

November 2008 PTSA Meeting

The November meeting was called to order at 9:30 with a warm welcome from Colleen Joyce. In attendance were Lisa Weggeman, Elizabeth Gallo, Jennifer Bodurtha, Lauren Ambler, Barbara Wyton, Rowena Powers, Melanie Goldstein, Sherri Witkins, Lauri Harder, Lisa Bunce, Jean Tompkins, Mary Pat Cieri, Liz Furrer (Cheal), Gretchen Von Dwingle, Adria Singer, Nancy Paglinci, Joelle Malec, Donna Benedetto, Steph Churchill, Andy Acocella, Diane Corcoran, Julie Gorman, Peggy Palmer, Steph Belleveau, Anne Andrews, Brenda Johnson, Jane Acocella, Laurie Stone, Mary Decker Bottero, Kim Breda, Jill DeSalva, Pam Robey, Donna-Marie Macchio, Diane Knapp, Candy Wood, Suzanne Kramer, Colleen Joyce. From the Administration and Staff: Mr. Tom McMorran, Ms. Gina Pin, Ms. Anne Kipp, Mr. John Crowley, Mr. Fred Gervasoni, Mr. Scott Reimold, Mr. Henry DelAngelo, Mr. Scott Gang, as well as the staff from the art department.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. McMorran thanked everyone for coming and introduced several teachers, guidance counselors and staff members. Mr. John Crowley and Mr. Fred Gervasoni started off the meeting with an overview of the changes they have made to the JBHS website that were requested at our last meeting. We were shown the additions to the site which now include the time of each class period, some new guidance tabs, improved eboards with new sections including dates of visiting college reps, scholarship tabs with dates, and delayed opening/late arrival schedules in the communications section. They also shared with us some info from the athletic department regarding their calendar and showed us the "find" tab which would lead us to specific information. We were told that the "Listserve" needs the permission of the superintendent for any changes.

Our next presentation was started by Mr. McMorran guiding us through a handout of the Application Summary of the Class of 2008. He followed up with a second handout titled, "Ideas and Tools for Working with Parents and Families" and we went over a college prep timeline for different grade levels. Later in the presentation he explained his view of the different spectrums of a child and additionally how the CAPT test fits into the college picture.

The next section was lead by Mr. Scott Reimold and Mr. Henry DelAngelo of the Guidance Department whose main goal is to strive to find the appropriate school for each student. They explained that is not an exact science but more an art wrapped around science where there is no guarantee that what "worked" last year will "work" again this year. We followed along with a handout about Signing into Family Connection which shows what the student should focus on while in each grade. They shared some details about Naviance and the info available there. We were told about Senior Voices on the web and more about the Scholarship eboard. They also introduced us to Workspace K-12 and we saw the progress

from this year. We touched again on the topic of the JBHS guidance process for all 4 years—steps from grade 9 through grade 12.

Mr. DeAngelo went over the Top Ten Strengths and Experiences Colleges look for in High School Students as well as the difference between the ACT and the SAT.

Mr. Reimold went over information on the SAT 2 test and gave suggestions as to when a student may want to take them.

They ended the presentation at 10:55 with an emphasis on the need to find the right fit for your student. We need to know our child and help them pick the right environment, which is part of the entire 4 year process.

Colleen Joyce called the remainder of the PTSA meeting to order at 11:00 and started by inviting all who attended the presentation to join us. She then presented a few new topics for our next PTSA meetings.

MINUTES

The October 2009 minutes were read and approved. (Churchill/Palmer)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Pat Cieri reports that we have a little more money than she thought.

\$3596 discretionary

\$6000 reserve

Budget is fine. Can meet everything we need.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Colleen said the PTSA goal is to try to present a lot of information, digest it, and work with the administration for the benefit of our students.

New idea-get Alumni back to Barlow to give a true picture of college life and the role JBHS played. Great concept but need a lot of help to get it organized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF ED

Special Board of Ed meeting last night. Mary Pat will get minutes and tell us about it at the next meeting.

ARTS FOUNDATION

Yale Alley Cat Performance is coming up. It will be an evening performance and they may charge a small fee.

MINI GRANTS

In process

REFLECTIONS

Theme is "WOW" Teachers are trying to promote this.

POST PROM

Wanda Augustyn is running.

Candy Wood would like to re-address the Prom and how the location is decided.

BUZZ BOOK

Addendum is coming. If you did not get your copy of the Buzz Book at the Open House you can pick it up in the office.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion re: request for an evening PTSA meeting. No date agreed upon. Need more input.

Discussion re: teleconferencing the presentations which we will review again at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Topic idea review

- X-Period ideas

- Class Council/Student Council

- National Honor Society---how to get community service that qualifies you

- Tardy Policy

- School Spirit/Homecoming/Prom

Mr. McMorrان spoke about several new focus groups and multiple initiatives being started. Several of them will need dialog with all stakeholders. He would like to have the same conversations with several different groups and he will get some dates to Colleen.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 (DeSalva/Gorman). The next meeting will be December 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Harder

Recording Secretary