

Long Reach High School PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes Monday, September 13, 2010

In Attendance:

Alicia Slahetka-President, Lourdes Agosto-Treasurer, Lisa Jones-Secretary, David Burton- Principal, Shawn Hastings-Hauf-Assistant Principal, Laurie Lerman-After-Prom Committee, Sheree Myers-Drivers ED Chair, Khara Walker-Membership Chair, Donna Tafuri-Scholarship Committee, Lisa Ferryman-Store Rebate Coordinator, Darla Weiss-Volunteer Coordinator and Dee Foster

CALL TO ORDER: The first meeting of this year's PTSA was called to order at 7:04 pm in the main office conference room by President, Alicia Slahetka. Alicia asked each attendee to begin with an introduction and then went over the expectations of the PTSA board and our school administrators. She then discussed a few housekeeping details:

- Need to bring in more freshman parents. Stressing a continuance of support and leadership for the future of the PTSA. Need to encourage and invite other parents to attend meetings.
- Attendance is important. Asking everyone to commit to once a month.
- Speak up about your ideas or advice and keep an open mind
- Some items are confidential and need to respect that information
- Please support each other – we are all volunteers who want to help
- Need everyone to complete roster information forms
- PTSA meeting dates for the 2010-11 school year
- Child abuse and Neglect Reporting Procedures – Each attendee asked to complete 5 minute online training before next meeting. Need to bring certificate of completion so that it can be turned into the school nurses office.
- Handed out PTSA Job descriptions
- Membership forms - PTSA and Boosters– requested to support both groups. Stressed importance of the PTSA and Boosters partnering and working together. Boosters financially supported After Prom last year, we need to support them.
- Please look at Volunteer checklist form and turn it to Darla, Volunteer coordinator
- Treasurer receipt and disbursement forms – Extras located in the green treasurer's folder in the PTSA mailbox in the school office. Went over procedure for submitting a request for reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the PTSA. Bring filled out forms with you to meetings. Treasurer will have checkbook and can get reimbursed immediately.
- Discussed procedures for committees wanting to send email newsletters out to parents and staff. Must be sent to Alicia and then she will go through the appropriate channels to have the newsletter sent out.

OFFICER REPORTS

Presidents report:

- Read a thank you card from recently retired administrator - Rose Friss
- The Freshman Orientation was well attended and was a success. The administrators were very happy with the joint effort of the PTSA and Boosters sponsoring and providing the refreshments for the students. The freshmen were excited about the lunch and were thrilled when they found out it was free.

- The LRHS Staff Back-to-School-Breakfast was hosted and sponsored by the PTSA. The staff was very appreciative and enjoyed the food.
- Homecoming – September 25th. Had to cancel the annual Homecoming Pancake Breakfast on Saturday. The parade had to be moved to Friday at 3 pm due to the county not being able to provide a police escort for us because of another large event taking place in the county. It was felt that with no parade on Saturday people would not come out for the breakfast. We hope that this only effects this year and we can go back to hosting the HC Breakfast next year. Unfortunately, due to canceling breakfast, there are some logistical problems as to how students will be able to pick up yearbooks.
- Back to School night – September 17, 2010. General meeting will be at 7pm. Freshman parents coming at 6pm. PTSA Board asked to come early to help with membership sign ups.
- AP Exam scores were published. LRHS students did very well. Out of 173 students, they ended up taking 321 exams: Scores: 21% = 5, 23% = 4, 30% = 3, 17% = 2, 9% = 1. Acknowledged the LRHS staff and students for the success.
- Energy forum to be held on October 14th at 7 pm. – Last year Long Reach and one of our students, Jake Esposito was recognized nationally by Parade Magazine for our conservation efforts and trying to go green. Jake was honored at a recognition ceremony in Washington DC and was able to meet the Vice-President of the United States. The Environmental club at Long Reach has worked hard over the last year to make Long Reach more energy efficient with the help of one of our business partners, Energy Solutions. They helped us by working with the students to do an energy audit and were able to add light sensors in the classrooms and hallways. We have saved a large amount of money on our energy bills because of this. A goal with our partner is to share ways with the community to become more energy efficient. An energy forum has been planned where students will present information and allow parents to attend break-out sessions to learn more about ways to save money. We hope to have outside organizations available for parents to obtain more information. An invitation has been extended to the Governor as well as other top level executives.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Proposed 2010-2011 Budget:** Alicia stated that with so much going on at Back-to-School Night it is hard to go over the proposed budget line by line with the parents. It was unanimously decided that we will not present the budget for a vote at BTSN, however, the members present at tonight's meeting went through the budget line by line. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as proposed and after voting the budget unanimously passed.
- **Fundraising ideas:** Several items were suggested to help with our fundraising efforts.
 - Restaurant Night: Hard to compete with the other sports groups and organizations within the school who do these as well. Will try to work with activities director and get on calendar so we do not have conflicts.
 - Looking into a Google search engine website called 'Good Search'. Every time a search is made online through this website, a penny is donated to a designated charity. Money is also offered for purchases made online through site. We have requested to be recognized as a charitable organization and hope to have it up and running by Back-to-School night.
 - Suggested revenue idea: Competition for each class to see who can raise the most money by signing up the most students to join PTSA. The class raising the most funds could win an ice-cream social.

