

**Robert Frost Middle School PTSA**  
**November 13, 2007**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**Committee Reports**

**Dances** – The three fall dances have taken place. There was discussion about combining the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dances in the spring. Dr. Jones will get feedback from the students about this suggestion and other dance ideas (dance contest, raffles, theme dances, etc). The discussion was tabled pending feedback from the students via Dr. Jones.

**Treasurer’s Report.** MN distributed and reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. A check for \$1,000.00 for “School Support” was given to Dr. Jones.

**MCCPTA Delegate’s Report.** RE reported that the budget priorities were adopted as proposed with the addition of improving health and safety in the schools. There is a proposal for MCCPTA to support additional crossing guards. There was consensus to support this recommendation. RE has gotten feedback on the resolution on background checks for MCPS employees. It was recommended that the wording be changed to have the background checks conducted every five years instead of three years. It was agreed that we support this change to the resolution.

**Committee Reports**

**Bylaws** The Bylaws Committee met to review and update the existing Bylaws them as needed using the boilerplate from MD PTA. The committee will meet again to finalize amendments that will address conducting PTSA business after the fiscal year ends (June 30) but before the new school year begins, the possibility of creating a finance committee, and a balanced budget as a bylaw requirement. The Frost general membership must approve the new Bylaws which are then submitted to MCCPTA and MD PTA.

**Cluster** The first cluster meeting of the new school year was held.

**Destination Imagination.** DJH attended the Montgomery County D.I. meeting. She still needs two co-coordinators. Discussion followed. DJK will give D.I. information to Dr. Jones who will publicize it at school in the next few weeks. If there isn’t enough interest and time for this year, DJK would like to attend the competition and then work towards re-introducing the program at Frost in the 2008-2009 school year.

**Directory.** The directories were distributed and additional copies are available for PTSA members.

**Family Events.** NK reported that 116 tickets have been sold for the Wizards vs. Toronto Raptors game on December 1. He stressed that the remaining tickets need to be sold. Discussion followed and it was decided that an effort will be made to publicize the event to the feeder schools again; make additional announcements at Frost; distribute flyers around the community; and try to sell them through people’s workplaces. It was suggested that the Executive Committee meet to discuss future family events.

**FLES.** The Spanish FLES classes have started with six students and things are going well. Frost might want to offer FLES Chinese classes next year.

**Frost Informer.** The due date for submissions is November 15 and the deadline is November 20

**Healthy Habits.** LS is working with Mr. Blott (PE teacher) to come up with something fun and healthy. One suggestion is to have a smile contest as studies have shown that those who smile and laugh more often live a healthier life and have a drop in blood pressure while increasing serotonin in the brain, etc. We want to run this in December before the holiday break.

**Helping Hands.** Gently used winter coats, hats, and scarves (children and adult sizes) for the Stepping Stones Shelter are being collected through November 14.

**Membership** There are 704 members. Our membership revenue (dues and donations) has exceeded the budgeted amount.

**Parent Programs** There aren't any programs scheduled yet and BQ asked for topic suggestions. One idea was "Dealing with teen-aged girls".

**Reflections** So far, three students have signed up to create a piece on the theme, "I can make a difference by..."

**Safety & Security.** A chairperson is still needed for this committee. Dr. Jones reported that he contacted the Security Director for the Wootton Cluster about the lack of lighting along the path between Frost and Wootton. MCPS staff came and viewed the area. Funds aren't available in the current budget to install lighting, but MCPS will clear underbrush and cut back tree limbs so that the existing lighting is more effective.

**Spirit Wear.** LC has ideas for new items and she is finalizing pricing and merchandise selection. There was concern that we need to sell existing inventory. Dr. Jones said that t-shirts and sweatshirts can be sold at the Talent Show on November 16

**Student Programs.** Mix-It-Up day took place today (see Principal's Report). KG has been in contact with the school guidance counselors to have a program about bullying presented to all students.

**Student Service Learning (SSL)** The Fannie Mae Foundation Walk for the Homeless (Nov. 17) is an approved activity for earning SSL hours.

**Student Support.** There is a meeting with Frost Student Support Team in December.

**Sunshine.** A fruit arrangement was sent to Dr. Jones' family to express the PTSA's sympathy.

**Volunteers** There are enough volunteers for the Student Recognition Ceremony on Nov. 21.

**Welcome Wagon.** Two new students were welcomed in October (one 6<sup>th</sup> grader and one 8<sup>th</sup> grader).

**Website** – Parents are encouraged to check the website for updates.

**Principal's Report.** Dr. Jones thanked the PTSA for its love and support following the death of his father. Mix-It-Up Day took place today. Students were given the opportunity to learn about other students and cultures by sitting with groups that they might not usually sit with during lunch. The counselors created a list of questions for conversation-starters. An i-Pod was raffled to participating students and the event was a success. Other events this week include the Turkey Trot (with 95% of students having already contributed two cans of food or \$2) and the annual Talent Show. Dr. Jones is getting additional information from the team leaders about a bullying program to be presented.

### **Old Business**

***Back-drops for stage*** – The PTSA asked staff for an estimate and additional information about a request for four new wheelie back-drops for the stage for Dessert Theatre and Talent Shows. Shipping costs were very high so staff is checking local contractors this week to see if they would be able to do a design-build. Staff will get back to the PTSA with an estimate.

***After-School Care at Frost*** - Dr. Jones reported that he met with ICB and SK (Frost parent interested in establishing an after-care program at Frost) There are several requirements that have to be met including a room with a door near a building exit, electricity for microwave and refrigerator, a phone jack, provision for an alternate location, etc. It will be a challenge to find one room that meets the requirements and is available every day after school, but Dr. Jones will continue to work with the parent group and ICB on this.

***Emergency Kits*** – The PTSA received a request to replace flashlights in the emergency backpacks in classrooms and other locations throughout the school. Discussion followed. It was agreed that this type of expense can come from the “School Support” line item. The Executive Committee will meet soon to discuss school support and programs.

***Dining Out for Frost*** – J’s Grille - Dates are available in April or sooner if there is a date that doesn’t have a conflict with the school calendar.

### **New Business**

Area PTAs have been questioning the use of Styrofoam trays in the cafeteria. There hasn’t been a discussion at Frost and RE may look into this.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janine Mooney, Recording Secretary