

**McLean High School PTSA  
General Membership Meeting  
April 9, 2007**

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Student Reports:**

The student representatives reported that the TVs purchased by the SGA have been installed in the cafeteria and the front office. They will be used to run Pipenotes announcements and will also be used to broadcast student speeches for SGA elections. The new SGA advisors are now on board (Erin Truesdell and Lori Wagoner). Speakers have been announced for the following end-of-year activities: Graduation Speaker – Lewis Sinclair; Convocation Speaker – Barbara Ruff; Baccalaureate Speaker – Helen Stephan. The junior class is busy with prom activities, including a fashion show on May 4 and a car wash to raise money. Sophomore class will also have a car wash on April 28 and will be selling t-shirts for fundraising. They are also planning to have a McLean Night at a local restaurant to raise funds.

**President's Report:** Kathy Rugh will attend a Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council meeting on April 10, where the main topic will be the school budget. Kathy also mentioned that, at next month's meeting, the PTSA will discuss options for the newsletter for next year, which costs \$9,000 to print and mail. One idea is to primarily use e-mail as the means of communicating via newsletter and only mailing a paper copy to those who request one. The Nominating Committee is working on next year's PTSA board, so please contact the members of the Nominating Committee (Betty Ende, Wafika Albani and Janet Gonzalez) regarding plans for next year. Current openings include Membership; Newsletter; Parliamentarian, Special Education and Volunteers. Kathy also mentioned that Volunteer Fairfax is having a Points of Light Leadership program. Information will be posted on the PTSA website for this. Finally, Kathy reported that the calendar listing red and silver days in the PTSA directory is incorrect for the months of April, May and June. The correct information can still be found on the school website and in the students' agenda books.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Davis, Treasurer, reviewed the budget activity for the month of March. Income was received in donations, membership and fundraising. Expenses in March were mainly for the Health and Wellness program, which also received a \$700 donation; net expense for this program was \$1,555.15.

**Committee Reports:**

Susan Belardi noted that the staff participation in Health & Wellness was great. Betsy Smith, Orchestra Liaison, reported that the orchestra is hosting a German exchange

program, with 50 students arriving in May. There will be a concert on May 30 and all are encouraged to attend. Joan Shetterly reported that Saturday Night in the Suburbs program will be held on May 22. A panel of 12 seniors will discuss topics such as drugs, alcohol, sex, and depression. Technology issues will also be added this year as a topic.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Regina Devlin reported that she has been researching options for spirit decals for McLean High School that can be put on cars. The goal of this is to raise school spirit, not necessarily to be used as fundraiser. The costs range from \$1.25 to \$2.25 per sticker. The plan is to sell them for \$3.00. Any suggestions, please contact Reg or Kathy Rugh. The PTSA hopes to have these for sale by the end of the year for the various spring sports, classes and activities.

**New Business:** Betty Ende reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee and presented the following slate of officers for 2007-2008:

President: Kathy Rugh  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jean Godla  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Regina Devlin  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Stefanie Schoepfle,  
Recording Secretary: Susan Perla  
Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Stillman  
Treasurer: Rebecca Davis

Elections will be held at the May 14<sup>th</sup> PTSA meeting.

**Principal's Report:** Paul Wardinski reported that Abe Jeffers had designed a new website for McLean High School, and Mr. Jeffers had a demonstration of some of the new features, which included the activities calendar, a scroll bar at the top of the page, and important announcements, such as the Fire Lane Reminder. (Mr. Wardinski reminded parents of the importance of not parking in the fire lanes. The police regularly patrol the campus and ticket for parking and other violations, such as expired registration.)

Mr. Wardinski commended the AP teachers for their extra efforts in having the AP syllabi approved by the AP/College Board. He also recognized the excellent participation and performance of MHS students in various areas, such as the regional Science Fair (one student is moving on to the International Level of competition and is getting a patent on her project), DECA, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choral, Fine Arts and Latin Department. He also noted that 44 students are running for office next year, which shows great school spirit and commitment.

Jean Wacaster reported that course selections for next year are completed. In some cases, teachers did not recommend students for higher level classes. If they still wish to take

these classes, a waiver must be signed by the parents. These waiver forms will be due back on April 18; and the school goes to staffing on April 23.

Mr. Wardinski noted that enrollment is currently at about 1765; the county projection for the year 2010 is around 1500, so this could affect staffing in the coming years. Mr. Wardinski also mentioned that Administrative Professionals Week is April 23. MHS has 10 excellent support staff, so please take time to say thank you when you're in the office. Finally, Mr. Wardinski noted that there was a recent news article about two MHS students (along with 2 students from Arizona) who sued Turnitin. A survey will be going out to Freshman and Sophomore students and parents on the topic of Turnitin.

Presentations were then made on the MHS Prep Teacher Development Grant, the MHS Schedule Study Group and the MHS Honor Focus Group.

#### MHS Prep Teacher Development Grant

Science Department Chair Karen Malloy presented the report. The Teacher Development Learning Grant provided through FCPS provides funds for summer institutes for incoming freshman and for students who might be taking honors or AP classes for the first time.

Four evening sessions will be held August 20 – 23. The sessions will run from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm and dinner will be included. The cost of the program is \$30 for each strand. There is no limit to the number of students who can enroll. This will be advertised at Longfellow Middle School.

The MHS Prep Strand will focus on the transition to McLean for rising freshman and will include topics such as introduction to high school life, note-taking skills, time management, study skills and organization.

The MHS Prep PLUS Strand will focus on advanced studies students and will include topics such as time management, note-taking and reading strategies.

#### MHS Schedule Study Group

Assistant Principal Abe Jeffers reported that the Scheduling Committee (comprised of teachers, parents and students) has been meeting to study ways to have embedded time during the day for remediation/study time. Visits were made to various schools which have this type of system in place (Fairfax, Madison, Herndon, as well as Annandale). The committee members came back very excited from these visits. Not only does this extra time help students who need remediation, but it also benefits honors students, who take advantage of this time to make up work, meet with teachers, work on projects, etc. Two proposals were developed (Tartan Time and MAC Time) and the teachers will be voting on these in the coming days. Both proposals would eliminate the late Friday opening.

## Honors Focus Group

Assistant Principal Stephen Wojciechowski gave the background for this committee which started as a way for students to discuss the pressures on them that may cause honor code violations. The students presented a power point presentation with the following comments:

- Parents should try better to relate to their child; students like to talk to parents, so find time during the day/evening for discussion
- Time Management – don't pressure kids to go into scientific field or take AP classes if your child is not interested. Know what your child can and cannot do. Your child may discover new things in high school
- Cookie Cutter Mentality – let your child explore; don't pressure them into certain colleges
- Be realistic – don't compare your child to anyone else; everyone's abilities are different

These comments should also be stressed to Longfellow parents for incoming students.

**Announcements:** Wafika Albani mentioned that her family will be featured in a PBS show airing on April 18 on Muslims in America. Also, Annandale HS will have a program on April 10 on how to communicate with your high school student. This is open to all.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

In Attendance: Paul Wardinski, Kathy Rugh, Stefanie Schoepfle, Rebecca Davis, Regina Devlin, Cindy Milton, Susan Perla, Abe Jeffers, Wafika Albani, Jean Wacaster, Susan Belardi, Susan Hume McIntosh, Wafika Albani, Joan Shetterly, Isobel Rahn, Ghislaine Tulou, Karen Molloy, Betsy Smith, Lisa Kennedy, George Kennedy, Ayenat Mersie, Becca Altmeyer, Wafic Omran.