

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - AUGUST 22, 2007

Call to order: President Andrea Shosfy called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in the Media Center. This year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Miami Palmetto Senior High School.

Principal's Report: Principal Howard Weiner introduced members of his administrative team and updated us on the ongoing Phase 1 renovations. The auditorium has been completely refurbished with future plans to clean or replace the stage curtains. The exterior of bldgs. 1 and 2 have been painted and drain basins have been installed between the main bldg. and bldg. 2 to alleviate flooding problems. Four boys and girls bathrooms in the 100 and 200 bldgs. have been completely renovated and are ADA compliant. A new water tower has been constructed on the west side of the school and new air conditioning and electrical panel upgrades are finished. It is anticipated that Phase 2 of the renovations will commence in March 2008.

He is disappointed that we lost our "A" School Grade under the FDE's School Accountability Report. Although PSHS earned 529 grade points (525 points or more are needed to gain "A" status), we were given a School Grade of "B" because at least 50% of our lowest 25% of students in both reading and math must show adequate learning progress for the year. In math, 65% of those students showed a gain. In reading, 45% showed adequate progress, less than the 50% required. In science, 56% of last year's 11th graders scored at Level 3 or above which was the highest score in Miami-Dade.

He reviewed the Electronic Device Policy contained in the 07-08 Student Handbook. Besides the use of cell phones or other electronic devices being disruptive to classroom learning, another issue is safety. In addition to the theft of electronic devices, he has seen students talking on cell phones or listening to i-pods during fire drills. They do not hear instructions and are unaware as to whether or not there is a real fire or a "Code Red" situation. If you need to get in touch with your child during the school day, contact the main office, the guidance counselors, or his secretary, Hope Longest, and leave a message for your child. If your child needs to get in touch with you, teachers have been instructed to issue a yellow hall pass to the student. Mr. Weiner explained students cannot use their cell phone during lunch break because they might call or send text messages to friends who are still in class or relay information on tests already taken. Once a device is confiscated, the student's parent has 24 hours to schedule an appointment with him to arrange for return of the device. If the parents are not told of the confiscation by the child, the student can schedule an appointment with him after 5 days. He will maintain a data base to keep track of multiple infractions.

New attendance rules are posted on our website and in the Student Handbook. Credits may be withheld due to excessive student absences. Last year, we had 3,450 students (153% of capacity). Our current enrollment is 3,207 students and 25 new staff members have been hired. He anticipates the new school website will be online soon. The Student Parking Policy has been changed and is described in the Student Handbook. If you have questions, contact AP Clint Bales.

A parent inquired about fights during lunch and security issues. Mr. Weiner advised that the reality of the situation is that we have 3,200 kids packed together in this school. Some will be in conflict and have disagreements with others. A number of students can peaceably resolve issues, but some kids only know how to solve disputes with their fists. Please tell your children that when there is a fight "over there," they should go in the other direction away from the fight.

A parent expressed concerns about the school being dirty and the dress code not being enforced. Mr. Weiner invited parents to come by during lunchtime to understand the challenge of keeping the school grounds clean, i.e. 600 kids leave an area and they leave a huge amount of trash behind. The district number to call to report a dirty bathroom or one lacking supplies is 305-995-2400. Every period, custodians go into the bathrooms to refresh them. Contact Trish Maggio, Student Service Secretary, or your child's counselor to get the number to access the Electronic Gradebook. If a student wishes to request a class schedule change, they must fill out the pink form in the Main Office and drop it into the appropriate box. Back to School Night is September 18th at 7 p.m.

Student Report: Student Activities Director, Angela Felipe-Lima, is trying to increase student involvement as studies show a link between involvement and academic success. Tonight in the Media Center at 7 p.m., a Booster Club Meeting will be held for parents who are officers in booster clubs to review guidelines and forms. The Homecoming Dance will be held on a Friday night, The Prowl will be on Wednesday night, and the game held on Thursday. If you have questions, contact her at ext. 2267 or aflima@dadeschools.net.

Treasurer's Report: Isabel McBrayer advised the Audit Committee found no discrepancies and made a few recommendations. A copy of the Audit Report is available for any member to review. A motion was made by Karen Kett to approve the Audit Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Nancy Harter. The motion was approved. The Treasurer presented and reviewed the proposed 07/01/07-06/30/08 PTSA budget. The Expense item entitled "DCC PTA Functions & Feeder Pattern" was amended to "PTA

Functions & Feeder Pattern.” A motion was made by Nancy Harter to accept the proposed 07-08 Budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Sima Miska. The motion was approved.

