

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - AUGUST 20, 2008

Nancy Harter introduced PTSA President Andrea Shosfy to the members and guests. Ms. Shosfy called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m. and welcomed everyone. We should have an exciting school year with this being the 50th anniversary of the opening of Miami Palmetto Senior High School. She stated that the goals of the PTSA are to support children, assist parents, and encourage parental and public involvement in our school.

Principal's Report: Principal Howard Weiner also welcomed everyone and was pleased with the large turn out for the first general meeting. He recognized Village of Pinecrest Vice Mayor Nancy Harter, Council members, Gail Serota and Joe Corradino, candidate for Council Seat 1, Jennifer Wollmann, and very special guest Leslie Bowe, former Vice Mayor and Council member. He thanked the PTSA for the polo shirts given to the faculty as teacher gifts.

Mr. Weiner then discussed the issue of schedule changes and reminded parents that we have over 3,000 kids and errors can be made. The first week of school, the staff works to correct obvious errors. The second week, we concentrate on elective issues; and, by the third week, we are still leveling classes. By the end of the third week, all schedule changes should be completed. No members had additional questions to ask.

Presentation: A video was played highlighting the benefits of joining the PTSA and how dues and donations are used to fulfill student, school, and teacher needs in order to enhance the learning environment at the school. Those needs include equipment purchases, teacher appreciation activities, technology, classroom items, enrichment programs for parents and students, etc.

Approve Minutes: The minutes of the May 21, 2008, General Membership Meeting were presented. Corrections were made to the spelling of Jennifer Wollmann's last name and Roasters n' Toasters. Becky Herget made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Karen Kett and approved.

Summer Business: Over the summer, Recording Secretary Roxy Lancelli told the membership that the Executive Board met and voted to help fund the 50th Birthday Celebration and form a Birthday Celebration Committee. The sum of \$5,000 was approved to open an account for summertime expenses for the committee. Jennifer Wollmann made a motion to approve and adopt the Executive Board's vote to form a Birthday Celebration Committee and spend \$5,000 to fund it's account. The motion was seconded by Lynne Schaefer and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Audit Committee: Committee representative Cecilia Prah said that several suggestions were made as a result of the audit, but that the conditions of the books were found in order. She read the recommendations to the membership. A motion was made by Nancy Harter to approve the Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Herget and approved.

2008/09 Budget: Treasurer Isabel McBrayer reviewed the Special Projects approved last year and carried over to this year's budget. Two items in the proposed 07/01/08-06/30/09 PTSA budget handed out today need to be adjusted. Under Special Projects-Approved 2008, \$4,300 for Driver's Education Support should be deleted and \$3,275 allocated for the Smart Board should be reduced to \$2,100. With these adjustments, the Special Projects-Unallocated 2008-2009 figure will be increased to \$14,157.56 from \$8,682.56. A discussion ensued. A motion was made by Becky Herget to accept the proposed 08-09 Budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynne Schaefer and approved.

Introduction of Board/Committee Reports:

President Shosfy introduced the members of the PTSA Executive Board to the members.

1st Vice President: Cipora Auslander is in charge of the Committees on Organization including the College Fair, End of Year Luncheon, Historian, Holiday Luncheon, Hospitality, the Newsletter, Staff Breakfast, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Volunteer coordinator.

2nd Vice President: Nancy Harter handles the Committees on Education which includes Attendance Office, Community Outreach, Email Communications, Guidance, Health Programs, Legislative information, Main Office volunteers, Media Center volunteers, Public Relations, and the Reflections program.

3rd Vice President: Becky Herget explained that the Committees on Ways & Means encompass membership, the book sale, the donation program, and special projects (coordinates spending of EESAC, PTSA, and the principal's AP funds). Everyone needs to help out this year due to severe budget cuts. Our biggest fundraiser is the required reading Book Sale. This year we will be working with a new sponsor, Borders. It is a one-week only sale from September 15th through 19th. Volunteers are needed to cover a shift during the school day (2 shifts per day) and bring lunch for other volunteers. A sign up sheet is being passed. Kaplan Test Prep services will again offer PSHS students a practice SAT exams sometime in December 2008. Cost per student is \$5. Claudia Glasson will have more information at our next meeting.

EESAC: Nancy Harter reported that EESAC did not get to meet yesterday due to Tropic Storm Fay. She will report next month.

Old Business:

Reflections: Sandra West explained that Reflections is a national PTA program – not just an art program. It is comprised of 6 categories: video production, visual arts, photography, dance choreography, music composition, and literature (poetry and essays). This year's theme is "Wow" - however the student wishes to interpret it. The Council deadline for submissions is late October, but our deadline is October 8th. We had a Council winner last year as an honorable mention in the literature category.

Taste of Pinecrest: The Taste of Pinecrest needs a volunteer from the high school to coordinate with the Pinecrest Business Association. Contact Nancy Harter if you are available.

New Business:

50th Anniversary Celebration: Nancy Harter said many activities are planned for the weekend of October 17th through 19th. Flyers are available with all pertinent information or you can look at the school or PTSA web sights. Claudia Glasson is working on a Memory Book. If you know people who are Palmetto alumni, let them know about it. We need to get the word out. The Garage Band has volunteered to play at the gala. These events are for everyone - parents of current students, alumni, students, etc.

Children's Trust: When you vote on August 26th, Randi Trazenfeld asked us to vote in favor of renewing the Children's Trust. The law which funds programs for children and families in the county is "sunshining" after 5 years. Among other things, it funds summer school programs, after school care, child and health care teams, over 100 school nurses, etc. The law is supported by the School Board and the Dade County Council of PTAs. She has invited Dave Lawrence, Chairman of the Children's Trust, to her house on Friday night to meet with us from 6 to 7:30 pm. You are welcome to bring your spouse and neighbors. If you plan to attend, email her at Randibrt@aol.com.

Ms. Trazenfeld has just received an email from Ann Thompson, Director of the Office of Parental Involvement, advising that a Certified Parent Advocate Training is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th, at the School Board Building. The 4 hour program will offer instructions on how we can impact the funding process, budget cuts, deal with legislators, etc. Send her an email if you want to attend.

Announcements: Our next general meeting is September 17, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center. Senior Parent Night is September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The required reading Book Sale is September 15th through 19th. The Booster Club Meeting scheduled for tonight is cancelled. Look at the school's web site for the new date and time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

MINUTES PTSA 08 20 08