

**Robert Frost Middle School PTSA**  
**March 11, 2008**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Robert Frost Middle School PTSA met on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in the school media center.

**President's Report.** KG reported that a Nominating Committee is needed to develop a slate of officers for next year's PTSA board.

**2nd Vice President's Report.** NK reported that the next family event is Sunday, May 4 at the new Nationals ballpark, Nationals vs. Pirates at 1:35 p.m. Tickets have started selling. The game will be publicized in the next *Informer* and Dr. Jones will be sure to have it publicized on the morning announcements.

**Treasurer's Report.** Activity included the book fair with a cash profit of \$2,192.72 and book profit of \$1,198.13; Hospitality provided refreshments for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting; materials were purchased for "Trout in the Classroom"; and Sunshine purchased a baby gift for Mr. Childs.

**Cluster Report** MCCPTA still needs cluster coordinators. The Wootton cluster leaders and representatives will have a meeting in the next week or two.

**Committee Reports.**

**Book Fair** The Book Fair, March 3-7, went well. The chairpersons did a good job with over \$9,300 in sales. The profits (books and cash) will benefit the Media Center.

**Bylaws** We have not received information about the status of our revised Bylaws (submitted to MD PTA in January).

**Frost Informer** The due dates for the April issue were moved up because of spring break.

**Helping Hands** A few of the committee's meetings were cancelled due to inclement weather. The group is planning a blood drive on April 16 and the food drive continues until spring break. Parent volunteers are needed for the blood drive. The committee members will meet and discuss other ideas.

**Socials** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade event on March 7 had a small turnout but everyone had a great time. Volunteers are still needed for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade social on March 14.

**Spirit Wear** There is still inventory of t-shirts and sweatshirts. Discussion followed. JM will work to increase sales by 1: promoting a ½-price sale to staff; 2. selling at the staff & student basketball game; 3. create a display in the main office; and 4. putting an order form in the *Informer*.

**MCCPTA Report** The Fallsmead Elementary PTA drafted a resolution for the MCCPTA to consider. The resolution addresses that greater attention (national and state testing) is placed on language arts and mathematics, and that the curriculum (particularly in the elementary schools) focuses more on these two subjects, at the expense of science, social studies, arts and P.E. Discussion followed. Frost PTSA voted to support the resolution which recommends that the School Board revise existing curriculum policy to instruct the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs to develop an elementary school curriculum that integrates all disciplines: reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts to the greatest extent possible.

**Box Tops for Education** The next submission date for box tops is in April.

**Principal's Report.** Dr. Jones reported that the instrumental music classes are participating in the MCPS Festivals. MSA testing begins on April 1. Dr. Jones gave a presentation on Frost's MSA One-to-One advisory program to the Board of Education on March 11. The presentation was very well-received. Statistics included in the presentation: in 2004, 91% of Frost's students were proficient/advanced (with most being advanced) in Reading, and in the 2006-2007 school year this percentage increased to 96%. Eighty-seven percent of students were proficient/advanced in math in 2004 and in the 2006-2007 school year 95% of students were proficient/advanced (with most being advanced) in math. Frost students in all groups (ESOL, FARMS, ethnic, etc.) showed improvement and all of the support programs at Frost contributed to this success.

All parents are invited to the Principal's Breakfast on April 18. The staff & student basketball game is tentatively scheduled for April 25. Plans are being made to hold the game at Wootton High School so that all students can attend.

The Tech Mod is on schedule for this summer. Frost has welcomed 18 new students since December, bringing our current enrollment to 1,163 students. Preliminary staffing for the 2008-2009 school year is in and the number of staff remains the same (although the projections are based on 1,108 students).

### **Old Business**

***Sensitivity Awareness Fair*** SA met with Dr. Jones to discuss this idea (presented at the October 9 meeting). The program would help make students aware of, and learn to be sensitive to, people with disabilities. It is possible that the program could be held on May 23, and if not, then sometime next year. One possible date for the 2008-2009 school year is the day before winter break. Discussion followed and the question was raised about whether this program would include all types of sensitivity awareness, including racial, ethnic, etc.

### **New Business**

***Pass-through account for Dessert Theater*** The PTSA will receive deposits for Dessert Theater (e.g., flowers and other materials). The treasurer will then reimburse the parent volunteers for their expenses.

***Next year's PTSA board*** Discussion about finding volunteers to serve as committee chairpersons and officers for next year. BQ volunteered to write an article for the ***Informer***. The nominating committee will start by contacting all current board members and will extend the search to include incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents.