

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

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

Minutes: The minutes of the October 15, 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 October 31, 2007.

Student Reports: Joe Russo, president, noted that 1200 tickets were sold for Homecoming Dance, which was a big success. In December, the SGA is planning "Friends of Frosty" and will collect needed goods for families in need. Laura Inglesias reported on behalf of the senior class. Harvest Fest was held and was a great success. They are working on plans for graduation and for the senior "block" design. Charlie Cook reported for the junior class. They are planning monthly class meetings to brainstorm ideas. They are also working on Prom and will try to time the activities around AP exams. The SGA is working on a bulletin board for each class so that announcements can be posted and targeted for all four classes. Alexandra Kemp mentioned that some students attended the Veterans Day program at the Memorial Grove which was a very moving experience. She wished more students and teachers were able to participate. It was noted that this should be publicized more to the wider McLean High School community.

Principal and Staff Reports: This month's "Spotlight on Learning" was the Foreign Language Department. Ghislaine Tulou, Department Chair, described the Communicative Philosophy Program that is used in learning a foreign language. The novice-learner begins with memorizing words and phrases; the novice-mid expands vocabulary and begins conversation; and the novice-high proficiency is usually reached at the end of level one. This is when students start to create sentences. Level two (Intermediate Low) involves writing sentences in the present tense. And level three (Intermediate Mid) students can use a variety of tenses, starts to use paragraphs and can survive in the foreign language environment. Intermediate High students are usually in the AP classes. The guidelines used for the foreign language program are similar to the Foreign Service guidelines.

Mrs. Tulou mentioned that the PALS program was created to get more students talking in class, and many states have adopted PALS.

In response to a question on textbooks, Mrs. Tulou noted that level one uses a textbook, level two is close to getting a new textbook, and level three uses a book that focuses on grammar. Some new textbooks are under review, including an electronic textbook for

German and French. She also noted that while the focus is on conversation, grammar is integrated into the lessons.

Dr. Jackson reported that Homecoming Dance was a success, although some of the dancing was inappropriate. She said that students should be reminded about appropriate actions. Switching the Homecoming football game to Monday night (due to heavy rain) caused some scheduling problems. The annual McLean/Langley Rotary Cup football game later that week was also exciting, and McLean hopes to win the Rotary Cup back next year. Dr. Jackson noted that 116 students were inducted into the National Honor Society last week, and there will be another ceremony in the spring. She circulated a draft Executive Summary of the School Plan which was recently submitted to the Cluster office. She asked for parent comments on the draft. The Longfellow Panel is scheduled for November 13, and she invited parents to attend.

Highlander Time is being reviewed by Stephen Wojciechowski, to see what impact this is having on grades, and a survey will be done for teachers and students. It was noted that this once-a-week session may not be enough for some struggling students. He noted that Highlander Time does not replace after school help with teachers. There is also peer tutoring done by National Honor Society during Lunch and Learn. The administration is aware of the conflict with first block Academy Students, and they are also looking at ways to enforce mandatory Highlander Time.

Dr. Jackson also noted some other important dates: November 9 - report cards were mailed out; November 14 - Senior Ethics Day; November 16 - Mini-Conferences. Also, the Special Education Department is planning a holiday dance at the American Legion. Finally, Dr. Jackson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President's Report: Kathy Rugh reported that the Virginia Board of Education was seeking public comment on the proposed revised Standards of Learning for History and Social Science, Health Education, Physical Education and Drivers Education. A hearing will be held on November 26 at 7:00 pm at Robinson Secondary School. Kathy will ask Elizabeth Ende, webmaster, to post information on the PTSA website.

Kathy also raised a safety issue regarding traffic on Westmoreland Street after a student was almost hit. She asked the Safety Committee to look into this. This issue has been raised before (as well as safety issues on Davidson Road). Perhaps this is a good time to review again, since Jack Foust was recently elected as the new Dranesville District Supervisor. If anyone has comments or suggestions on this issue, please contact Wafika Albani, Safety Committee Chairman.

Officers Reports: Reg Devlin said she would be selling Spirit decals on December 8, during the Band fruit sale and winter bazaar. The All Night Graduation Party committee will also be selling White House ornaments.

Committee Reports: Susan Perla thanked everyone who has volunteered for Senior Ethics Day (November 14). The plans are all on track.

Phyllis Yoshida attended a special education meeting and reported that 90 schools in the county have representatives. There are a lot of ideas such as providing speakers on topics of interest and having a special education orientation for rising freshmen. Chantilly HS has a \$200 scholarship for special education. She also mentioned that December 5 marks that Inclusive Schools Day and there will be special events around that date. Finally, she noted that there is a wide range of definition for special education students.

Wafika Albani mentioned that the Human Relations Committee is having a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey and international foods will be served. She asked if there was any budget for this, and it was noted that there is \$500 in the Multicultural Potluck budget which could also be used for this. If they wanted to publicize a club newsletter, they could send this to Kent Arnold for the newsletter.

New Business: Kathy reported that Dr. Jackson had identified four targeted areas for the armchair fundraiser: Building and Grounds; Scholarship Assistance; Staff Development; and Library and Technology. Kathy asked for a vote to approve this armchair fundraiser.

ACTION: A motion was made and carried to approve the four targeted areas for the armchair fundraiser.

In addition, last year, the PTSA agreed to sponsor the Spanish Academic Excellence Award. The funds have been received, but will not be awarded until the end of May at the Awards Night. Kathy requested that the PTSA open a 6-month CD or money market account, so that this money can earn interest, which the PTSA can then keep.

ACTION: A motion was made and carried to approve the PTSA opening up a 6-month CD or money market account.

Kathy noted that the deadline for the next newsletter is November 25 and thanked Kent Arnold for his efforts in producing the newsletter.

There is no PTSA meeting in December.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

In Attendance: Debbie Jackson, Stephen Wojciechowski Kathy Rugh, Stefanie Schoepfle, Rebecca Davis, Regina Devlin, Jean Godla, Susan Perla, Ghislaine Tulou, Lisa Haas, Elizabeth Ende, Betsy Smith, Uihui Kim, Jacky Longwell, Kent Arnold, Phyllis Yoshida, Wafika Albani, Phyllis Walker, Jean Wacaster, Edith Lee, Joe Russo, Laura Inglesias, Charlie Cook, Alexandra Kemp.