

**McLean High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
February 12, 2007**

The February meeting of the McLean High School PTSA was called to order by Kathy Rugh, President.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 8, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports: Susan Belardi reported on plans for Health and Wellness Days, scheduled for March 21 and 22. There is a parent program planned for Wednesday evening, March 21, with a distinguished panel of speakers who will discuss the physiological effects of binge drinking. The PTSA is inviting parents from other area high schools to attend. During the day on March 21, there will be various activities for the students, including salsa and hip-hop dancing, pilates, yoga, meditation, massage therapy and information on nutrition. On March 22, the program will focus on the teachers. Thanks to donations from the community, health bars and water will be provided free to all participants. Susan asked the PTSA to help encourage attendance among the parents and students.

Students Reports: The student representatives reported on various activities related to Valentine's Day, Prom and Senior Class activities, such as the Senior class trip and graduation. The Senior talent show is scheduled for March 16, with auditions to be held next week. The SGA recently held its second Congress meeting. The president of Youth for Tomorrow attended the meeting and thanked the students for their generous donation of \$2,000 to the school. The SGA is coming up with ideas to spend the \$20,000 in the Senior Account: \$5,000 will be rolled over to next year; \$3,000 has been set aside for a copy machine. Other ideas include dance materials, plasma screen TVs for the entrance of the school (to be used for communication purposes), editing machine for the library, and art murals for the school. Finally, Flo King reported that next year's SGA elections are coming up.

Principal's Report: Paul Wardinski reported on some recent personnel changes. Helen Stephan is stepping down as SGA Advisor. Interviews are now underway for a replacement, with the aim to have the new advisor on board in time for the SGA elections. Becky Sipos retired as of Friday, February 9. A long-term substitute who has a background in Journalism will be taking on her classes. Jan Dabroski, the Assessment Coach, will be leaving at the end of the school year.

Paul also announced several important dates for next year: Back-to-School Night will be September 27; the Homecoming Game will be held on October 26, with the dance on Saturday, October 27. PTSA's have been announced for October 18, which is a Thursday (this date is still to be confirmed).

Kim Carney reported on several committees. The AP and Honor Focus Group has been meeting to discuss student academic stress. Some items discussed were to publish a

semester exam schedule, so students did not have too many exams on the same day. They also discussed the pressure to take too many AP classes. Kim mentioned she would like more parent involvement in this group. On February 21, the McLean Outreach Committee (formerly Minority Advisory Committee) will meet. Kim also reported that MHS needs AP Proctor Volunteers to help fill the 163 time slots for AP exams. A 30-minute training session will be provided either after school or on a Saturday. A letter will be going out to parents requesting volunteers and it will also be advertised at the Mini Conferences. Other schools recruit volunteers to offset the huge cost of hiring substitute teachers during these exams.

Paul Wardinski also reported on the success of MHS's Winter Sports Teams, as well as the choral, band, orchestra and theater groups. Spring Sports will be starting soon. He also asked parents to call the Tip Line if they know of any parties happening on the weekends. The Administrative Team hears about weekend parties from time to time, but cannot do anything after the fact. Student enrollment is holding steady at 1797.

Abe Jeffers asked for two parent volunteers to work on a "Scheduling Committee." The first meeting will be held on February 20 in the Lecture Hall. The aim of this committee is to try and come up with a time for student remediation (for D & F students). Some schools have flex time during the day, or open lunch, where students can receive remediation (not new learning).

Jean Wacaster reported on recent activities, including the Electives Fair, Rising 9th Grade Parent Night, and Junior Parent Night. All were well attended and well-received. At the recent Teen Summit, sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition, 18 MHS students participated. MHS students will also participate as facilitators at the Middle School Forum. The academic advisement (registration) process is underway. Rising Seniors are now finishing the process; rising Juniors will begin on February 20. 36 students are on the all "A" honor roll for the second quarter. This is up from 18 in the first quarter. Strategies for Success programs are on going. 7th semester grades are going out to the colleges this week.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Davis, Treasurer, reviewed the budget activity for the month of January.

President's Report: Kathy Rugh reported that she participated in the Teen Summit held this week. Students discussed a variety of issues affecting their lives. A write-up will be done by the Safe Community Coalition and distributed to the schools. She will also attend an upcoming Superintendents' Parents Advisory Committee meeting, where the topics will be Limited English Proficiency in the elementary schools and transportation issues. Kathy also asked for ideas in putting together a PTSA nominating committee. The nominating committee needs to be in place by the March PTSA meeting, with elections held in May. The Membership Committee will be sending out a second letter seeking dues for those who have not yet paid.

Officers Reports: Cindy Milton reported that the FCPS transportation study which came out in December noted that the transportation system is stretched to its limit and that the county will need to start looking at an overhaul. The SLEEP group sees this as a way to push the School Board to consider later start times. Cindy asked PTSA members to write Janie Strauss if this is an issue you feel strongly about. At this point, the school board is not hearing from a lot of its constituents that this is a big issue. Some cost numbers are floating around, but these are not necessarily the true costs. Parents with younger students (middle and elementary school) may need to take this on as an issue.

New Business: In response to a question on Turnitin, Paul Wardinski reported that a meeting did take place between some parents and the county, but that neither he nor Kathy Rugh participated in the meeting.

Wafika Albani said she attended the January 30th Safe Community Coalition presentation on Internet Safety. While there was good attendance at the session, she felt that the presentation done by MHS last year was much better. Paul Wardinski said that on-line bullying is still a big issue that needs to be addressed.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

In Attendance: Paul Wardinski, Kathy Rugh, Rebecca Davis, Regina Devlin, Cindy Milton, Susan Perla, Abe Jeffers, Wafika Albani, Kim Carney, Jean Wacaster, Susan Belardi, Andrea Stillman, Sue Cheung, Flo King, Jim Bodson, Rachel Bensinger, Blair Saunders, Catalina Moreno, Julia Pitkin-Shantz, Wafika Albani.