

**Robert Frost Middle School PTSA**  
**October 14, 2008**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**President's Report.** BQ welcomed everyone and introduced Ms. Michelle Ronan, Staff Development Teacher at Frost.

**Staff Presentation.** Ms. Ronan gave an overview of the Edline system.

**Secretary's Report.** The Agenda was approved with the addition of the following under New Business: Dances, Restroom Conditions and After-school Activities. The Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report.** Dr. Jones reported that the staff and students enjoyed the "Robert Frost Chooses Civility Pep Rally" on Sept. 26. This assembly featuring "G-Man", the Washington Wizards mascot, focused on anti-bullying and making good choices. Dr. Jones thanked the PTSA for their financial support for this program. Dr. Jones also reported that approximately 400 parents attended the Open House on October 13 from 8:00 am – 2:10 pm. He thanked the PTSA for providing refreshments. The display cases (approved last year) have arrived and will be installed soon. Frost's enrollment is up to 1,181 students.

**Treasurer's Report.** SR distributed the Treasurer's Report for review. NK reported that plans are being made for a Family Night at the Wizards on January 16.

**Membership/Directory Report.** We should see increased membership as families will want to get a directory. Discussion followed and several suggestions were made about ways to increase membership. The directories have been distributed and there are a few corrections to be made.

**Board Member and Committee Reports.**

**Helping Hands.** The group met to clean up the school grounds. The next meeting is October 29 in Room 203. This month's focus will be collecting magazines and books. Students receive SSL hours for their participation in Helping Hands events.

**Informer.** The deadline each month is the 15<sup>th</sup> and information should be sent to CJ as a Word.doc.

**Electronic Sign Proposal.** EF created an online survey to gather information and gauge interest in the electric sign proposal. Ninety-nine people responded, with 74 against the sign, 20 for and 5 who could go with the majority. Dr. Jones reported that of the 38 middle schools in the County, six have electronic signs and two more will get one this year. Discussion followed. A motion was made, and seconded, to vote on whether the PTSA should go forward with pursuing an electronic sign for Frost. The majority voted against going forward with the electronic sign at this time.

**Student Programs.** PTSA leaders met with administrator Ms. Diane Morris to discuss programs. It was recommended that the PTSA focus our efforts on the school's plans and activities. The PTSA goal is to help with activities that involve as many students as possible. The first opportunity to do this is at the Talent Show on Nov. 14.

Ms. Morris sent a form to all staff members asking for their input on ways the PTSA can support the student programs. The PTSA will have programs for parents with a special presentation or topic for upcoming meetings.

**Advocacy Committee.** BQ reported that following the meeting on student programs, it was suggested that the PTSA form an Advocacy Committee to follow up on topics and ideals that the PTSA mission and Frost Core Values share. Discussion followed and the idea was tabled pending more information. If anyone has any ideas, they should email BQ.

**MCCPTA Report.** HY distributed the Resolution FY2010 Operating Budget Priorities and MCCPTA FY2010 Draft Operating Budget Compact for review. Discussion followed. A vote was taken and passed to support the Operating Budget. HY reported that there are Board of Education elections on Nov. 4. Discussion followed and it was determined that the PTSA cannot endorse candidates, but can encourage members to vote. HY and JP also reported that the MCCPTA Safety Committee is focusing on pedestrian safety and that all county PTAs are encouraged to have an active Safety Committee.

**Bylaws.** BD made the changes, approved at the September PTSA meeting, to our Bylaws. JM will submit the final copy to MD PTA.

**New Business.**

*Dances* – CJ made a suggestion to change the name of the dances. These events are more than just a dance now and a new name may encourage more students to attend. Suggestions included “Kids Night Out”, “Teens Night Out” or something that would let people know that there are more activities than just dancing. It was recommended that Dance Chairperson Allison Ellis work with parents & students to address this.

*School Restrooms* – A question was raised about the cleanliness of the restrooms. Dr. Jones will check with building services staff as well as Frost students to ensure that restrooms are properly maintained.

*After-School Activities* – A question was raised about the availability of activities. Dr. Jones reported that a packet listing all clubs, sports, academic support and other activities was distributed a few weeks ago. The information is also available on the Frost website. A question was raised about the availability of the Activity Bus for walkers. Dr. Jones will look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Mooney  
Recording Secretary