

## October 2009 PTSA Meeting

The October meeting was called to order at 9:35. Kim Breda welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. In attendance were: Jean M. Tompkins, Lauri Harder, Kim Breda, Diane Corcoran, Julie Gorman, Lisa Devoto, Kathleen Joyce-Kirk, Candy Wood, Anne Andrews, Jean Tompkins, Claire-Anne Meskers, Melanie Glueck-Schloss, Pat Smith, Susan Marshall, Lauren Ambler, Rowena Powers, Lea Michos, Cynthia Cumiskey, Margot Abrams, Joan Winter, Paula Schwear, Karla Knight, Julie Creighton, Alice Smith, Sheila Corr, Suzanne Kramer, Lisa DeVoto, Colleen Joyce and Reghan Diaz. From the Board of Ed: Julia Pemberton and Cathy Gombos. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorran, Dr. Nuzzo, Mr. Henry DelAngelo, Ms. Paula Panos, Ms. Anne Kipp, Ms. Mary Ann Sheehey, and Mr. Paul Hamlin.

Margaret Egan briefly discussed the Academic Center and requested more parent volunteers.

### PRESENTATIONS

Mr. DelAngelo and Mr. Hamlin from the guidance office were this month's speakers and addressed the issues of "College Preparation Through the 4 Years of High School." Mr. DelAngelo gave the group several handouts:

"What Kind of Helicopter Parent Are You?"

"Speak the Language: College Admissions"

"Top 10 Strengths & Experiences Colleges look for in High School Students"

"Signing into Family Connection".

Mr. Hamlin gave a slide presentation titled "Keeping it Real-developing an informal approach to college preparation." He also went over Joel Barlow's web resources and through the JBHS guidance website. We were shown the TCCI Student/Family Sign in with Debbie Farrell as our "mock student." The presentation ended with questions from the parents.

### HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. McMorran spoke to the group about the inner courtyard which is an "undeveloped asset." The Redding Garden Club, Easton Garden Club and the PTSA and students will be working together to bring it back on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.

Vanessa of Revolution Prep gave the group her email address and phone number for anyone interested in SAT prep courses available at JBHS.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved. (Gorman/Breda)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership/Buzz Book: Diane for Dana reported that we have 426 member families, which is about 51% membership of the 817 total families at JBHS. 18-19 faculty members have joined.

Parent Ambassador/Transition Advisory: Colleen Joyce gave the group an overview. The group consists of 10 parents that are developing 3 "FAQ" (Frequently Asked Questions) Lists with about 20 questions/answers on each. The first FAQ List will be geared mainly toward freshman. The second FAQ List will target transitioning students and the third FAQ List will focus on sports. The group is hoping to have the first list done by the end of the semester. They will also post a list on the Barlow website of parents to contact with any questions.

Beautification Projects: Cheryl Frier has volunteered to be the committee head. Kim discussed the request from Tom McMorrnan to the PTSA to spearhead a project to paint the athletic out-buildings and tear down the fencing around the old tennis courts. Anyone interested is welcome to sign up.

Transition Dance will be this Friday. They still need donations.

Staff Luncheons: We do 2 a year and they will ask for help in December or so.

Reflections: Claire-Anne may change the due date from January to early December. We discussed different options and she will do further research before making a decision.

Dr. Nuzzo had a quick announcement about the upcoming Tri-State Evaluation next week. She is looking for a few more parents to be evaluated on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:15 and it will last about 35 minutes. Email her at [knuzzo@region9ps.org](mailto:knuzzo@region9ps.org)

Mini Grants: Reagan says the request forms have gone out. The deadline is Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. She has received 2 requests so far. The first is time sensitive and for the fall

musical for costumes for \$250. Colleen Joyce made a motion to fund the request. Mary Pat Cieri seconded and it was approved by all. The second request is from Dr. Nuzzo for the science fair. The group decided to wait until the deadline of Dec 4<sup>th</sup> to see what other requests may come in.

FOCUS: Diane reported that 55 copies of the last Focus were picked up at Open House. She has made the usual deliveries to the community libraries, senior centers, etc. The next deadline is Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> for an early December edition. Please submit any entries to Diane.

Open House: Kim said that the Open House seemed to be a great success and asked if anyone had any suggestions for next year. Peggy Palmer said the refreshments were fine except for a few items not being delivered. We thought that the administration had a good idea by having the refreshments placed in the cafeteria "servery" so that parents would have to go past the PTSA tables (situated outside the servery) to get to the food. This was the first year that we had a "Volunteer Sign-up" table. A number of parents dropped by to check out the options.

Budget: Mary Pat went over the budget and said we are in good shape. She explained the columns for us: the "Actual" column is what we are paying out. The "Budget" column is what we voted on in June and the last column is the difference between the two.

## NEW BUSINESS

Kim said she was thinking of October 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9pm to try an evening PTSA meeting, in an effort to reach out to working parents. The topic for presentation would be the same as today; College Prep at JBHS. A representative sampling of our board members will likely attend.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next regular daytime meeting will take place November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder  
Recording Secretary