

McLean High School PTSA  
General Membership Meeting  
February 10, 2009

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved. The minutes are posted on the PTSA website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Kathy Rugh presented the monthly budget report covering the month of January 2009. She stated that we're about \$1500 away from reaching the 2008-09 budget. Also, the PTSA will issue checks for the budgeted line items such as Library, McLeaders, etc. The balance on hand as of January 31, 2009 was \$34,817.34. Please refer to the monthly budget report for additional information. Kathy also announced that we filed for an extension to file the 990.

**Student Reports:**

SGA Representative, Jackson Langevoort shared two recent achievements: the "Cram the Can" Food Drive and "Friends of Frosty" Toys for Tots Drive. The SGA had two successful food drives, MHS beat Langley by 300 cans for the 1<sup>st</sup> drive and Langley beat MHS by 600 cans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> drive. The Toy for Tots Drive collected over 2,000 toys over the holidays.

Student Congress representative, Scott Richardson brought up current hot topic/discussions among students including the food bank and trash. Kathy Rugh made positive comments on the trash remediation idea and told the student representatives that PTSA would consider supporting the Student Congress on the trash alleviation task.

There will be a Pep Rally to support the basketball game this Friday, February 13, 2009. Student elections are coming up in April. SAC has voiced opinions on Fairgrade and is looking to improve cafeteria food. He reminded parents that the freshman class needs to pick up t-shirts in Ms. Toledano's classroom. Scott Richardson also mentioned several senior events, such as Harvest Fest which was held in the fall, senior privileges, the senior trip to Kings Dominion and graduation. April 2, 2009 is the Talent show; please come and support the graduating Class of 2009. Graduation will take place on June 15, 2009 at DAR Constitution Hall. The All Night Grad Party will be held that night.

Junior Representative, Vanessa Bretas said the big event for the Class of 2010 is Prom. Committee meetings have been held to discuss various items associated with the Prom at Westwood Country Club, such as fundraisers, the ballots for song and prom theme -- which this year is "Fire and Ice." The class is working diligently to build a successful event for Juniors and Seniors.

Sophomore Representative, James Perla, said they are working on the prom venue for next year. The class is currently looking at three different locations. The class is also doing fundraising for the event, such as selling carnations for Valentines Day, and class t-shirts.

## **Principal and Staff Reports:**

Dr. Jackson expressed her appreciation of the students' participation at tonight's meeting.

She said the report cards for the second quarter were been mailed out; please contact the office if you have not received it. She touched on FAIRGRADE, and that the newly calculated transcripts will be mailed out to colleges with the mid-year reports.

The after school tutoring program was brought up by Dr. Jackson. According to the teachers, students are not taking advantage of the program. Please encourage your students to come to this program offered by the teachers. She announced that the School Board approved the 2009-10 year budget with Tier 2. In this budget, French 5 may be eliminated, but Dr. Jackson is working diligently to keep this program. They need 20 students in order to keep this class.

Retired custodian, Dang Truong, will be honored at the Pep Rally this Friday. The Electrify Your Strings orchestra concert is this Friday, February 13, 2009. Mrs. Sandberg hosted a workshop in collaboration with Wolf Trap; it promises to electrify your spirit. Please come and support the students this Friday.

Dr. Jackson reminded us that FCPS is interested in hearing from the community regarding the proposed changes to the school start times. Please express your concerns regarding the study via the survey link at the FCPS website. She also said she is trying to recruit the Virginia Attorney General as a guest speaker for the graduation.

Dr. Jackson addressed the recent video taping that took place at McLean High School and her reason for sending out a message regarding the taping on Monday, February 9. As stated on the message, she was approached by the county and accepted the taping opportunity. However, there were some concerned parents who felt this may have caused negative impact to students. Dr. Jackson said she was proud to show students' achievement and excellence. There were some brief discussions on this topic with several parents at the meeting.

(The meeting was interrupted by a fire alarm and later reconvened.)

## **President's Report:**

Susan made the announcement that "Colleges that Change Lives" program has been cancelled due to a speaker's illness. She also announced several other upcoming events – the Safe Community Coalition Cyber Summit, and Community Dialog meetings regarding SLEEP.

Susan said some parents are opposed to changing the bell schedule for later high school start times. WAKE - Worried About Keeping Extracurricular Activities, and SOS – Save Our Sports, were formed in response to the SLEEP. She encouraged parents to stay informed on the issue, take the survey, and attend the meeting at Longfellow on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Kent Arnold said the change can actually save money for the county and as always Jacky Longwell reminded everyone about being cordial and respectful when voicing opinions to the school board.

Susan asked for a vote to elect the members of the Nominating Committee: Jacky Longwell, Rebecca Davis and Catherine Slotkoff from Longfellow. A motion was made and carried to elect the Nominating Committee.

**Officer Reports:**

There was no Officer Reports.

**Committee Reports:**

Stefanie made announcements on ANGP – Capitol Steps Performance to Benefit MHS' All Night Grad Party. Please support the Class of 2009's All Night Graduation Party and enjoy the best political satire around to be held at McLean High School on Sunday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now to benefit the ANGP 2009. Tickets are \$35 each and will also be available for purchase at the door or directly from Stefanie.

Multicultural Night will be held on Friday, March 6, 2009 at MHS. Please contact Wafika Albani for more information or to volunteer.

Building and Grounds: Mary Brosnan could not attend because of the MHS basketball game, but she send in a report on the priority issues identified by Dr. Jackson for the building and grounds, including signage on Davidson Road, landscaping around the rock entrance and improvements to the signage on Westmoreland Street.

Anya Lundberg raised the issue of pedestrian safety on Westmoreland Street. She has been in touch with John Foust's office to improve safety for Kent Gardens and Longfellow students, and has a petition for parents to sign. Susan suggested that perhaps she could leave a petition in the front office for MHS parents to sign or do an i-peition on-line. Susan also suggested that she work with Betty Ende who was also involved in similar safety issues.

FAIRGRADE: Sara Pacque-Margolis gave a debriefing of the FAIRGRADE experience. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Jackson for her support. The fact that this change occurred in less than one year is a great achievement. She wants parents and students to have realistic expectations of what this change will mean in terms of college admissions and merit scholarships. She hopes the students have learned a valuable civics lesson through this experience. Susan Perla read a board resolution of appreciation for Sara's work on behalf of FAIRGRADE and presented Sara with a plaque and flowers. A motion was made and carried to adopt the resolution (attached).

**Unfinished Business:**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**New Business:**

There was no New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Upcoming Dates:**

February 16      Presidents Day – Student holiday  
February 19      Safe Community Coalition Cyber Summit  
February 24      Community Dialog Meeting on later start times – Longfellow MS  
February 25      PTSA Newsletter Deadline – March Issue  
February 28      Stomp our Underage Drinking Step Competition – West Potomac H.S.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

In Attendance: Susan Perla, Debbie Jackson, Jihui Kim, Stefanie Schoepfle, Kathy Rugh, Rebecca Davis, Reg Devlin, Jacky Longwell, Lisa Hymes, Kent Arnold, Phyllis Yoshida, Sara Pacque-Margolis, Scott Richardson, Jackson Langevoort, Vanessa Bretas, James Perla, Anya Lundberg