PRINCIPALS REPORT:

- Hoping to bring a recycling program into the school, and working on getting recycling bins for all classrooms. Would like to get the county to provide bins for us, but have been told they are not free. Will check further into getting free bins, but may have to look for donations from parents to pay for the bins. Also commented on how much energy the school has saved due to the energy conservation programs set in place. Looking forward to even more savings.
- Expressed how important the PTSA and parents are to the success of our children and how much we are appreciated. Emphasized how much our children need parent support and how important it is for parents to be involved in their student's lives during the high school years, since this can be the most crucial time in a student's life. He believes this is where parents are able to shape and mold students into becoming successful young adults.
- Principal stressed that he is available to us. He will always try to get back to us within 48 hours and we are always welcome to talk to him. He is very happy and feels very fortunate to be here.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **After Prom:** Prom date: Saturday May 7th. After Prom: May 8th starting at 12:30 am to 5 am. Stressed the importance of students attending this event and not having parents plan their own after prom parties. Last year, we spent about \$45 per student, and the tickets are only \$10 each. The After Prom committee will be meeting regularly on the 1st Monday of every month @ 7pm. The first meeting will be on October 4th for the early stages of planning. We still need other volunteers and committee members to make it successful.
- **Drivers Ed:** First class begins September 20th - Discussed whether students from outside LRHS are allowed to enter the program. Because of the time it is offered immediately after school it would be hard to have someone from another school attend, however it was concluded that if someone wants to be in our class it will be at the Principal's discretion.
- **Food Lion:** New Program called: *Food Lion Classroom Rewards*. To date, 23 participants signed up. We need 25 for the school to start receiving rewards. Lisa will update at next meeting.
- **Giant:** School is registered. Program starts October 8th through March 24th.
- **Membership:** We have 52 staff signed up so far. Big push for membership will be at Back to School Night. Offering a LRHS coffee mug as incentive for parents who sign up for PTSA membership at BTSN.
- **Newsletter:** Considering cutting down costs by possibly eliminating a paper newsletter. The HCPSS E-Newsletter seems to be more effective and timely. Concerns were discussed about whether all parents are signed up for it and what about parents who do not have access to the internet. It was agreed that the electronic newsletter is the best way to communicate for the majority of parents, and in our efforts to go green, it is best to send the HCPSS newsletters. Suggestion was made to make available hard copies of all announcements for anyone who would need this option. Money was allocated in the budget for one mailing to communicate our efforts regarding After Prom.
- **Safeway:** Our school is registered but Lisa F will look into their website to get more information. Really want to promote Safeway program since their store is in our neighborhood.
- **SAT Prep Course:** 4 part class being offered at LR on Sept 27th & 30th and Oct 4th & 6th. Need a minimum of 20 students enrolled to keep the course at our school. PTSA receives a stipend from each student enrolled. Still short of enrollment, but will mention at BTSN and send out more HCPSS news announcements. Next SAT testing date is October 9th.

- **Scholarships:** Four \$500 scholarships are given out to seniors at the end of the year. Students must be members of the PTSA to win scholarship. Looking for parents to help with committee.
- **Target:** Still need a chair. Lisa F. volunteered at the meeting.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Volunteer checklist will be handed out at BTSN. Darla will compile database and make sure that volunteers are able to volunteer for various activities.
- **Website Coordinator:** Patricia is unable to come to the meetings, but keeps our site up to date. Any information to be posted on web site can be sent to Patricia. Please copy Alicia on all correspondence to Patricia so that we do not double our efforts.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Marquee: Dave asked if we can help support getting an electronic marquee for the front of the school. It was mentioned that we think this had been looked into in the past and we were not allowed to because of some code issues in Howard County. Dave will research further into it.

Current PTSA vacancies: Still have a vacancy for a Vice President. Alicia will be mentioning the vacancy at Back-To-School Night and is confident that we will fill the position quickly.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM

Submitted by:
Lisa Jones, Secretary