

**McLean High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
April 14, 2008**

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

Minutes: The minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be posted on the PTSA website.

Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Davis, Treasurer, presented the budget report covering the month ending March 31, 2008.

Student Reports:

There were no SGA or class representatives at the meeting to give a report, however, Kathy introduced Sarah Albani who was to write an article for the Highlander newspaper. Sarah is also one of the four students from McLean High School to serve on the Student Advisory Council to the school board.

Principal and Staff Reports:

Dr. Debbie Jackson reported on several recent activities. The April 3 parent coffee was well attended. The fourth quarter is underway and is very busy. Senioritis has begun, and Dr. Jackson will send out a Keep-in-Touch to senior parents to remind their students to stay focused. Third quarter reports cards have been mailed to homes. The SGA recently held elections and the students' names will be announced in Pipenotes. The projected number for student enrollment for next year is 1,782, minus the 34 students admitted to TJ. The high school currently has 1759 students. Registration is complete for next year. Dr. Jackson noted that a new course, Oceanography, registered enough students for five sections; but there are only three sections available. Seniors will be given priority for this class. Regarding staffing, McLean High School will probably lose one teacher per core subject, and two teachers in Special Ed. Summer School will be held at Oakton High School, and it will be a scaled back program. Multicultural Night is scheduled for April 25. Exam time is coming up – AP Exams will be held May 5 – 16; SOLs will be held May 19 – 27. This past weekend, 1/3 of the students were on trips with the band, orchestra, theater and chorus departments. The football concession stand was broken into last weekend. There is also a problem with students leaving campus during lunch. Prom is scheduled for May 31. The school will have the MADD crash car on display and also has a DVD on alcohol to show at an assembly. The Senior Survey will be given on-line during class on April 21-22. The questions deal with post-graduation plans, and college financial aid.

In response to a question on staffing, Dr. Jackson confirmed that enrollment does affect staffing and that the teachers with the least seniority are the first to be cut.

President's Report: Kathy Rugh reported that Virginia State Delegate Margi Vanderhye will speak briefly at the May PTSA meeting. She wants to hear concerns of parents. The PTSA will present gifts to the Administrative Staff at the school for Administrative Professionals Week - thanks to Jean Godla for preparing the gifts. Kathy also attended a

Cluster I Parent Advisory Committee meeting at Herndon High School. The topic was Drug and Alcohol Awareness. She noted that it is a good venue to network with other PTA presidents. The last Cluster I meeting will be held on May 20 at McLean High School. The Superintendent's Parents Advisory Council meeting is coming up on April 29 at Falls Church High School. Kathy also noted that she had a request from a McLean High School parent asking if McLean had a program for required community service, as is done in 8th grade. After discussion, Kathy said we would look into the issue and see what McLean already does. National Honor Society has a community service requirement, and there is a community service seal that can be placed on the diplomas.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Schantz reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The slate for the 2008-2009 PTSA officers was presented:

President: Susan Perla
1st Vice President: Rebecca Davis
2nd Vice President: Stefanie Schoepfle
3rd Vice President: Jacky Longwell
Recording Secretary: Jihui Kim
Corresponding Secretary: Reg Devlin
Treasurer: Kathy Rugh

The vote will take place at the May meeting. The committee is still working on filling vacancies on the Board including: Building and Grounds, Character Education, Health and Wellness, Membership, Parent Network, Publicity, Volunteers.

A suggestion was made to include a notice in Pipenotes for the remaining vacancies.

Membership

Phyllis Walker thanked the volunteers who helped stuff 900 envelopes for the mid-year Membership mailing.

Multicultural Night

Wafika Albani requested help for April 25, from 6 – 9 pm. Volunteers are needed to help serve. Students will help with the set-up and clean-up. Please also bring an international dish to share and wear your native costumes. We can all celebrate our heritage together!

Ad Hoc Committee on FairGrade

Kathy Rugh reported that the committee had met and prepared a statement for the PTSA website in support of FairGrade. The ad hoc committee will also send a letter to Dr. Dale and to the other PTAs in the county. The FairGrade co-founders have met with Dr. Dale and other FCPS representatives, and the county agreed to look at this issue. They also had a separate meeting with Janie Strauss. The three key questions the county will be looking at are:

- 1) How FCPS's grade distribution – weighted and unweighted - compares to that of other jurisdictions?
- 2) What impact different grading systems have on college admissions, honors placement and merit scholarships?
- 3) What data exists for countering claims that changing the grading scale would amount to grade inflation or “dumbing down” of the curriculum or expectations?

In addition, there is a student group that will join the effort – FairGrade Teen. The committee wants to keep the message positive and keep the wording consistent. The next public forums on this issue will be held May 7 at Herndon Middle School. There has also been recent media coverage of the issue on Channel 9, NPR and the Great Falls Connection. The Fairfax County Council of PTAs will also have this on its agenda at the May meeting. There is a need to get the word out of McLean/Langley pyramid and involve all of Fairfax County schools and PTAs.

Other Reports

Kathy Oram Meade reported that Mr. Lynch retired as principal of Longfellow Middle School. The new principal is Carole Kihm. To honor Mr. Lynch, the Longfellow PTA is collecting funds to purchase six picnic tables for the courtyard. These will be used for 8th graders who show good lunchtime behavior. Kathy will include an announcement in PIPENOTES in case any Longfellow alumni/parents want to contribute.

New Business

The SLEEP Task Force will be making a presentation in June. It was suggested that information on this presentation be included on the website. We also need to recruit a new representative to follow this SLEEP issue. A suggestion was made to include an announcement in PIPENOTES.

Betty Ende reported on the pedestrian safety issue at crosswalks. She has gotten a contact to talk to in John Foust's office. She invites anyone who would like to work on this issue with her to contact her.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

In Attendance: Debbie Jackson, Kathy Rugh, Rebecca Davis, Stefanie Schoepfle, Susan Perla, Wafika Albani, Sarah Albani, Phyllis Walker, Mary Lewers, Kathy Oram Meade, Phyllis Yoshida, Jane Beddoe, Kent Arnold, Jennifer Schantz, Edith Lee, Jihui Kim.