

**Robert Frost Middle School PTSA**  
**September 11, 2007**  
**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Robert Frost Middle School PTSA met on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 in the Media Center. The meeting started with a moment of silence in recognition of 9/11. Following the silence, everyone introduced themselves.

All Wootton cluster parents are welcome to attend the Cyber Generation internet safety program at Wootton High School on October 11. RH requested a contribution from Frost PTSA to help offset the cost of the program.

The Proposed 2007-2008 PTSA Budget was approved. Frost will contribute \$50.00 to help pay for the internet safety program for the Wootton cluster.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

- Giant Bonus Bucks cards are now working.
- A Frost parent is looking into having a Bar-T teen-appropriate after-school program at Frost. Interested families should contact Dr. King.
- MCCPTA will sponsor a PTA training session on Saturday, September 29. There will be sessions for officers, committee chairs and others.
- There is a Cultural Arts Showcase on September 27, October 1, 4 and 11. Parents are invited to preview many different types of performances that could be brought to Frost.
- Cell phone regulations have changed for middle school students this year. Students may carry cell phones, but the phones must be turned off during the instructional day.
- MCPS is offering sessions on a variety of topics at the Parent Academy.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to an open house at the Smith Center on September 27. Frost's 6A students will go to the Smith Center for Outdoor Ed. (and 6B will go to Summit Lake).

KG asked for suggestions for the PTSA web page. She encouraged everyone to join the Frost general and grade-level specific email lists. There are a few problems with the listserv that are being worked out. A question was asked about how committee chairs can send information out to the membership via email. Currently everything goes through KG but others will be able to send out information soon.

KG reported that chairpersons are needed for the following committees: Destination Imagination, Reflections, Healthy Habits, Parent Programs, Safety & Security, Student Programs and International Night. Volunteer Coordinator DM said that there are nine people who've already signed up to help with the International Night. DM will forward the names to BQ who will contact the interested parents to see if anyone wants to chair or co-chair this event. The date for International Night is May 22. RE requested that Frost invite members of the Board of Education to this event. There was consensus to do this.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT** NK reported that the PTSA will have family events this year. There are plans for a Frost Family Night at a Wizards game (December 1) and a Nationals game.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**Book Fair.** Dates for the book fair are March 3-7.

**Cluster.** AB is working on a "Safety Summit" for Wootton cluster schools. MCCPTA leaders are encouraging all schools to increase overall membership and to be sure to encourage teachers to join the school PTAs.

**Dances.** MM reported that six dances have been scheduled. The first dances will be October 5 for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, October 12 for the seventh grade and November 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There is a conflict with Wootton's Homecoming on October 12. The dance dates were chosen based on the Wootton calendar where the posted date for Homecoming was incorrect.

**Directory.** The directory will go home with students in October.

**FLES.** Enrollment for FLES starts on October 1<sup>st</sup> and classes should start in mid-Oct.

**Informer.** The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month is due date for all newsletter information. The deadline will be the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, and anything received after the 20<sup>th</sup> will go in the next issue of the *Informer*. Submissions should be emailed to the editor as a Word document, if possible. Articles may also be dropped off at her house or in the *Informer* folder in the school mailroom.

**Helping Hands.** Helping Hands (formerly Day of Giving) will plan activities throughout the year, rather than have just one day as in the past. An organizational meeting is planned for September 26. It was suggested that the students could meet to discuss Helping Hands during Interact too. DS will look into this. It was also suggested that the local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts troops could be involved with Helping Hands. DS will write something up for the *Informer* so that everyone knows what is being planned for the year.

**Hospitality.** The Hospitality Committee provided refreshments for Back to School Night. KR asked if they could sell snacks at the home basketball games (in addition to the Staff/Student game). Dr. Jones said that this would be OK.

**Membership.** We have 38 staff and 460 parent members. A question was raised about families that might not be able to afford PTSA membership. KG will put something on the web page and/or in the *Informer* that will encourage 100% membership. If people would like to join but need financial assistance they should contact KG or Dr. Jones (details to be determined).

**Staff Appreciation.** The committee provided a Back to School luncheon (from Jerry's Subs and Pizza) for the staff.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.** Dr. Joey Jones handed out and reviewed three documents- *Visionary Plans for the Next Dimension of Excellence at Robert Frost Middle School*, *Robert Frost Middle School Intervention/Support Programs 2007-2008* and the *Adequate Yearly Progress 2003-2007*. Dr. Jones thanked the PTSA for the welcome back luncheon and for the refreshments at BTS Night. He reported that more than 650 parents attended Back to School Night. All parents are invited to the Principal Breakfasts,

October 12, January 18 and April 18. He asked that the PTSA support the purchase of a trophy or display case for the school lobby.

Dr. Jones was asked how teachers are screened to be club sponsors. He said that systems are in place for student safety. All students must get a pass to go to a teacher's classroom, all window and door openings must be uncovered, etc. Counselors and administrators have spoken to students in small groups and as individuals. It was suggested that a "concern" box be placed in the lobby so that students have a way to anonymously come forward about any concern (bullying, sexual abuse or anything else). Dr. Jones will look into setting something up.

A question was raised about class sizes this year. Dr. Jones reported that there are six overenrolled classes, mostly in the Foreign Language department. All other class sizes are within the MCPS range of 28 for Math and 32 for all other academic classes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

A Bylaws Committee was created to review and update the PTSA Bylaws.

Pizza Palace has offered to do a Frost Night where the PTSA will receive a percentage of all delivery sales for a particular evening. Details and dates are being worked out.

RE brought up a question about the MCPS staff screening process. He made a motion for the Frost PTSA to support MCCPTA drafting a resolution for improved screening, background checks, recording and follow-up on MCPS employees. The motion was seconded and passed.

AB asked that the Bylaws Committee include safeguards against misuse of the PTSA website. The committee will look into this.