

Robert Frost Middle School PTSA
December 11, 2007
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary's Report. The minutes from the November meeting were approved with the following correction in the Principal's Report, "Other events this week include the Turkey Trot (with 95% of students having already contributed two cans of food *or* \$2)"

President's Report. KG reported for MCCPTA representative Rich Edelman that the resolution about background checks for MCPS employees was referred to the MCCPTA Safety Committee. KG distributed MCCPTA Directories. She also announced that Dr. Weast will present his fiscal 2009 operating budget at Rockville High School on Thursday, December 13.

Student Report. Three SGA representatives reported that recent SGA activities included helping with Red Ribbon Week, Turkey Trot and Mix-It-Up Day. Their next activity is the Candy Gram Sale which will be done as a fundraiser. The students asked if the PTSA could provide t-shirts for SGA so the students can be identified during SGA-sponsored events. A motion was made, seconded and passed to spend up to \$250.00 for SGA t-shirts.

The representatives reported that they did a survey of 8th grade students to see what types of dances were wanted. Students liked "theme" dances ~ fiesta, winter and holidays were a few ideas. Some students commented on the price for the evenings (too expensive) and suggested lowering the cost of admission or the cost of pizza. Many students like the idea of prizes at the dances. The students enjoy a variety of music and have been pleased with the deejays at Frost dances. Discussion followed and suggestions for consideration included making the dance a "game night" or an ice cream social; adding other activities to the dance (some type of sport activity and a community service or art project); changing the name from "Dance" to "Social", "8th Grade Adventure", etc. so that these events would appeal to more students (and parents). KG asked the students to write up a summary from their survey for the Dance Chairperson and PTSA to review and consider when making plans.

The representatives were asked about other topics that might be important to Frost students. They mentioned that students sometimes "tune-out" the morning announcements and suggested that announcements be kept fresh. They also suggested that important flyers be distributed in NOW Reading instead of 7th period classes.

2nd Vice President's Report. NK reported that almost 200 people attended the December 1st Wizards game. NK is going to do a survey to see what type of event appeals to Frost families. Included in the survey will be Wizards and Nationals games as well as an ice skating event. It was suggested that we look into a Nighthawks basketball game, Capitals games and events at Strathmore to appeal to a wider audience. NK reported that there are pictures of students at the Wizards game and these could be used in the *Informer* and in the yearbook (with parent permission).

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed.

Committee Reports.

Bylaws The updated Bylaws, presented at the December PTSA meeting, and an Amendment added by the Bylaws Committee to address the annual budget were reviewed. A motion was made to (in Article VII, section 7) keep the number of days at 14 for an officer to turn over all records to

a successor. Also, the executive board recommended (for Article VI, Section 2a) using the following language. "The officers of this local PTA/PTSA shall be president, executive vice president, no more than 3 secretaries, and a treasurer. There may also be a 1st vice president, as well as a 2nd vice president, as appropriate." Also, added at the end of Article VI, Section 2e: "A person shall not be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the office of the president." Discussion followed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Bylaws with the Amendment and the changes to Article VI and Article VII.

Reflections At least ten Frost students will participate in the Reflections program. It was suggested that in the future staff help with promoting the Reflections program to all children. It was suggested that teachers mention the program in class and also promote it to children in Dessert Theater, Talent Show, Jazz Band, arts or literary clubs, etc. There will a recognition event for all of the Reflections participants and a date will be selected that is convenient for Dr. Jones and KG.

SCS gave a presentation on her work as a visiting artist in MCPS middle schools. As a member of the Montgomery County Arts & Humanities Council, she has worked at Loiderman, Parkland and Roberto Clemente Middle Schools on a variety of projects that complement Math, Science, English and other curriculums. Dr. Jones suggested that SCS contact the Resource Teachers to discuss implementing a visiting artist program at Frost.

Student Programs. Science teacher, Shawn Ackley, asked for funds for *Trout in the Classroom*, a program designed to enhance science curriculum and emphasize ecology, cold water, conservation and trout. A motion was made, seconded and passed for the PTSA to pay up to \$700 to fund *Trout in the Classroom*. The PTSA had been asked to fund the Step Afrika cultural arts program but this program was cancelled by the performance group.

Box Tops for Education. A submission for \$190.00 was sent to General Mills on October 31.

Directory. Corrections and new additions will be included in the next *Informer*.

Safe Home Pledges. Parents signing the pledges will continue to be listed in the *Informer*.

Frost Informer. There was a delay in getting information from staff and in getting address labels which delayed the bulk mailing of the newsletter. The printing costs for the *Informer* will be over the budgeted amount. Discussion followed about the possibility of sending home one copy of the *Informer* per family (to those with multiple children at Frost), doing the newsletter electronically, limiting the number of pages, etc

Principal's Report. Dr. Jones reported that the first All School Celebration was held on November 21. This event took the place of individual "team" celebrations (which impacted on classroom instruction time). Dr. Jones also reported that he has received very positive feedback from students and staff about Career Day. Thirty-five professionals gave presentations to the 7th and 8th grade students.

Dr. Jones reported that December 21 is "Educational Movie Day" and the staff will choose (based on student recommendation, rating and MCPS approval) a movie for the afternoon on the day before winter break. Discussion followed and Dr. Jones said that staff will re-evaluate movie day for next year. It was suggested that another type of activity take place.

Dr. Jones distributed MRSA information made available to all schools by MCPS.