Introduction of Board: President Shosfy introduced the members of the PTSA Executive Board.

Committee Reports:

1st Vice President: Nancy Harter is in charge of the committees on organization and she encouraged everyone to take home the 2007-2008 PTSA Directory. Norma Miller, Hospitality Chair, would like volunteers to help her with setting up refreshments and food prior to the General Meetings. She can be contacted at 305-252-4292 or normaimiller@aol.com. The Staff Breakfast, chaired by Michelle Softness, turned out great. Attendance was higher than in prior years and the teachers appreciated it. Newsletter co-chair, Jill Bloom, thanked everyone who helped fold, seal, and label the newsletter this past summer. She and co-chair, Bonnie Gaebe, will need help with the newsletters planned for this school year. If you would like to volunteer, contact her at bloomsie@gmail.com. E-mail Chair, Lynne Schaefer, recommended all members sign up with the PTSA for e-mail notifications. Mary Steele, Volunteers Chair, said if you cannot come to school, there are still many things you can help with (donating food, baking at home, etc.). 1st VP Harter said the School Volunteer Program Registration Form must be completed by all volunteers. If you have a Volunteer ID # from another Miami-Dade public school, include it on the form. If you volunteer on a regular basis at the school, you need to be issued an ID. At the September general meeting, Mr. Weiner plans to have the equipment here to issue IDs to volunteers.

2nd Vice President: Cheri Ball handles the Committees on Education. Attendance co-chairs, Lynne Schaefer and Debbie Bochnovich, need volunteers in the school's Attendance Office on a regular basis to assist with parent pick ups. Nancy Harter chairs Community Outreach. Guidance Chair, Ellen Genet, schedules helpers on an "as needed" basis in the Guidance Office to do filing, paperwork, etc. Sima Miska, Health Programs, said an interactive panel discussion is planned for the November meeting focusing on the prevention of teen alcohol and drug abuse. Everyone is invited. Please pass the word so we have a big turnout in the auditorium on November 14th. We will have a brief PTSA meeting at 7 p.m. and the program should start by 7:15 p.m. Contact her at shmiska@aol.com if you would like to help organize the event. Debbie Rosenthal and Barbara Davis, co-chair Public Relations. They plan to utilize the school website, "School Scene" in the *Neighbors* section of the *Herald* newspaper, and *The Panther* newsletter to enlighten the public about noteworthy things done by our kids and staff. They welcome your input. Legislative co-chairs, Cheri Ball and Jennifer Wollman, would like some of our members to attend the Florida State PTSA Convention held in November in Daytona Beach to learn about the legislative education platform.

3rd Vice President: Becky Herget explained the Committees on Ways & Means as fundraising. Volunteers are needed to cover a shift during the Book Sale from Sept. 17th -21st. This year, the PTSA is launching a new donation plan: The 50th Anniversary Direct Donation Program. Karen Kett, Chairperson, said we have received \$1,500 so far. Mercedes Sorensen and Donna Kupper, Membership co-chairs, want our PTSA to be the largest in the State in honor of the school's 50th anniversary. This year, we have decided to donate \$1 of each student membership to their senior year activities fund. As of today, we have 200 members and 79 staff members have already joined. Last year, 90% of the PSHS staff joined the PTSA. Last year's membership was over 1,000. We have 3,200 students enrolled and have a great opportunity for growth. The EESAC Committee met yesterday. District 5 School Board Representative Liaison, Riva Steinman, confirmed that Ms. Evelyn Greer plans to attend the October PTSA meeting and speak.

Old Business: Athletic Director Yvette McKinney is ordering floor mats to protect and cover the gym floor and the Media Center has received its new sofas. School parent, Mark Smith, is developing our new PTSA website. Its temporary home is <http://palmettoptsa.org>.

New Business: Media Specialists, Dian Adjamah and Lorelee Manheiner, want members to know they have set up a "Parent Area" on the side wall next to the "Careers and College" reference area containing college catalogs and other parenting materials. Donated paperback books are always welcome.

Announcements: Our next general meeting is September 19, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center. Senior Parent Night is September 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The required reading Book Sale is September 17th through 21st and the next EESAC meeting is September 18th, at 2:40 p.m. in Room 1005. Kaplan Test Prep services will again offer PSHS students a couple of practice SAT exams in December.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

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