

Robert Frost Middle School PTSA
October 9, 2007
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

President's Report. Frost after-school club information has been distributed to all students. Some clubs are already filled. A question was raised about intramurals being publicized to the parents. Ms. Williams explained that the students know about intramurals from the morning announcements and the information board in the hallway. There was consensus that this information should be readily available for parents too (i.e., keep the website up-to-date). Another question was raised about helping children know how to use the activity bus. Ms. Williams reported that this year there are signs posted that indicate which bus goes to each stop and neighborhood.

- Wootton Shows: HONK! Musical November 2-4, **MacBeth Did It**, a play, November 29-December 4.
- “Making the Most of the Middle School Years”, October 10, sponsored by IBM and Montgomery County
- “Angry Children, Angry Parents”, a presentation at Suburban Hospital on October 25
- Kids College at Montgomery College courses start soon

The MCCPTA is looking for volunteers to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee.

Treasurer's Report. MN distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's Report. KG presented a request from staff members asking for four new “wheelie” two-sided backdrops for the stage for Dessert Theater and (future) Talent Shows. The PTSA will ask the staff for more details such as a written estimate(s) and then the board can determine how much the PTSA can contribute to this.

MCCPTA Delegate's Report. RE distributed the Proposed Items for Focus on Operating Budget Priorities and asked for comments. RE made a motion to support the priorities as presented in the resolution with the exception of support for school web sites. The motion was seconded and passed.

RE also distributed a resolution on background checks for MCPS employees. A motion was made to support the resolution. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion passed.

RE asked for input about a resolution concerning high school students and testing. It was agreed that RE should vote to support students having a choice - taking a test or doing a project for a final grade (after they've already taking AP or IB or other tests).

The MCCPTA Grading and Reporting Committee needs parents.

Principal's Report. Dr. Jones is out of town for a family funeral. Assistant Principal, Ms. Williams gave the administration report. She said that the Open House went well and that at least 200 parents attended. She thanked the PTSA for the refreshments at the Open House. There are many upcoming events including:

- 7th grade dance – October 15
- 7th grade field trip to see “Tom Sawyer” –October 15
- Red Ribbon Week is October 22-26
- Picture Day is October 22
- The Principal’s Breakfast will be rescheduled for Thursday, October 25
- Outdoor Ed for 6B is October 29-31
- Parent Conferences will be scheduled for the half days on November 9 and 12. Teachers will contact parents to set up conferences, and parents are welcome to contact staff to arrange a meeting
- Turkey Trot is November 15
- Talent Show is November 16

A question was raised about Open House being held just in the morning.

Discussion followed with comments made about it being difficult to see all of your children’s classes in a limited time. One suggestion was to schedule an abbreviated session of all classes (including the afternoon ones) in the morning, allowing parents to visit each class.

Ms. Williams said that the MSA tests are scheduled for the second day after students return to school after Spring Break. After Spring Break, students return to school on Monday, March 31. MSA testing begins Tuesday, April 1. Ms. Williams asked that families keep the MSA testing date in mind when making their Spring Break plans.

Committee Reports

Box Tops –The first submission date is October 31

Bylaws – The committee will meet soon.

Dances – The first (8th grade) dance wasn’t very well-attended due to student conflicts. Forty-fifty students attended and everything went well (DJ, food, volunteers, etc.)

Destination Imagination. LM will help the chairperson for this committee, but a chairperson still needs to be found.

Directory. The directory pages went to the printer on October 5 and should be delivered to Frost on Thursday October 11. The directories will be distributed to students during 7th period classes.

Family Events. 72 tickets have been sold for the Wizards vs. Toronto Raptors game on December 1. Morning Announcements, emails, flyers and posters will be re-worked to promote the incentives for this game. Frost children will get to give the players a “high five” before the game; several students will get to sit on the bench during warm-ups; the group will be on TV and could possibly meet a player after the game.

FLES. Registration has begun, but more students are needed to have enough to offer the classes.

Frost Informer. The deadline is November 15 and the next issue should be received at the beginning of December.

Healthy Habits. LS has agreed to chair this committee and parents GG and MD and PE teacher Mr. Blott will help.

Helping Hands. The committee had their first meeting and plans are underway for monthly student meetings. The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24. Each month will have a different focus including: collect clothing, canned foods, a letter-writing campaign for a cause, blood drive, etc.

Membership There are 677 members (625 parents and 52 staff).

Reflections. KG and BQ reported that there are two parents interested in chairing this program.

Safety & Security. A parent asked if Frost has emergency food in classrooms in case of Code Red or other emergency where students might be in classrooms for an extended period of time. Discussion followed. It was suggested that parents could donate snacks and drinks but some felt that students would be OK without the snacks. KG will check with administration to see what is in place now. She will ask if a medical kit, flashlight, walkie talkie, etc are readily available in each classroom during an emergency.

Another topic for safety/security is that lack of lighting particularly between Frost and Wootton. It was suggested that this be brought up at a cluster meeting.

Spirit Wear. LC is meeting with a new vendor and she will show Dr. Jones some new product ideas.

Student Programs. SA suggested a “sensitivity awareness” program so that students are aware of, and can be sensitive to, people with disabilities. The program, offered on a school day, could educate students and parents at a very minimal expense to the PTSA.

KG reported that the 7th Grade Team has submitted requests for cultural arts programs including a full school assembly of STEPAFRIKA, and performances for 7th grade of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; AZTEC STORIES, and COSMIC ADVENTURES. Funding for these types of programs will come from the Student Support and enrichment line item. The 8th Grade Team along with the 6th Grade Team will be contacted for input on student programming. The 8th Grade Team had requested funds for a “Mystery of Math” presentation. This was too expensive.

A question was raised about offering cultural arts presentations instead of the “Movie Day”. There was consensus something should be done instead of a movie, but not necessarily a cultural arts presentation. Another option was a community service event for the entire school.

Student Service Learning (SSL) KG reported that October 27 is Montgomery County Volunteer Day and many volunteer opportunities are available for students and families..

Website. EF is working on this and has created a page for Special Needs, GT/LD and other information.

Welcome Wagon. A question was raised about getting the names of new families in the directory – is an addendum created? Discussion followed. NH volunteered to create a form to put in the *Informer* and she will see that new additions, changes, etc. will be publicized in a future edition.

Old Business

A fundraiser night at Pizza Palace has been tentatively scheduled for November 19.

New Business

SA volunteered to coordinate a fundraiser at J’s Grille.

The Safe Home Pledge, introduced in 2006-2007, will be sent to families via the web page and in the *Informer*. Parents and students are encouraged to sign the pledge (which promotes a set of community standards for a “Safe Home”, and return it to school.

Names will be posted in the *Informer*. NH will update the form.