

PTSA Meeting September 20, 2011 Minutes

Called to Order 7:15 pm

Attendance: Attached

PTSA Officers school year 2011-2012, committee; 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	Sandi Williams, Sandi_L_Williams@mcpsmd.org
Third Vice President	*Appointed Student Representative
Fourth Vice President	Victoria Thanos
Treasurer	Courtney Springirth
Recording Secretary	Rachel Maines
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa McCarthy, l.mccarthy@aol.com
Delegate	Ricardo Velazquez
Delegate	Arpana Verma

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

Budget was submitted

- 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.
- Spent the bulk on Lunch and retirees gift cards

Membership - Jennifer Mazur, BJ Mills

- They are working on Sherwood PTSA Directory

Direct Appeal – Janice Flamand, jflamand@comcast.net

- Direct Appeal is at 60 % of Goal , raised \$15Thousand by September 14

President- Susan Berkheimer, sherwoodptsa@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: Can Attend the October 26 meeting at 7pm in the Media Center.
 - Table at Back to School Night
 - A dad that lost his daughter, will give a speech
 - There will be a program for the parents, so they can learn what “Every 15 Minutes” is all about.
 - SSL hours for assembly
 - Discussion Questions: What is tolerated? What is in the home?

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

New Superintendent of Schools

- Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Joshua P. Starr
- New Cluster Superintendent, Ms. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez

Sherwood welcomes new staff:

2 Tech/3 Art/ English/ Foreign Language/ Social Studies/ Special Ed/ Head of Football/Head of PE

Sherwood has first choice this year for Graduation

Sherwood's 1st choice currently is: Tuesday May 29, 2012 at 2:30 pm

Rehearsal: Friday before Memorial Day

Students will have "No wiggle room" The kids that needed to make up work or a test did not have time since Senior year ends so close to the graduation date.

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

Sherwood Ranks in Top 500 Schools

This past June, Newsweek published its annual list of America's top ranking public high schools, drawing from Poway High School in San Diego, California, to Poolesville High School in Poolesville, Maryland. For the first time, Sherwood has joined the exclusive ranks of the top 500.

Ranking at 468th overall, Sherwood was one of the eight MCPS high schools, and one of 19 Maryland schools, to make the top 500.

The list is confusing to follow, due to the fact that all of the schools are ranked by a series of calculations and percentages based on the categories "On-time graduation rate," "Percent of graduates to enter directly into college," "AP/IB tests per graduate, and score," and "Average SAT and/or ACT score."

Sherwood's spot on the list was secured by such statistics as a 12.9-percent student-teacher ratio, 95-percent graduation rate, 79-percent college-bound seniors, and an average SAT score of 1616 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Improvement Plan

An effective learning community for students and adults in schools requires highly skilled administrators, teachers, support staff and others working together to ensure the achievement of all students. There is specific action plan with methods in place to help reach these goals.

3 Essential Elements

- Teaching a rich curriculum
- Engaging students in learning
- Purposefully teach reading and writing
- For Students / Teachers/ Administrators - A dynamic structure for critical reflection, continuous improvement and life long learning.
- Focus on lesson plan learning

Focus on STEM: Science/ Technical / Engineering/Math

Shelter in Place and Cell Phone Policy

Shelter-in-place means that in certain situations it may be necessary to hold students and staff indoors. This concept is known as shelter-in-place, which is very similar to the procedures used during Code Blue. Shelter-in-place can be used in weather-related emergencies; chemical, biological, or radiological incidents, and other emergencies. The nature and duration of the shelter-in-place will be determined by the emergency situation or at the direction of public safety officials and/or MCPS officials.

Montgomery County (MCPS) has approved phone messages that can be sent out, the principals are not allowed to send out their own phone messages.

New: Changes to Montgomery County Attendance Procedures

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/sherwoodhs/New%20attendance%20procedure%20letter%20for%20parents.pdf>

Student attendance in all classes is critically important to maximize student learning, attain good grades, and earn credits in high school.

- Students with 3 unlawful absences in a class will be warned of the possibility of failure and referred to their counselors and administrators.
- Students who are unlawfully absent from class 5 times will automatically be required to submit an appeal of the recording of their absences if they or their parents/guardians believe that any absences were recorded incorrectly, or an attendance intervention plan.
- A letter or e-mail if your student has five unlawful absences to inform you that your student will fail the class unless an appeal or an attendance intervention plan is completed.

MCPS - Dress Code

- Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing to school. Clothing that offends others or disrupts learning is inappropriate. Clothing that includes references to gangs, drugs, alcohol, and sex is not acceptable.
- Halter tops are not acceptable, shirts must have straps
- Modest shorts

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

- Homecoming which is held on Saturday, October 15th, in the Sherwood Cafeteria is a fundraiser event
- 60 % of students attend
- Cafeteria holds 777 students/ Atrium area hold 300students The Gym holds 1100 students
- No Homecoming tickets if any outstanding Financial Obligations to Sherwood are unpaid
- Homecoming halls will be the 4 seasons: Winter/ Fall /Spring/ Summer
- Pizza Lunch

- 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

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

- Scholarship Money, Sherwood tries to be very generous
- Staff Appreciation committee funds were used to buy the following at the end of the year
- 4 retirement gifts, which were \$100 Visa gift cards
- 1 Distinguished staff award which was a \$100 gift card and a plaque
- 6 gifts for staff/teachers that were transferred at the end of the year, Mama Lucia gift cards

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

□ Upcoming Events : Halloween – Bake or Buy Event

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

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

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 – Tina Velazquez; trvelazquez@yahoo.com

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

- **Monday, November 21, Montgomery County’s new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a “Listen and Learn” event from 7:00 to 8:30pm at Sherwood High School in the cafeteria.**

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

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 8:25 pm