

February 2011 PTSA Meeting

The February meeting was called to order at 9:25 by Jen Wastrom. In attendance were: Karen Rooney, Melissa Coppock, Susan Selleck, Susan Kaster, Melanie Glueck-Schloss, Kate Freeman, Greg Frierson, Alice Smith, Mary Bottero, Corrine Van Dorp, Marlene Tate-Tower, Carrie Kulawitz, Heidi Armster, Maria Shapiro, Liz Pelzar, Mary Dale Lancaster, Madi Leshi, Beth Sarnelli, Kerin Grall, Kim Breda, Karen Dolan, Mary Pat Cieri, Rowena Powers, Kim Ryan, Sheila Corr, Arlene Darrow, Jen Wastrom, Mary Ellen O'Leary, Lauri Harder, Anne Andrews, Jean B. Tompkins, Margot Abrams, Pam Robey, Janine Johnson, Candy Wood, Wendy Malcy, Alyssa Merrz, Maureen Marini, Laurie Bruhin, Suzanne Dow, Debbie Frank, Casey Levene, Joan Winter, Claire Ann Meskers, Liz Mahoney, and Carmela Kaufman. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorran, and Ms. Mary Ann Sheehy.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

TREASURER: Budget sheets are available in the back of the room.

PRESIDENT: Jen gave us an update on our first ever Non-event Fundraiser which has brought in over \$2,000. We will be doing something similar next year. Jen reminded the group about the upcoming showing of the documentary called "Race to Nowhere" which will be shown at JBHS on Feb. 10th at 7PM. You may purchase tickets online at rtnjoelbarlowhs.eventbrite.com for \$10 in advance. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$15. Please join us.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. McMorran said that the three Board of Education's met last night at JRMS and voted to change our upcoming schedule. All three Boards agreed to turn the Tuesday through Friday of February break back into school days. Vacation questions will be taken through ListServe. CAPT, CMT and AP dates will all stay the same.

Mr. McMorran also gave a short report about the importance of our students to make themselves as involved at Barlow as they can be. We have our Activity period in the middle of the day with over 57 clubs as well as elective clubs and sports programs. He gave the group a handout that illustrated the importance of this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts Foundation - Phyllis Wasko: No report

Beautification Committee - Cheryl Frier: No report

Caring Committee: Jean B Tompkins said that a meal plan has been set up for the Smuniewski family and there is a flying in the back of the room for anyone interested in signing up to contribute.

Focus Newsletter: Jen Wastrom for Lisa DeVoto said that the Focus is now online. another fabulous newsletter.

Hospitality-Open House: Peggy Palmer. No report

Membership/Buzz Book: Joey Davey, Sharon Gianicchi, Laurie Stone. No report

Mini Grants: Reghan Diaz: No report

Post Prom: Candy Wood McAdam said they had their first meeting and the actual date of the prom may change. The theme is Hollywood Movie Nights and each room will be decorated to a different movie theme. She encouraged everyone to get involved and please contact her if you are interested. .

PTA Council: Kim Breda reported that she looks forward to seeing anyone interested this Wednesday afternoon for our PTA Council Lunch Meeting at Barlow.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Cichetti will be meeting with us. Please let me know if you will be attending, so that I have a count for lunch. (by 3 pm tomorrow, Tuesday, would be helpful) Thanks so much!

PTSA Listserve: Anne Andrews. No report

Publicity: Jen Wastrom. No report

Reflections: Claire-Ann Meskers said that Reflections is officially closed. We sent three 1st place winners onto the state level in the categories of photography, literature and musical composition. We hope they go onto the national level. The judges were very impressed with our other entries as well. She had a lot of entries this year and wanted to remind everyone that the paperwork must be done properly for her to be able to submit the entry. .

Senior Luncheon: Peggy Palmer and Kim Ryan. No report

Staff Appreciation Luncheons: Steph Belleveau and Candy Wood McAdam: Candy said thanks to all who contributed. Jen said it was a fabulous luncheon for our teachers.

Transition Advisory Committee: Colleen Joyce. No report

Volunteer Coordinator: Arlene Darrow and Joan Winter. No report

NEW BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM: Author Roni Cohen Sandler on Taming Your Stressed -Out Teen: Jen introduced Roni and gave us some info on her background:

Dr. Cohen-Sandler has been a parenting expert on national media such as *The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS News,* and National Public Radio. She is frequently interviewed for publications including *Newsweek, The New York Times, USA Today, The Chicago Tribune, The Boston Globe, USA Weekend magazine, Marie Claire, Better Homes and Gardens, YM, Parenting, Teen People, Family Circle, Teen Vogue, Redbook, Glamour,* and *Newsday*. Dr. Cohen-Sandler is a Contributing Editor to *Girls' Life*, the national magazine for girls, and writes a parenting column for *Weston Magazine*.

Dr. Cohen-Sandler has been an invited guest lecturer and panel moderator for Harvard Medical School, Duke University Health Centers, Northwestern University, NYU, and the University of Chicago, as well as numerous public and independent middle and high schools including The Hockaday School, Georgetown Day School, Baldwin School, The Ellis School, The Ethel Walker School, and the Berkeley Carroll School.

Dr. Cohen-Sandler's most recent book, Stressed-out Girls: Helping Them Thrive in the Age of Pressure, which is based on interviews and surveys of 3,000 middle school and high school students, has been striking a chord with teenage girls as well as their parents and teachers across the country. Her first book, I'm Not Mad, I Just Hate You! A New Understanding of

Mother-Daughter Conflict, was a national bestseller that has also been published in England, New Zealand, Australia, China, Greece, Poland, and Japan

Roni gave the group an outline titled "**Stressed-Out Teens: Helping them Thrive in the Age of Pressure**" and went over several key points including facts about the skyrocketing stress of today's teens, the sources of stress, how stress harms teens as well as the do's and don'ts for parents. She guided us through seven well intentioned parental comments that usually backfire and some powerful parental strategies to try now to reduce stress and build resiliency. She then took questions from the audience and gave out her contact information for anyone who wanted to follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th. The program will be The College Process Unplugged: Some Candid Moms' Perspectives on That Daunting Journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder
Recording Secretary