

**McLean High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
November 10, 2008**

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

Minutes: The minutes of the October 20, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes are posted on the PTSA website.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Rugh presented the monthly budget report covering 10/1/08 thru 10/31/08. Income and expenses for October are listed on the monthly activity column. The current balance on hand is \$44, 241.30. Please refer to the monthly report for detailed information.

Student Reports: A meeting notification had been sent to the SGA representatives but there was no students present for the November meeting.

Principal and Staff Reports:

Dr. Jackson shared her thoughts on the recently-held Parent Coffees. There was an entourage of counselors as well as many other school staff at both meetings to share information on current school events and the college process. The highlight of the meeting was regarding the revised school profile which was approved by FCPS for distribution. (Copies of the updated version were available at the PTSA meeting for parents.) Dr. Jackson took a moment to express the importance of this updated school profile – basically this updated version displays how the grades are distributed within the senior class; it gives colleges a better picture of the rigorous academic curriculum.

Mini-Conferences will be held this Friday, November 14, at 7:30 am. It starts early so please plan out your morning carefully to maximize your conferences with the teachers. Dr. Jackson also mentioned if there isn't enough time to meet with all the teachers, please arrange a separate meeting with the teachers. She stressed that if the grades decline from the time of interims, the school regulation mandates a notification be sent to the parents. She expressed the importance of the Mini-Conference and advised parents to be prepared with written questions in advance to spend your time effectively.

Dr. Jackson touched on Seniors Ethics Day - IHOP breakfast was served and seniors had an enjoyable day at Marymount. Seniors will also have a movie day on November 26 as part of their senior privilege. There will be no Highlander time on Wednesday, November 26. The students will be dismissed early that day. A parent asked about the timing of the winter break as well as the January holidays. Kathy Rugh mentioned she serves on the committee that reviews the schedule which is planned well in advance. Dr. Jackson said the FCPS Facilities Office handles the calendar schedule and suggested contacting them for inquiries or comments regarding the holiday schedule.

President's Report:

Susan presented the PTSA armchair fundraising check to Dr. Jackson in the amount of \$15,354. Susan also touched on the grade distribution of the school profile. She complimented Dr. Jackson on her prompt attention to the updated school profile revision

- other schools are catching up to this revision. A parent asked whether this is related to FAIRGRADE. Susan said that this is a separate issue from FAIRGRADE. Jack Dale will receive the grading policies report by Thanksgiving; he would be sharing the report at the next SPAC meeting on December 16, and the School Board will address FAIRGRADE at its January Working Session. Susan also mentioned that updates on the SLEEP study is on the website; please send all website updates to Betty Ende. Susan brought up the issue of proposed budget cuts for FY 2010; this was discussed in detail at Cluster I Parent Advisory Council meeting. The budget cuts could impact sports activities – including indoor track and gymnastics; increased class size; a reduction of guidance counselors and assistant principal; fees on AP exams may not be covered. Classes such as Psychology and Technology could be reduced. Please be aware of the community meetings so you can voice your opinions.

Susan shared an idea of having a FAQ section on the PTSA website. Please forward any suggestions that would be helpful for this section. A parent from Parent Coffees brought up the idea of having a parent seminar on managing college stress. One of the suggestions might be to have a round table discussion on this topic.

The Virginia PTA and Enough is Enough has a partnership on the issue of Internet Safety, and they provided a DVD to each Virginia PTA/PTSA. A copy of the DVD will be available in the library.

Officer Reports:

Character Education – Jacky Longwell attended this seminar with the students. This educational program is mandated by the county. Jacky briefly shared the purpose of this program and emphasized the importance of providing a safe system belief that we practice and act. Jacky also mentioned about the eleven principles source book that was discussed at the meeting and the participation of many schools in the area. A binder is available which contains in depth information regarding this topic. Joan Shetterly commented on how Character Education was introduced 15 years ago by the principal of McLean High School. Dr. Jackson also commented on good leaders and honor code system that are in place. She said the honor code survey is forthcoming and please respond to the email link to take the survey in reference to this topic.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – Kathy Rugh reported that based on membership dues, 664 families have joined. There are 1,031 active families and faculty members to this date.

Senior Ethics Day – 48 volunteers are signed up for this event. There is a lot of good planning and much fun to be had with all seniors on this day. The language faculty has done a great job with the preparation. Joan Shetterly said the morning speaker for this event is Ron Axelrod. Irene Bortolussi, from the Senior Ethics Day Committee, requested additional funds of \$300 to cover the cost for this day. Susan asked the group for a motion and everyone concurred.

Safe Community Coalition – Teen Summit Report was presented by Laura Zoll. Laura said there are three hallmark programs sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition: Sixth-Grade Ethics Day; Middle School Forum and the Teen Summit. The Teen Summit program was a huge success last year according to Laura. After a brief introduction of the program, Laura distributed the handout which included a summary of student

comments. The Safe Community Coalition recruited and selected seniors from three schools mentioned on the handout for discussion as facilitators without the presence of parents.

This session was held at the USA Gannett headquarters. Laura touched briefly on five bullet points that were on the handout – Academic Pressure and College Stress, Alcohol and Drugs, Values Clarification, Safe Social Alternatives, and Mental and Physical Health. In response to the discussion, Laura said SCC created a set of open-ended questions called “Chatterbox” This box will contain many open-ended questions that can be discussed at the dinner table and provide ideas to help teens manage the challenging society that we face today. The Chatterbox will soon be available to the general public for \$2.00 per box. For those of you, who are interested in getting Chatterbox, please send an email to LauraZoll@hotmail.com

Joan Shetterly announced the Longfellow Panel that is scheduled for December 3, 2008. There will be 16 students from McLean to give upcoming 8th graders, rising 9th graders insights into McLean High School.

Unfinished Business:

There was no Unfinished Business reported.

New Business:

There was no New Business reported.

Upcoming Dates:

November 11	Senior Ethics Day
November 14	Mini-Conference, 7:30-9:30 am, School 3-hour late opening
November 21	ICU Thanksgiving Dinner.
November 25	PTSA Newsletter Deadline – December/January
November 26	Students – two-hour early release
November 27, 28	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	No PTSA Meeting
December 3	Longfellow Panel
December 13	Band Fruit Pick-up/ Holiday Fair
December 24- January 2	Winter Vacation
January 5	First day back to school after winter vacation
January 12	PTSA Meeting, library, 7:30 pm

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

In Attendance: Susan Perla, Debbie Jackson, Jihui Kim, Stefanie Schoepfle, Kathy Rugh, Betsy Sigman, Rebecca Davis, Reg Devlin, Joan Shetterly, Jaewoo Lee, Kathy Oram, Laura Zoll, Jacky Longwell, Jean Sullivan, Lisa Hymes, Wafika Albani