

**High School PTSA  
General Membership Meeting  
October 15, 2007**

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be posted on the PTSA website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebecca Davis reviewed the monthly budget report ending September 30, 2007. Following her report, Kent Arnold noted he had received a \$50 check for a newsletter ad.

**Principal and Staff Reports:** Dr. Jackson thanked the parents for their support. Back-to-School Night and the parent coffees were well attended. The landscaping in the front and rock side of the school looks great, and new rugs for the hallways had also arrived. Dr. Jackson also reported that \$525 had been collected from the PTSA and the staff to donate to the funeral reception for former MHS Chemistry teacher, Terry Moore. She circulated a program from the funeral mass. Harvest Fest was held on October 12 and the seniors enjoyed all the activities. Homecoming festivities take place starting the week of October 22, culminating in the Homecoming Dance on October 27. Parent chaperones are needed for this.

Part of the staff reports at the PTSA meeting will include a "Spotlight on Learning." The first department to report was Social Studies, and Ms. Helen Stephan, Department Chair, presented the report. She noted that four years of Social Studies is required to graduate, including a passing grade in Government senior year. The department consistently scores very well in AP exams, and SOLs. One program that Ms. Stephan highlighted, since many parents are not aware of the program, is the Fairfax Youth Leadership Program. This is a joint Fairfax County School and Government program to promote good citizenship and awareness of local government issues. Applications are due in by October 31. One student from each FCPS high school is selected for the program. Mr. McGinnis is the sponsor for McLean High School. The students attend monthly sessions, and also are provided with a paid 3-week internship in the summer. At the end of the report, Dr. Jackson thanked Ms. Stephan and noted that she had received the LFI Educator of the Year Award.

Kim Carney noted that the Yearbook had been awarded a National Scholastic Press Award. She also noted that ACT and PSAT tests were taking place on October 17, and that McLean HS had received an ACT Prep Class grant which will allow 25 junior students to attend a prep class.

Jean Wacaster noted that the end of the first quarter is approaching on November 2. The Guidance Department was scheduling sessions with the classes. Parents should check the website for the College and Career Center activities. Dr. Wacaster also noted that

Longfellow was hosting a “High School Options Night” and she would be attending on behalf of MHS.

**President’s Report:** Kathy Rugh reported that she attended the Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council meeting with Jack Dale. The meeting included an overview of FCPS with regard to enrollment, testing, boundary studies and transportation. Dr. Dale solicited ideas for future topics and parents responded that Transportation, Technology, and Zoning Development were topics of interest. Audra Syndor will also be starting up her Cluster Parent Advisory Council meetings which will rotate between the three high schools in the Cluster. Kathy Rugh reported that the PTSA had donated \$175 from Hospitality towards the funeral reception for Terry Moore. However, due to the PTSA’s tax exempt status, it is unable to donate to the memorial charity. Individual donations would be welcome. Kathy also noted that there are still openings on the PTSA board, including Parent Network, Volunteers (Stefanie Schloefle has done the majority of this work already), and Health and Wellness. Kathy also noted that the Virginia PTA convention will be held in Portsmouth, VA, if anyone was interested in attending. Brian’s 5K Walk is coming up on November 10. This is a fundraising event for Brian Anderson, Class of 2002, who was paralyzed in a swimming accident. Participants can register on-line, and information can be found on the PTSA website and in Pipenotes.

**Officers Reports:** Jean Godla reported that the Grocery Store sign ups seem to be very light. It was suggested to put another notice in the newsletter, so parents can continue to sign up. Donors can designate up to three schools or organizations.

**Committee Reports:** Kathy thanked Directory co-chairs Wafika Albani and Edith Lee for getting the directory ready by Back-to-School Night. Kathy also recognized Rita Soto and the many volunteers (including students) who helped with this effort.

Phyllis Walker and Gayla Hassett agreed to co-chair Membership. Many thanks also to Shelby Godla who organized the database. As of this date, 657 families, representing 1,027 members had joined. A second mailing will go out in January.

Kathy also thanked Kent Arnold for getting the first PTSA Newsletter on-line. Kent noted that the next deadline is October 25 for the November newsletter.

Susan Perla reported that plans for Senior Ethics Day were coming along very well. Volunteers are still needed for table leaders and also to serve breakfast on the morning of November 14. With regard to funding, the Safe Community Coalition (SCC) provided a grant of \$3,000 to help defray the costs of the program. The SCC also provided \$500 for a teacher to attend an ethics conference. Ghislaine Tulou asked if the PTSA funds could cover an additional \$500 so that another teacher could attend the conference. The PTSA voted to cover \$500 from the unallocated funds for this. Susan also provided flyers for an upcoming SCC parent program, featuring Dr. Sid Simon. This will be held on November 7 at Temple Rodef Shalom. Susan also noted that the SCC is accepting grant requests. If you need a grant request form for Safe Prom, All Night Grad, McLeaders, etc., please contact Susan.

Joan Shetterly reported that the Longfellow Panel is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13. She will need help with PR and advertising this, and would also like a parent to volunteer to co-chair. She also noted that McLeaders will be starting up again, but on a smaller scale. This is a dynamic mentoring program where seniors mentor freshmen students.

**New Business:** Karla Wilhelm said that she had attended the parent coffee for her oldest (sophomore) child. She suggested that more communication be directed to parents in the younger grades regarding how to prepare parents for the college search. Students attend sessions with Guidance, but the information does not always reach the parents. Perhaps the information can be backed into the sophomore year, or have roundtable discussions so parents can learn from each other.

It was also noted that White House ornaments will be on sale at the Homecoming Game to raise money for the All Night Graduation Party.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

In Attendance: Debbie Jackson, Kathy Rugh, Stefanie Schoepfle, Andrea Stillman, Rebecca Davis, Regina Devlin, Jean Godla, Susan Perla, Kim Carney, Helen Stephan, Joan Shetterly, Jennifer Kobylski, Karla Wilhelm, Jacky Longwell, Kathy Oram, Kent Arnold, Phyllis Yoshida, Jane Beddoe, Justine Klena, Sara Treacy, Jihui Kim, Wafika Albani, Phyllis Walker, Jean Wacaster, Edith Lee.