

PTSA Meeting May 17, 2011 Minutes

Called to Order 7:15pm

Attendance:

Arpana Vernea
Sharon St.Pierre
Dennis Twombly
Courtney Springirth
Michael McCabe
Roni Septoff
Amy Matathias
Victoria Thanos
Glenn Miller
James M. Douglas
Lisa McCarthy
Lisa Capozzi
Ricardo Velazquez
Tina Velazquez
Bill Gregory
Susan Berkheimer
Rhonda Moehler

President- Susan Berkheimer, sherwoodpts@gmail.com

Every 15 Minute Chairperson from Magruder called Susan to thank her for the \$500 donation from Sherwood to their program.

Sherwood Sympathies for Magruder Students

Susan reached out to PTSA President at Magruder to extend our sympathies to the Magruder family over the tragic events of the weekend. Funeral arrangements will be held this week for the three children on Wed, Thursday and Friday this week. There's been a candlelight vigil the last few nights with road closures held by the larger Magruder community. Many Sherwood parents and students attended.

Distinguished Teacher/Staff Recognition Award.

Discussion about whether or not there is budget amount for this honor, Courtney, PTSA Treasurer, confirmed that there is. Last year three awards were given because there was a tie in one category. This year, two awards will be given, one to a teacher and one to support staff. Susan will call the company to have plaques made, and \$50 Visa/MasterCard gift cards will be purchased as well. Mr. Douglas asked us to make sure the card is worth the stated amount as some that he has received from other sources are actually well under the amount shown on the card.

Discussion of Every 15 Minutes program was tabled until later in the meeting at Rhonda Molleur's request. She wanted Sharon St.Pierre, previous program chairperson, to be there for discussion.

Principal's Report: Mr. Gregory, Sherwood High School Principal

AP Exams:

More exams were given this year than ever before. Plus the exams were given in house which made it much easier for students and parents—freshman and sophomores specifically.

Graduation 2011: This year graduation is 2 pm on a Monday June 6th

Graduation 2012: They have already drawn numbers for next years' graduation lottery and Mr. Gregory drew #3 which puts him in a great position to get his first choice pick for 2012 graduation. He will make his choices: 1st choice- Friday at 2pm, 2nd choice – Monday at 2pm

Sherwood Exams:

Senior exams begin Friday this week;
Underclass exams begin June 10th;
HSA's Exams end this week.

Treasurer's Report – Courtney Springirth See Attached budget for details

Monies are coming in for "After Prom"

General contributions are up by a small amount over budget.

Last year a large amount of carryover was brought into the current year, some discussion was had about whether or not that was appropriate, no vote was taken, and no decision was made as to an amount. Courtney will take a look at historically what was done and bring info back.

Buses for Graduation – Rhonda Molleur

There are 3 buses and approximately 30 seats left, she is filling them slowly and advertising a little at a time intentionally. Should work out just fine.

After Prom – Roni Septoff; Chariperson; rseptoff@sightsoundsupport.com;RSEP01@aol.com

WOW! I definitely did not get all of the exciting things Roni mentioned written down! After Prom sounds amazing, here is the little bit I scribbled down as she talked.

Décor: The Greatest Class on Earth – Circus theme

Tina Velasquez is the architect and designer of the décor for this year's after prom. Come by and see it at 8pm the night of prom if you'd like to have a sneak peek. Roni encouraged parents of younger students to come and look so they know what it entails and get excited about jumping on board to help in future years.

Prizes: Flat screen TV's, snowboards, whitewater raft trips, ski vacations, all kinds of sports packages including tickets to Redskins, Caps, Nationals, Orioles, Ravens etc. etc. Gift cards GALORE!! Cash prizes...iPods, nano's etc, etc. She just kept going!

Activities will include (and I didn't get it all!)

The Band "The Dukes", Family Feud, 3 movies playing at all times, Pony races with ponies races on wheels - Off Track Betting to go with it; Giant Inflatable Trail, a Hypnotist, Bingo, etc.

Doors open between 12:00 (midnight) – 12:15 a.m. Students have to be at After Prom by 2:00 a.m., and once you leave the building you cannot get back into After Prom

The County is assigning 2 Police officers to each After Prom celebration to ensure the safety of all the kids. One is inside; one is outside and patrolling parking area.

MUST have a ticket and school id to enter After Prom, tickets are free and can be gotten at school. No bags whatsoever will be allowed inside. Change into more comfortable clothes before you come

You must sign in when you arrive, you must sign out to leave. Once you leave you cannot re-enter. Police will escort you to your car.

There will be NO lenience this year on 12 midnight to 5am provisional licenses. Please plan accordingly. After Prom has contracted with Barwood Cab for a free ride home for anyone with provisional license or if a parent can't come get them or if they are just too tired to drive. FREE! AMAZING!

