

PTSA Meeting October 18, 2011 Minutes

Called to Order 7:15 pm

Minutes Approved

Attendance: Attached

PTSA Officers school year 2011-2012, committee; Victoria Thanos; VP; thanos@aol.com;

Slate is as follows:

President	Susan Berkheimer, sherwoodpts@gmail.com
First Vice President	Roni Septoff, rseptoff@sightsoundsupport.com
Second Vice President	*
Teacher Representative	Sandi Williams, Sandi_L_Williams@mcpsmd.org
Third Vice President	*Appointed Student Representative
Fourth Vice President	Victoria Thanos, thanos@aol.com ;
Treasurer	Courtney Springirth; CSpringirth@springirthcpa.com
Recording Secretary	Rachel Maines , rachel@aabb.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa McCarthy, l.mccarthy@aol.com
Delegate	Ricardo Velazquez, trvelazquez@yahoo.com
Delegate	Arpana Verma, asverma93@gmail.com
NCAACP Rep (Parent Council of Representative)	Melody Bell, mcbell15@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report – Courtney Springirth; CSpringirth@springirthcpa.com

Budget was submitted

Membership - Jennifer Mazur, BJ Mills

- They are working on Sherwood PTSA Directory

Direct Appeal – Janice Flamand, jflamand@comcast.net

- Direct Appeal is at 92 % of Goal

President- Susan Berkheimer, sherwoodpts@gmail.com ; 301-370-1489

Every 15 Minutes": Program is official for this school year

- Sherwood High School PTSA will be sponsoring this program April 26 -27, 2012
- Parents: should attend the October 26 meeting at 7pm in the Media Center, parents can learn what "Every 15 Minutes" is all about. Discussion Questions: What is tolerated? What is in the home?
- Magruder High School normally partners with Sherwood on Every 15 Minutes
- Mr Evans, a speaker, and a dad that lost his daughter, will give a speech, his daughter was student at Magruder High School, he will address the students
- Alcohol issues will be addressed
- Parents supporting and monitoring "dry" parties is very helpful

PTSA Voting Issue:

The Student Government was requesting funding from PTSA for purchasing usage of an Online Voting Software Program.

The Student Government was represented by, Nicole Jakobowski, Student President

- ✓ **This was voted on and approved by the PTSA**

The program is easy to use, easy to track the information

It is a survey monkey system

You do need your student ID to logon

They can use it for one year, it is an annual subscription

New PTSA Member

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

- **Homecoming** was a very successful event
 - Homecoming was held on Saturday, October 15th, in the Sherwood Cafeteria it is a fundraiser event
 - Mr Gregory thanked the parents, for all of their hard work and that everything went smoothly
 - A collaborative event was held prior to Homecoming which was "Spirit week" for the students
- Safe parties are important before and after the Homecoming Dance

Sherwood's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

Sherwood did not make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the second time

- Goal is to make it by 2014
- Sherwood did not meet (AYP) requirements in reading proficiency for the Limited English Proficient (LEP) subgroup.
 - Sherwood is now in the Developing Stage, a label designated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This requires Sherwood to develop a formal action plan of steps the school will take to make AYP.
- In 2011, 47.8 percent of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) subgroup was proficient in reading, which is a 17-percent increase from 2010, but is still 15.1 percent below the minimum proficiency requirement of 62.9 percent. The main aspect of determining AYP status is a school's performance and participation on the English and math HSAs.
- Make an effort with each individual student, and look at what resources we have to provide that student in order to help that student achieve his or her best
- The major requirement of the federally legislated No Child Left Behind Act, AYP is the improvement that schools, school systems and states must make each year in achieving proficiency in reading and math.
- To make AYP, schools and school systems must meet targets in reading and mathematics overall and for each student subgroup, and meet the testing participation requirement of 95 percent. A graduation rate of 81.5 percent is another requirement for high schools.
- In 2010, Sherwood also failed to meet reading participation rates by the LEP, Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) and Hispanic subgroups in addition to reading proficiency in LEP. This year, the participation rate of each of the subgroups was improved by over 14 percent, four percent and two percent, respectively, putting them in the required range of at least 95-percent participation.
- Last year, in 2010, FARMS did not reach the target proficiency rate to meet AYP requirements. The reason FARMS was still able to meet the requirement was because of the application of a "safe harbor". To receive a safe harbor, the school overall must attain AYP proficiency standards in math and reading and 95-percent participation. Additionally, the percentage of students achieving below the proficient level in that subgroup must have decreased by ten percent.
- We are looking to make our AYP goal this year because after a year of taking a look at how we did things, we saw vast improvements from last year. The right formulas are in place. It just always takes some time when you put something new in to see how it results and get all of the kinks worked out
- AYP targets are set to increase every year, so this year's goal will be to reach 86.3-percent reading proficiency. With these increasing targets, The Extended School Improvement Team (ESIT) members acknowledge that every subgroup must be monitored and assisted to ensure that Sherwood meets AYP this year.

