

Joel Barlow High School PTSA

Minutes: Monthly Meeting: December 13, 2011

The December meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Jen Wastrom. Those who attended included: Jean Tompkins, Mary Ellen O'Leary, Michelle Falcone, Sheila Corr, Joey Davey, Laura Gibney, Lisa Colasante, Cornelia Hurwitz, Peggy Palmer, Susan Selleck, Katrina Esocoff, Jackie Dinowitz, Nancy Fontana, Candy Wood, Jacquie Wargo, Carrie Kulawitz, Andrea Pritchard, Alice Smith, Janine Johnson, Reghan Diaz, Liz Jorgensen, Laurie Bruhin, Dr. McMorrان, Mary Ann Sheehy
Approval of November Minutes: (Corr, Tompkins)

Faculty Report- Jen introduced faculty member Julie McTague: Science, Math & Technology Department Chair, who spoke about the electives offered in her departments. Also present was Dr. Nuzzo, Chemistry teacher and two of her students spoke about their very impressive science research projects. The science research class (4 credits) can be taken for all four years and travels to various competitions throughout the year.

President's Report-Jennifer Wastrom On Tuesday November 29, the movie "Buck" was seen by about 150 people at JBHS. "Buck" was produced and directed by Redding resident, Cindy Meehl who answered questions at the end of the movie. This was a joint fundraiser with the Mark Twain Library. The JBHS PTSA raised about \$800.

Margo Abrams is reviewing and updating the PTSA Bylaws. She will present an update of her progress in January. From the Caring Committee: Erica Loder, a 2010 JBHS graduate, died unexpectedly. The PTSA has made a donation to the art department in her name.

Treasurer Report- Mary Ellen O'Leary The PTSA met their membership goals. A written copy of the treasurer's report was available on the PTSA table and is attached.

Secretary Report-Laurie Bruhin Copies of the November Minutes are on the PTSA table; monthly minutes will be posted on the website about a week after the meeting.

Vice President of Communications: Kate Freeman (in Kate's absence, Jen reported) The deadline for the Focus newsletter will be in the middle of January. The Senior Class Liaison Robin Pantalena met with the Senior Class Council about the Post Prom Party Entertainment. The students gave Robin a comprehensive wish list of activities they would enjoy seeing at the Post Prom party this coming year. Barbara Bloom thanks the Publicity committee on the fabulous job they did on covering the JBHS theatre production: "The Wiz".

Vice President of Nominating: Peggy Palmer In January, the Nominating Committee will convene to begin to assemble the next PTSA Board. Peggy urged any and all to contact her; there are many positions – big and small – available for next year.

There will be a Post Prom brainstorming meeting on Tuesday, January 17th at 9:30 in the cafeteria annex. If you have a freshman or sophomore, it is a good time to volunteer so you can learn how the event works and continue with volunteering each year. The theme is "Under the Sea" (the prom will be held at the Norwalk Maritime Center).

Peggy introduced co chairs Candy Wood and Nancy Fontana to update the group on the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Staff Luncheon will take place on the 25 (snow date 26). The luncheon will be catered, with desserts donated by PTSA volunteers. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the luncheon. Set up starts at 10:30a and clean up ends around 2p.

Vice President of Ways and Means: Jean Tompkins The non-event Fundraiser collected just under \$1000 for the PTSA. The promotion goes on all year. There is a thank you page on the PTSA website, thanking those who donated. Jean will be entering the 2010-2011 Buzz book in the CT PTSA Hearst Award contest. The contest is highlighting ways the PTSA works well with families. The prize is \$2000 so we wish Jean lots of luck (on behalf of the JBHS PTSA).

Vice President of Cultural/Arts: Michele Falcone The Beautification Committee is looking into improving the outside entrance to Barlow. Alice Smith announced that The Easton Garden Club won an award for the JBHS Sanctuary courtyard.

Mini Grants: Reghan Diaz reported the mini grants deadline has been extended until the end of January due to the bad weather experienced at the beginning of the year.

Reflections: Cornelius Hurwitz says she is looking forward to the entries which are due January 4.

PTA Council: Kim Breda/Mary Dale Lancaster Jen reported that the dues have been paid to the PTA Council.

Head of School Report: Dr. Tom McMorran

Black and Gold Days are built into the Barlow schedule. These days consist of 4 periods of 75 minutes each. This allows the teacher to go more in depth in a topic, open or close a unit they are teaching. There is also a 48 minute period on Black and Gold Days where students chose to go to an academy period. There are about 20 classes to chose from. The academy period is run as a more interactive class in a subject the student finds interesting.

New Business- none reported

Next Meeting: January 10, 2012 The ABCs of Standardized Tests
Meeting Adjourned at 10:10am

Guest Speaker: Superintendent Dr. Josefsberg

The content of Dr. Josefsberg's remarks can be found on the handouts attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bruhin,

Recording Secretary