635 After Prom Tickets have been given out so far. About half juniors and half seniors.

Roni and many others –to name a few Tammy and Jeff King, Tina Velasquez, Lauri Black, Katie Nardone, Teresa Chaput, Elizabeth Lakey, Beth Levin and Amy Banda have been working tirelessly for this event. Rhonda Molleur and Diane Cutler have been working on the food. PLEASE show up Saturday morning after 8am and give of your time to help them hang decorations. Bring a ladder if you can and a great attitude is required! Its fun, come give them a hand.

Corresponding Secretary – Lisa McCarthy

Many, many staff things have occurred in the last couple of months. Sadly many of our staff have lost parents or in laws, happily lots of new babies have been born and adopted, several staff have undergone planned and unplanned surgeries. I read them all to those who were present. I have written cards to each and every one.

How will we handle involuntary transfers? Last year we did \$10 gift cards and a note to each. Retirement Gifts for those staff retiring this year Donald Gable and Gene Orndorff. Also, our very own Mr. McCabe will be leaving to relocate in Charleston, SC with his wife. We are sad to see him go, but of course wish him only the very best in his new endeavor.

Staff Appreciation, Co-chairs:

Marguerite Shoop, mkshoop@yahoo.com, Sharlene Monroe, sharlenem901@msn.com, 301-648-2025

Event : “The End of Year Luncheon for our Teachers and Staff” - Thursday, June 2 from 10:30 until 12:30 p.m.

Help is needed with the following:

- help with set up (8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.) and clean up (12:15 p.m. til 1:15 p.m.)
- help with baking or buying desserts (brownies, cookies, cakes, cupcakes, bar cookies)
- Items for the raffle (donated by local businesses - free haircuts, \$20 gift cards to restaurants, etc.),
- looking for unique "grand prize" raffle items; such as country club membership beach condo or cabin in the mountains it's a tax deductible donation

BYLAWS – Tina Velazquez

The new bylaws were presented by Tina with negligible changes/amendments:

- 1) Secretary, there have always been two, but they were further defined as:
 - Recording Secretary
 - Corresponding Secretary
- 2) All ELECTED positions can serve 1, 2, or up to 3 years.

Floor was open for questions,

Floor was open for a few minutes of discussion but no one seemed to have any comments.

Jim Douglas, teacher, motioned to approve the bylaws as amended.

Roni Septoff, seconded the motion

All those in favor, Unanimous passing of amended bylaws. Tina Velasquez will file the Bylaws as amended.

PTSA Officers for next year 2011-2012, Victoria Thanos; VP thanos@aol.com; tvthanos@verizon.com

Slate is as follows:

President	Susan Berkheimer
First Vice President	Roni Septoff
Second Vice President	Teacher Representative - Vacant, Mr. McCabe will be leaving: someone new will be appointed
Third Vice President	Student Representative To Be Appointed
Fourth Vice President	Victoria Thanos
Treasurer	Courtney Springirth
Recording Secretary	Rachel Maines
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa McCarthy
Delegate	Ricardo Velazquez
Delegate	Arpana Verma

New Business, Discussion Susan Berkheimer; President

Discussion: Additional ways to receive funding for programs such as Every “15 Minute” and “After Prom”

Posed the question to those in attendance, given the Magruder incident of the last weekend where 3 children died in an alcohol related accident just two weeks after their Every 15 Minutes program...are we reaching them? Is this program

reaching the kids in the way that it needs to? Given the economic times we are in, will we be able to raise the money for both this and After Prom?

Every 15 Minutes requires \$5-\$7K to put on and a great deal of volunteer effort. The school is on board to help in the way of staff support and scheduling.

After Prom requires \$12-15K to put on and also a great deal of volunteer effort.

Sharon St. Pierre presented exactly what the program is, what it is meant to do, and why she feels it is important.

Rhonda read a letter from the Chief of Police about the importance of continuing the program.

After discussion it seemed the general consensus was that everyone understood the value of both of these programs, the key is working out a way to fund the both in a fiscal year when economic times are tough for our parent and business communities.

Further magnified by the fact that our immediate business community is hammered for donations from Good Counsel, Magruder, Sherwood and Blake.

Sharon suggested that she will need to be more aggressive and pro-active in writing for grant money. She will need help finding potential grants that are out there. There is one called "Draw the Line" \$1500 that she is aware of. An additional line item for Every 15 Minutes on the Membership form was suggested, Lions Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Alcohol and Substance abuse program grant money was suggested.

It's agreed by the larger group that we will have to do something different than we've been doing to be able to support both programs fully.

Susan Berkheimer – We need to come up with a solid proposal for how the money can be attained for both programs, it's not enough to just say we can- we need a plan of action.

Both the After Prom Chair, Roni Septoff and the Every 15 Minutes Chairs, Sharon St. Pierre; Rhonda Moeller were offering up various ways that they have heard other groups are raising the money.

A lot of discussion, consensus is that both programs are valuable.

No formal vote was taken; no action recommended other than to think about how we will do this and formalize a plan for funding each, looking outside of the normal/traditional ways.

**Written by,
Lisa McCarthy, PTSA**

Submitted by Rachel Maines, PTSA Secretary