P SATs - Testing

Goal for 10th graders is to measure how they take it in the county

Measure their strengths and needs

Main focus to handle life after the testing is complete

96 percent of the 10th grade class took the exam

It is also a goal at Sherwood that the seniors take the correct exam

Sherwood Prep classes for SATs are considered very helpful

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

Update on Homecoming

- Held Saturday, October 15th, in the Sherwood Cafeteria it is a fundraiser event for the Athlete Department
- Successful event
- Sold 900 tickets, sold 400 tickets the Friday before the event
- There is a coat check, to help prevent lost and theft
- The Cheerleaders and their parents are very involved in the set up/ the clean up and the helping to run the dance
- Flowers Sales- Bell Florist, sold flowers for homecoming, cost between \$10 - \$15, a portion of the sales goes to the After Prom

After Prom

❖ Still a Junior and Senior Event

- 675 Students attended “After Prom” last year
- Bingo was a bit hit last year
- This year’s themes: Cruise Ship
- To be held at Longwood Recreation Center
- Possible Entertainment: Stand up Comedian – approximate for their age group
- Donations Needed Gift Cards - Money – Food – Materials

Senior Prom: to be held May 19th, 2012

- This year the Prom was changed to “Seniors Only”
- Cannot attend prom if on a 10 day suspension
- This year expecting 300 students – a sit down dinner will be served

Corresponding Secretary, Lisa McCarthy, l.mccarthy@aol.com

- No report this evening

Staff Appreciation, Co–chairs: Staff Appreciation, Co–chairs: Marguerite Shoop, mkshoop@yahoo.com, Sharlene Monroe, sharlenem901@msn.com, 301-648-2025

Upcoming Events:

The committee's plans for the year are a combination of donated treats and purchases:

Halloween candy treats

Autumn breakfast

December holiday treats

Valentine Treats

Administrative Day gifts

End of the year Luncheon with donated desserts

Goal: Our Committee’s goal is to show the teachers and staff of Sherwood H.S. how much we appreciate them, their interest in our children’s well-being, and their dedication to the job. We do this by providing savory sweets and baked items throughout the school year, and culminate with a huge luncheon at year’s end.

Because we don't have enough money in our budget to do this alone, we ask for parental support throughout the year to provide these treats. I will be emailing you a few times throughout the school year as each occasion arises, asking for your donations.

❖ **Halloween – Bake or Buy Event**

Our first request of the year is now, for Halloween candy. We will provide the teachers with candy on Wednesday, November 2, providing you an opportunity to buy candy on sale after the holiday, or to bring in any leftover Halloween candy you have on hand.

“The Every 15 Minutes” Program: Sharon St. Pierre; stpierre619@verizon.net, Rhonda Molleur; afmolleur@aol.com, Janice Flamand; jflamand@comcast.net

Update:

Expensive program to sponsor

2nd time it will be held in 10 years

November -There will be a presentation

December – Starting to sign up students volunteers

Program will be held at Sherwood High School (PTSA Sponsored program) April 26 -27, 2012.

- 2 day program with a series of events
- Covers dangerous activities/sleeping/ and texting while driving
- Parents: Attend the October 26 meeting at 7pm in the Media Center
- Students: Attend the October 26 meeting at 7pm in the Media Center. At the meeting we will talk about roles for student participants and the timeline for distribution of applications
- Reviewing timeline and volunteer positions
- Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherwood-High-School-Every-15-Minutes/204039786332254#!/pages/Sherwood-High-School-Every-15-Minutes/204039786332254>
- There are several volunteer positions open

Sherwood Cluster Coordinator – Arpana Verma; Richard Velazquez; trvelazquez@yahoo.com

Promethium Boards

Allot funds to purchase "promethium boards" for Sherwood HS. Tina supports, and motioned that we allocate funds for these purchases. She shared with Mr. Gregory and Susan, PTSA president, information about a great program that allows us to get additional funds.

Monday November 21st , 2011 “Listen and Learn Meeting “ at Sherwood

Montgomery County’s new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a “Listen and learn” event at Sherwood High School in the cafeteria, from 7:00 to 8:30pm

This event is an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Dr. Starr and to offer their views and perspectives of what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve.

Dr. Starr has a keen interest in hearing directly from parents as he sets his priorities for the school system. This is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about his educational philosophy and leadership style.

I encourage all of you to attend the upcoming “Listen and Learn” event at Sherwood HS.

Childcare and interpretation services will be provided.

