

February 2009 PTSA Meeting

The February meeting was called to order at 9:45. In attendance were: Colleen Joyce, Lauri Harder, Kim Breda, Mary Pat Cieri, Diane Corcoran, Candy Wood, Peggy Palmer, Laurie Bruhin, Jill DeSalva, Lisa Weggeman, Julie Gorman, and Pam Robey. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorrان, Ms. Gina Pin, Ms. Catherine Correa and Ms. Anne Kipp.

PRESENTATION

Colleen Joyce introduced our guests from Student Council; Charlotte Laffler, Hailey Murphy and Sr. Class Advisor Ms. Staley. The three spoke to the PTSA about the main objectives of Student Council at Barlow, as well as how to get elected and some of the events they run. We also discussed Class Council and the difference between the two groups.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. McMorrان gave us a handout titled: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships and Master Schedules. He would like to start a constructive dialog about the high school master schedule to be sure we are using our time as wisely as possible. We may move X-Period to the middle of the day, we may make some classes a double period to be able to cover the subject in more depth.

Ms. Kipp also had an info sheet and asked the group to provide feedback and observation on a list of tasks that were brought up in our NEASC Report that took place 5 years ago. She went over each topic with the PTSA and is looking for input. The report is due in March but suggestions are welcome at any time.

MINUTES

The January 2009 minutes were read and approved. (Cieri/Wood)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Pat paid out 2 mini grant requests as well as money for Lynn Eichhorn. We got some interest on the account and we are in good shape.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Colleen Joyce brought up the topic of voting. We need to work on setting up a voting committee now. Jenn Wastrom has volunteered to compile a list of the things that JBHS is already doing so we can better promote the support of this budget.

The PTSA is not allowed to say how to vote. The PTSA is not allowed to tell people to put out signs. We can't spend more than \$1000 for any referendum. We will set aside \$500 for the vote. We should buy the signs now.

Mr. McMorran said the budget will be extremely low but folks always want it lower so we need positive voices saying how important education is to us. The vote is Tuesday, May 5th

March 14th Troupe de Jour will perform at JBHS and the proceeds will go to Mr. Berault as well as the proceeds from the Yale Alley Cat Performance in April.

Day on the Hill in Hartford for the PTSA is March 4th. Colleen will be going and is happy to take any students or parents that may want to join her.

Feb 12th at 9:00 AM there will be a calendar committee meeting at the Central Office in Easton to discuss the Feb. break change.

Colleen talked about a parent survey asking the question, "What do you (parents) want from the PTSA?" Perhaps we can get more support if we are able to determine what is wanted. She would like a volunteer to take on this task.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF ED

No one attended the last meeting.

REFLECTIONS

Winners are listed in the Focus.

POST PROM

Committee had their first meeting. Theme will be 20,000 Leagues under Barlow. They have a few great ideas they are working on: Yellow Submarine, Jaws, Surf Machine. They would like the students to be more involved. Usually about 400 go to the Prom and about 400 go to the Post Prom.

FOOD COMMITTEE

Several people responded to the survey with good input.

PTSA FOCUS

Diane would like to get the next newsletter out in March. Her deadline will be mid-March. She would like a write up on the Film Festival.

NEW BUSINESS

Film on Lyme disease "Under our Skin" is being shown at Mark Twain Library on Sunday, March 15th at 2PM. The film is 105 minutes long and not for kids.

Diane suggested we invite middle school parents to our last PTSA meeting.

Colleen reminded us that we should think about positions for next year.

An evening PTSA meeting time and date is not set up yet.

OLD BUSINESS

Colleen is still in the process of setting up a panel of college students to share their experiences. The group discussed different categories and will now look at May for a possible date.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10. (Wood/Gorman) The next meeting will be March 10, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder
Recording Secretary