

March 2009 PTSA Meeting

The March meeting was called to order at 9:35. In attendance were: Colleen Joyce, Lauri Harder, Kim Breda, Mary Pat Cieri, Diane Corcoran, Peggy Palmer, Jill DeSalva, Lisa Weggeman, Julie Gorman, Wanda Augustyn, Bernadette Waterman, Alice Smith, Sheryl Frier, Cornelia Hurwitz, Pat Berry, Pam Robey, Jean Tompkins, and Phyllis Wasko. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorran, Ms. Gina Pin, and Mr. Michael Santangeli.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Santangeli was our speaker this month and had some fantastic school spirit ideas. He went over what JBHS has done this past year and what we can do in the future and he then answered questions from the group.

The second presentation was given by ELF (Easton Learning Foundation). They are sponsoring two fundraisers. Sports Night on March 28th at Sports Center of CT in Shelton and the First Annual Trivia Bee on May 14th at Staples Elementary School.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. McMorran spoke about the upcoming vote. Last year we started at 5% over and it was passed at 4.27%. This year we will start at 3.37% which is literally bare bones. Of the 26 line items on the budget, 11 are reduced. The only addition is adding 1 day per week for the substance abuse counselor. If we must cut from this budget it will most likely be core classes and the number of teachers and we would "no longer have the school we have today." We especially need to get the word out to Elementary and Middle School parents. We have 971 students this year and should have the exact same number next year with the exception of a few transfers from private schools. We also discussed the structure and cost of special education at JBHS.

Mr. McMorran additionally went over two handouts; "The CT State Dept. of Ed 2007 per pupil expenditures" and "The Proposed Operating Budget 2009-2010."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Pat wrote a check for the Focus and told us to see Lisa Davey for Caraluzzi's gift cards. The JBHS PTSA gets \$5 for each \$100.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Colleen Joyce spoke about the upcoming vote and getting signs in place. We have a phrase, "Our towns, our schools." She also stressed the importance of understanding the costs involved and urged everyone to attend the Board of Ed. meeting on Thursday and also 3-17 at 7:30 at JBHS. The format is a workshop with public comment.

March 14th Troupe de Jour will perform at JBHS and the proceeds will go to Mr. Breault.

Special thanks to Jean Tompkins for going to the calendar committee meetings.

Colleen sent around a draft of the Parent Survey and asked for suggestions. Pam Robey suggested we change the rating system 5-1 to 1-5 or maybe just 1-3 (3 is excellent).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTS FOUNDATION

Yale Alley Cat Performance/Workshop: April 24th

MINI GRANTS

Waiting on Dr. Nuzzo to get more information about the garden.

REFLECTIONS

Winners have been announced in the Focus.

POST PROM

Wanda Augustyn gave us an update. The theme will be 20,000 Leagues under Barlow. They are now working on contributions and raffle prizes and meeting with students to get ideas. They will put the waivers on the JBHS website this year.

FOOD COMMITTEE

Colleen reported that the request was completed and 5 companies have responded. The deadline is 3-12.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE

Jean Tompkins reported that the calendar for the next 3 years was voted on. Holidays will be the same. We will start the school year before Labor Day. Thanksgiving will be Wed. minimum day and Thursday and Friday off. Winter break will begin Dec. 24th (23rd no longer a minimum day). February break will go back to a full week. April break will also be a full week. Calendar will not include snow days. Columbus Day will continue to be a holiday. Veteran's Day will now be in session and we will do curriculum around it.

NEW BUSINESS

PTSA email list was discussed. Questions were raised concerning what is permitted, what service we want to provide, what we want put on it? We agreed that the email must directly benefit only the Barlow community. It should not be used to advertise.

PTSA Volunteer list was also discussed. The requests for donations need to be specifically directed.

JBHS Scholarships for seniors is not transparent, more information will be sent out on ListServ. They are also seeking contributions.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

We agreed that there would not be enough turn out to hold an evening PTSA meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20. (Palmer/Smith) The next meeting will be April 21, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder
Recording Secretary