If you are not able to attend the event on November 21, Dr. Starr is holding other Listen and Learn events during the months of September, October and November. Times and locations are available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

Resolution on the Co-Location of County Services at MCPS Schools Adopted October 25, 2011

This resolution involves: An organization, outside of the Montgomery county school system on location in a site with the students

- Concerns over the safety of these outside programs
- Who is monitoring these groups?
- Developing policies and procedures to address these issues
- Moving to address support guidelines

- Online Read Further:
http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2011-2012/Approved_Colocation_Resolution.pdf
- THAT MCCPTA further recommends that these policies and procedures fully address concerns of safety, controlled access, adequate space and other issues that arise from the co-location of other services; that these policies and procedures take into account the age of the children located at the school balanced with the nature of the county services proposed to be co-located; and these policies and procedures be presented for public input and comment before they are adopted.

Resolution in Opposition to Legislation of a Limited Youth Curfew in Montgomery County Adopted October 25, 2011

http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2011-2012/Approved_Nocurfewresolution.pdf

- Sherwood PTSA oppose this resolution
- Issues:
 - What is the penalty for the teen?
 - Vague
 - Classes for parents is teen get penalized
 - Police babysitting? There already are loitering laws
 - Used as a tool to use teens to move along

WHEREAS, all parents want their children to be safe.

WHEREAS, the County Executive, Ike Leggett has proposed a limited curfew aimed at teens “to improve the safety of juveniles, the safety of residents and visitors to our increasingly urbanized communities, and to reduce juvenile-related crimes.”

WHEREAS, there has been a 50% decline in gang-related crime from 2008 to 2011, which shows that current strategies are working without punitive measures. State-wide grants since 2008, after-school programs and supports, and people such as Luiz Cardona, Montgomery County Violence Prevention Coordinator, have demonstrated positive ways of combating gang activity and crime instead of through punitive measures for all such as a curfew.

WHEREAS, laws already exist for police to deal with suspicious behavior. Imposing a law on the entire population of Montgomery County youth when the culprit exists in a small segment of the county is unjustifiable. In addition, the ten exceptions that Mr. Leggett have made it difficult to enforce a limited curfew with consistency (such as when on an errand at the direction of the parent or guardian without any detour or stop until 12:30 a.m.)

THEREFORE, MCCPTA resolves that MCCPTA opposes a youth curfew, yet supports continuing efforts to combat crime through positive prevention programs and supports.

MCCPTA FY2012 OPERATING BUDGET COMPACT

http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2010-2011/OpBudgetCompFY12_Approved.pdf

The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) believes that an Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) must provide funding to make progress towards the fundamental requirements described in this budget compact. This compact will provide the basis for testimony before the Board of Education and the County Council and in other forums concerning the MCPS Operating Budget for FY 2012. MCCPTA will not support any budget, MCPS Strategic Plan, or other planning or policy document, that does not make progress towards the requirements of this compact.

Goal 1 of the MCPS Strategic Plan: Ensure Success for Every Student.

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan: Provide an Adequate Instructional Program

Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan: Strengthen productive partnerships for education.

Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan: Create a Positive Work Environment in a Self-Renewing Organization.

Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan: Provide high quality business services that are essential to the educational success of students.

Resolution on MCPS Procedures for the Site Selection Process Adopted October 25, 2011

http://www.mccpta.com/resolutions/2011-2012/Site_Selection_Resolution_10-25-11.pdf

WHEREAS, from time to time, it is necessary for MCPS to consider the selection of sites to locate county schools, special education centers and holding centers;

WHEREAS, Board of Education Policy FAA-RA describes the procedures to be followed for such site selection;

WHEREAS, Policy FAA-RA provides, among other things, that MCPS will convene a Site Selection Advisory Committee composed of MCPS staff, PTA representatives and appropriate municipal and county government officials;

WHEREAS, issues recently have arisen regarding the composition and charge of Site Selection Advisory Committees;

THEREFORE, the MCCPTA RESOLVES:

THAT MCCPTA supports a fair and representative process for the creation and operation of Site Selection Advisory Committees;

THAT MCCPTA supports the inclusion on Site Selection Advisory Committees of representatives from all affected communities, including those not affiliated with PTA;

THAT MCCPTA recommends Policy FAA-RA be revised to clarify the role of PTA representatives on a Site Selection Advisory Committee so as to make clear that PTA can represent the interests of the school community but are not expected to recruit, inform or represent interests that are not affiliated with PTA; and

THAT MCCPTA supports the earliest possible disclosure of sites under consideration, giving due consideration to legitimate needs for confidentiality, such as the potential consideration of property not already owned or reserved for school use.

PTSA Committee Volunteers Needed For

- Beautification Committee – Organize Sherwood Grounds
- PTSA Membership – Organize the membership drive and funds and the Directory
- PTSA Hospitality - Organize drinks and snacks for PTSA meeting events

Submitted by,

Rachel Maines, PTSA Secretary

Adjourned 8:45 pm