open to any ideas and input.

Principal's Report - Mr. Owusu reported on our current student population, grading timelines for staff, testing days and scheduling by departments to help balance students workload, suspension trends, AP and ACT testing summary report, and the SAT school day at CHS in the spring.

New Business:

A motion was made by Denise Sackey Ratcliff to support MSP Hispanic Heritage Month potluck at the end of the month with \$100. Motion passed.

10/24 Naviance Demo

10/26 Cluster Night

10/27 Mental Health Fair at Julius West MS

10/27 Safely dispose of any old medicine - drop off at police station

11/8 Our Cluster Coordinator, Ted Wu, testifies in front of the Board of Ed with top needs/priorities for our schools and cluster

11/20 Harlem Wizards - community event sponsored by Kids Give More at CHS

11/26 Meet the Coaches

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Submitted by Shiva Sobhani, President

**CLARKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 18, 2018 6:30 PM, CHS Media Center**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The President, Ms. Shiva Sobhani called the regular meeting of the CHS-PTSA Members to order at 6:31 pm on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and welcomed all new and returning members.

Those in attendance achieved a quorum. The number of attendees was 35 and are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (motions by Tony Gutierrez and Christie Worthman) and are posted on the CHS website, Parent page PTSA section.

REPORTS:

Executive Board Reports:

President's Report -The President, Ms. Shiva reported

- Membership Report - The President reported that there are currently 250 PTSA members and our goal is to get to 500 members. We need members' help in reaching our goal of 500 members – so please help us get the word out. Membership form is located online.
- Calendar – see the PTSA web page for upcoming events and dates
- Committees - please see the sign up genius on the web page or the sign up sheets out tonight
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Cluster Night and Carnival Games before the home football game

Treasurer Report - The Treasurer, Ms. Denise Ratcliff Sackey distributed the report of the CHS-PTSA categorical monthly budget. Members reviewed the budget, and there were no questions asked. Motion to approve the budget by Jason Sackey. Budget was approved. The president also reported that insurance for this year has been paid.

Election of MCCPTA Delegate - Ms. Norine James gave an overview of the role of a MCCPTA Delegate and responsibilities. MCCPTA mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

To learn more about the MCCPTA, please visit us at [www.mccpta.org](http://www.mccpta.org)

The President reported that we have three candidates for a second MCCPTA delegate. The membership was informed that anyone can nominate themselves from the floor. One candidate was present and was asked to tell a little about herself, the President shared about the other two candidates. The president then asked if anyone wanted to nominate themselves from the floor and we received one additional nomination.. Members were asked to for one of the four candidates. After a tie and re-vote, Arpita Ramkaran was elected as our second MCCPTA delegate.

The President introduced our new PTSA Secretary, Sandra Johnson.

NAACP Report– India Whitehead reported the following dates:

- September 20, 2018--Next Parents' Council Meeting "Pairing Up With Our Partners," CESC, [850 Hungerford Drive](#), 6:30 PM, Rockville, MD.
- Sept. 26, 2018--Board of Education Candidates Forum, CESC, [850 Hungerford Drive](#), 7:00 PM
- NAACP Kick Off Meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Richard Montgomery High School
- College Fair coming up in Summerville on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Offsite Meeting October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Education building.

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Lindsay Cao, CHS Resource Counselor presented about Restorative Justice, becoming a RAMP school, and other initiatives in our counseling department.

Principal's Report - Mr. Edward Owusu reported that the date for CHS Class of 2019 Commencement Ceremony is still undecided. A full report of the upcoming events and dates is found on the school website, as well as clubs and morning announcements. Also, he thanked the PTSA for their support on safety and security of the school and that the money they gave to install cameras on the portables has not been used because MCPS changed the vendor. Also, he informed about the door magnets that did not work with the school doors, but there is a work order to still have them installed. Mr. Mike Smith, AP, presented a thorough report on safety initiatives and protocols in the school. Mr. Owusu reminded everyone of the "See Something Say Something" app.

New Business:

No new business was presented.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Denise Ratcliff Sackey, Treasurer