

McLean High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
March 9, 2009

The March meeting of the McLean High School PTSA was called to order by Susan Perla, PTSA president.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes were posted on the PTSA website.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Rugh reported that \$1308 dollars was deposited from Escrip. The State and National PTSA dues of \$45 were paid this month.

Students' Reports:

Liz Gray, SGA officer, reported that the pep rally held in February was a big success. The SGA is now working on the upcoming elections. They are also focusing on correcting the trash problem at the school.

Sarah Albani, SAC representative, attended the February 18 meeting. The elected SAC representative presented the "Student Learning Plan," an initiative by the FCPS to improve the way students learn and foster higher achievement. It was suggested that the students be able to view their grades on blackboard. There was also discussion of the benefits of the McLeadership program, FAIRGRADE, and the SLEEP program. Students also discussed ways to become more energy efficient in school, as well as recycling programs.

Jam Chookaew, representing the sophomore class, discussed plans for prom 2010. The current fundraisers include the Valentine's Day carnation sales, teddy bears, and t-shirts. Jordan Bass attended as junior class representative.

Principal's Report:

Dr. Jackson reported that February was a busy month highlighted by the Boar's Head Feast and the Student Recognition luncheon, where 65 students were recognized for the Highlander Pride Awards.

The Multicultural Night was held on March 6. This Friday, March 13, will be a staff development day and the students will have early dismissal. Spring has arrived and Dr. Jackson needs parents' support in helping to keep students focused. There has been a rise in alcohol, drug use, and inappropriate text messaging with sexual content among students. We must address these issues in our community. Plans are underway to contact the local ABC liquor store to raise awareness about underage drinking.

Dr. Jackson addressed concerns about the upcoming FCPS budget. Classes must be scheduled appropriately, due to less flexibility for adjustment due to decreased budget. There is a plan to put an afterschool support system in place to help struggling students in the first quarter. Technology advancements will be limited with budget constraints. All new summer school programs will be taught on-line. The repeat summer school will be held for 17 days only, with multiple subjects being taught in each classroom.

McLean High School has been selected as a site demonstration school based largely upon the McLeadership program's success. "Best Buddies", a program for MR/Special Education students will now take place at MHS. Dr. Jackson has started the "Principal's Corner," a weekly on-site broadcast report with updates in and around MHS. Cluster I Director, Dr. Audra Sydnor, has announced her retirement at the end of this school year.

President's Report:

Susan thanked Wafika Albani for organizing the Multicultural night. The "Colleges that Change Lives" program will be held March 17. The SLEEP meeting at Longfellow Middle School held this month was well attended. Those in attendance at the community dialogue was overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal.

Susan received a report about a mugging near Chesterbrook Elementary School. Families need to be aware of their surroundings, especially in the dark morning hours before school. Dr. Jackson was presented two checks from the PTSA: \$500 for the Library and \$1000 for the McLeadership program.

Committee Reports:

Susan introduced MaryAnn Lastova as the new chairman of Health and Wellness for the PTSA. MaryAnn is planning to submit articles by students for students in the Highlander, focusing on nutrition, exercise, and health promotion. She is considering presenting a DVD program series on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

Unfinished/New Business:

There will be an open meeting of the Safe Community Coalition on March 12. McLean High School is establishing a food bank for needy families who may be out of work. Details are to follow. The ANGP fund raiser program "The Capitol Steps" will be held March 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

March 12	Safe Community Coalition Meeting
March 13	Teacher In-Service Day – early release
March 15	Capitol Steps program/benefits ANGP
March 17	Colleges that Change Lives/Auditorium
March 24	Parent Coffee 9/10 grades 7:30am Lecture Hall
March 25	PTSA Newsletter Deadline – April issue
March 26	Parent coffee 11/12 grades 7:30 am, Lecture Hall
April 2	End of Third Quarter
April 3	Teacher Work Day – Student Holiday
April 6-10	Spring Break
April 13	PTSA Meeting, 7:30pm library

In Attendance: Susan Perla, Debbie Jackson, Stefanie Schoepfle, Reg Devlin, Kathy Rugh, MaryAnn Lastova, Jam Chookaew, Rebecca Davis, Liz Gray, Kathy Oram Meade, Wafika Albani, Sarah Albani, Jordan Bass