

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2016 7:30 pm

In attendance: Nancy Downing, Gayle Santiago, Maribeth Malecki, Lori Merrill, Jan Spencer, Tadhg Larabee, Rachel Cohen, Cindy Griffiths

July 20, 2015 minutes: Lori made a motion to approve. Cindy seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jan Spencer presented the December Financial Report.

Career Day February 28, 2016: Nancy reports they have 80+ speakers already, but they could use a few more. They also still need to coordinate parent volunteers to help that day, and she will work with Gayle on doing so.

School Funding: Funding cuts (or withholdings) are still a large issue at the state level. Administration has asked the PTSA to provide whatever sort of support or education it can provide to our families. There is an evening reception on January 25th in Annapolis where constituents may bring up any issue for discussion, and there are buses available from Rockville for those who would like to go. Cindy Griffiths plans on attending. She also agreed to write something which can be used to inform our students and families of the issues and how they can help.

Black History Month: Nancy has been discussing ways (with Deirdre Stubbs) of how to provide active support and awareness of racial issues during Black History Month – for parents and families. Ideas discussed during this meeting include having a speaker at next month's PTSA meeting, or having the topic addressed in some manner during the meeting. Tadhg and Cindy will work on scheduling an appropriate speaker. The "Study Circles Program" was also discussed. Participants agreed it is a worthwhile program, but high maintenance in terms of staff and family commitment.

Hispanic Outreach: The school held a focus group specifically for ESOL (Hispanic?) students in the fall and gathered a lot of data from the students involved. Administration is not quite sure what they are going to do with this information going forward, but will address issues as they can.

The last PTSA Parent Session and meeting was translated in to Spanish in the Counseling Center for parents who wished to attend. There were 4 participants this time, but continued translation offerings should increase attendance, and those attending appeared grateful for the chance to hear news and answer questions.

Staff Appreciation: It was decided to hold a staff appreciation mini-event on 2/12 by providing desserts and drinks in the office for staff to enjoy (donations via parents); we will continue the breakfast for staff appreciation in May. Maribeth to set the date and coordinate; we will also continue to provide the "grab and go" breakfast for staff on the morning of graduation 6/10.

Student Directory: In light of the difficulty distributing the paid-for directories this year, Gayle Santiago proposed some changes in the process. It was agreed that we would not sell any directories ahead of time, but only sell them once they are complete – and sell them at tables or events manned by PTSA volunteers.

Post Prom: Money is coming in from the indoor concessions, and donations will continue to be solicited by some means. They are working with a new fundraising site to collect donations.

Nominating Committee: The need for a Nominating Committee, and volunteers to fill next year's Board and committee Chairs will be announced at the next PTSA meeting, but Nancy asked that everyone start thinking about whether they wanted to continue in positions or if they could solicit other individuals for said positions.

Adjourn: Nancy moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Gayle Santiago, Volunteer Coordinator