

Robert Frost Middle School PTSA
November 11, 2008
MINUTES

The Robert Frost Middle School PTSA met on Tuesday, November 11, in the Frost Media Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Program. Ms. Pam Meador, Coordinator, SSL Program, gave an overview of the Student Service Learning (SSL) program, focusing the three phases of SSL: preparation, action and reflection. Information is available online at www.mcpsssl.org.

Secretary's Report. The Agenda was approved and the Minutes from the October 14 meeting were approved.

Principal's Report. Dr. Jones reported on the following topics from the October PTSA Meeting. 1.) The Blue Ribbon Mental Health Task Force was an MCPS initiative. A copy of their recommendations (reprinted from The Bulletin, Vol. 47 No. 35, May 16, 2005), was distributed for review. 2.) Building Services staff is monitoring (hourly) the condition of the restrooms. Signs have been posted to encourage students to help keep the restrooms clean. 3.) The activity bus is available for all students, including walkers. The routes are posted on the school website. It was recommended that this information also be included in the Frost Informer and on the PTSA list-serve. Dr. Jones reported that Mix-It-Up Day is Thursday, November 13. Students are encouraged to sit with different groups of children at lunch on this day. The Annual Turkey Trot will be held on Thursday, November 20. A goal has been set to raise \$1,200 and 1200 cans of food to benefit the City of Rockville Food Drive. Dr. Jones distributed an MCPS Parent Satisfaction Survey and flyer for the Muddy Branch Square Holiday drawing.

Vice President's Report. Help is needed promoting the Wizards game on January 16. We will continue to promote to the Frost families (via list-serve, Frost Informer, ConnectEd, on the school and PTSA websites and morning announcements) and soon share this invitation to all Wootton cluster schools.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The tax return was completed.

Membership Report. We currently have 601 members. A sample letter and survey (designed to increase membership and determine parents' level of satisfaction with the PTSA) was distributed for review. SA made a motion to send a letter to families that have not joined the PTSA; to increase the postage line item in the budget by \$100 to cover the cost of the mailing; and to have students help with the mailing and receive SSL hours for their effort. SR seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A question was raised about how families that have a financial hardship can join PTSA. Those families may contact the principal or president for assistance. It was suggested that the PTSA be sure to include this information when publicizing membership. The motion passed.

Board Member and Committee Reports.

Helping Hands. The group is collecting magazines and books for the Shady Grove Hospital Emergency Room. They will begin collecting "Beanie Babies" and other small stuffed toys for soldiers to distribute overseas. Helping Hands should publicize the date when students are needed to help with the PTSA membership mailing.

MCCPTA/Cluster Report. JP outlined the plan to present CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) testimony to the Board of Education and then to the County Council. JP also shared information from Dr. Weast's budget proposal. MCCPTA will present testimony on the Operating Budget in January. RE will speak for the Wootton Cluster. Discussion followed about what should be said (i.e., which cuts would our PTSA support). The discussion was tabled pending additional information. It was suggested that the cluster representatives meet with interested parents and staff to further explore the budget shortfalls and recommendations.

Parent Programs Report. Dr. Kay Kosak Abrams, Ph.D. will be the guest speaker at the December 9 meeting. Topics to be covered include adolescence and parenting. The \$250 fee will come from Parent Programs.

Bylaws Update. JM will submit the final copy to MD PTA.

New Business.

Safety Committee – DC reported that the school security office does not have visibility to the front areas of the school. It was recommended that two windows be installed to allow a view of the lobby and school entrance (driveway and sidewalks). A rough estimate to do this work is \$6,000.00. Dr. Jones submitted a request to MCPS which was denied. A second request was submitted to the Safety/Security office of MCPS, and this was also denied. The County is moving toward having security cameras at all middle schools and Frost is wired for this but has not received cameras yet.

Sweet Schools – SA asked about Frost participating in a program designed to make schools more “green”. She will request additional information about this program.

Spirit-Wear – The PTSA received a proposal from a new spirit-wear company, one that would handle design, ordering, etc. without PTSA having to pay for anything or handle the ordering process. BQ requested samples and pricing information. The current inventory of spirit wear will be sold at the Talent Show on November 14. DH volunteered to take care of this. JM made a motion, seconded by JM, to donate several sweatshirts for prizes for the Turkey Trot and Mix-It-Up Day. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Mooney
Recording Secretary