

January 2011 PTSA Meeting

The January meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Jen Wastrom. In attendance were: Sheila Corr, Arlene Darrow, Jen Wastrom, Mary Ellen O'Leary, Lauri Harder, Peggy Palmer, Anne Andrews, Jean B. Tompkins, Margot Abrams, Pam Robey, Janine Johnson, Candy Wood, Wendy Malcy, Alyssa Merrz, Melanie Glueck-Schloss, Maureen Marini, Alison Gurley, Laurie Bruhin, Leigh Hardesty, Suzanne Dow, Carrie Kulawitz, Debbie Frank, Mary Jane Guffey, Liz Spears, Casey Levene, Alissa Dolcimascolo, Amy McKeon, Bridgette Murphy, Andrea Pritchard, Priscilla Twombly, Joan Winter, Claire Ann Meskers, Liz Mahoney, and Hollis Barickman. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorrان, Ms. Paula Panos, Dr. Catherine Nuzzo, Ms. Julie McTague, & Ms. Christina Rao.

The December 2010 minutes were approved. (Corr/Andrews)

OFFICERS REPORTS:

TREASURER: Mary Ellen O'Leary said December was a quiet month. Budget sheets are available in the back of the room.

PRESIDENT: Jen spoke about the very tragic loss to the Joel Barlow community on Saturday. The students at JBHS have treated the death of their classmate Robert Smuniewski with "enthusiastic respect" and we should be so proud of their behavior. Jen reported on a "grassroots sensation and hard-hitting education 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. Hundreds of theaters, schools and organizations nationwide are hosting community screenings during a six month campaign to screen the film nationwide. Jen also gave an update on the 1st Annual Non-Event Fundraiser which was sent to every Barlow family. So far we have raised \$2000 and you may still make a donation. Info is on the back table. Thanks to all those who have already donated!

SECRETARY: Lauri Harder said you could find the minutes of the last PTSA meeting on the Barlow website and a few copies are available on the back table.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. McMorrان wanted to extend his thanks as yesterday was a "terrible but valuable day for this community. Everyone has a Rob story as it seems he was the unofficial mayor of the student body." Thank you to Jean and the PTSA Caring Committee.

FACULTY REPORT: "Staff Picks of Favorite Electives"

Ms. Julie McTague spoke about Technology Electives and said we are in the early stages of the program but she is confident with what we have to offer at this point. There are many different choices including a class to take apart a computer and keyboard, Gateway to Technology, Principals of Engineering, looking at robotics, and 3-D Imaging. She is open to listening to students to see what they are interested in learning.

Dr. Catherine Nuzzo spoke for the science department and has been running Scientific Research for 5 years after school. About 3-4 students make it to the State College

Science Fair. Next year they will be offering it as an elective and want to continue in the junior and senior year. The science department hopes to have a Science Lab similar to the Academic Lab we have now, which would enable some students to work independently. In senior year we hope to make it a part of the Senior Experience.

Ms. Christine Rao spoke about the JBHS Business Electives. She had a brochure that described the three business courses offered as well as the two computer applications courses. She explained that these courses are designed to help our students develop the skills necessary to work in today's global society. She is happy to discuss these classes with anyone who may be interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts Foundation - Phyllis Wasko: No report

Beautification Committee - Cheryl Frier: No report

Caring Committee: Jean B Tompkins: As our first year we have been utilized several times and Jean has seen the kindness really come out from such beautiful people who have offered to help. The Caring Committee will set up and cater on Friday for the funeral reception for Robert Smuniewski which will be held at the Easton Community Center at 364 Sport Hill Road from 12:30-2:30. If anyone is interested in contributing food for the reception there is a sign up on the back table. More information will follow on the PTSA Listserve.

Also the Caring committee has received a fabulous donation for general use in the future. The Caring Committee (the "Committee") regularly reports its activities and, from time to time, requests assistance from PTSA volunteers to implement the purposes of the Committee. In response to one such request, the Committee has received an offer of a monetary donation to carry out any or all of the Committee's intended purposes, whether general or specific. With respect to this particular donation and in anticipation of additional such donations in the future (individually and collectively, the "donations"), it is RESOLVED, that the President and Treasurer of the Joel Barlow High School PTSA, upon consultation with the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Caring Committee, be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to deposit all such donations in the PTSA bank account, to allocate the donations to the Caring Committee line item in the budget, and to use the donations to carry out any or all of the intended purposes of the Committee. **Motion Passed** (1st Palmer/2nd Levine)

Focus Newsletter: Jen Wastrom for Lisa DeVoto. Next Focus will be finished by the end of the week.

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 will be starting meetings after finals and would welcome anyone interested in being on the committee.

PTA Council: Jen Wastrom for Kim Breda reported that the next meeting will be February 9th, with guest Dr. Michael Cicchetti speaking.

PTSA Listserve: Anne Andrews said she will most likely be sending one later today with updates from this meeting.

Publicity: Jen Wastrom. No report

Reflections: Claire-Ann Meskers has collected entries and has received twice as many this year as last. They will be going to the state by the end of the month.

Senior Luncheon: Peggy Palmer and Kim Ryan. No report

Staff Appreciation Luncheons: Steph Belleveau and Candy Wood McAdam: Candy said they are still on for January 20th unless they get a snow interruption. They are using a different vendor this year which is the Georgetown Saloon as that is the parent of a senior at JBHS. Invitations have gone out and she could still use some volunteers for a few shifts as well as to provide desserts.

Transition Advisory Committee: Colleen Joyce. No report

Volunteer Coordinator: Arlene Darrow and Joan Winter. No report

NEW BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM: Vanessa Marks from Revolution Prep "College Admissions Testing: What You Need to Know" Vanessa presented the group with a slide show that began by asking for the three most important things colleges consider: 1). Grades 2).

Applications 3). Standardized Test Scores. Students spend about 8,000 hours doing those 3 things and about 1,000 hours on extracurricular activities and only about 10 hours preparing for the SAT's. Vanessa explained the differences between the PSAT, SAT and ACT and what each test includes. Each test is different in length, subject matter, question type (essay vs. multiple choice), the guessing penalty and question order. Vanessa went over the difference between "reasoning" based and content - based questions as well as the biggest challenge on each test. Many questions were asked and answered and Vanessa explained that "Revolution Prep has spent years perfecting a unique set of learning strategies based on the latest research and technology. These strategies have been proven to not only help our students achieve higher scores on the SAT test, but also make them better learners by providing them with academic skills they can use in high school, college, and beyond."

The meeting adjourned at 11:10. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 8th. The Program will be Author Roni Cohen Sandler on Taming Your Stressed-Out Teen.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder
Recording Secretary