

**MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PTSA**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - NOVEMBER 14, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Andrea Shosfy at 6:45 p.m.

Principal's Report: Principal Howard Weiner thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The PTSA's and school's attempt to get the word out about the very important Underage Drinking/Substance Abuse and Driving Program being presented tonight obviously succeeded. Teachers gave out flyers and some offered extra credit to students. 'Connect ed' calls were made and kids received community service hours for attending. He is happy about the large turnout.

Mr. Weiner announced that the first grading period is over and, on 11/28, Interim Progress Reports will be issued. Yesterday, Report Cards went home. He hopes that parents took note of our brand new auditorium tonight. We have completed the first phase of a major construction program and are looking forward to hearing about phases 2 and 3 of the construction program. He hopes all benefit from tonight's informative program.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Isabel McBrayer distributed copies of the current budget, reflecting a proposed amendment to be voted on tonight. The budget amendment is not an expense, but just a reallocation of remaining funds from two line items (Furniture-Office, Attendance & Media Center and Gym Floor, Container & Cart). It is proposed that the remaining funds be reallocated to Special Projects-Unallocated to increase the budgeted amount from \$15,357.70 to \$24,705.10.

Jennifer Wollmann made a motion to amend the budget as proposed which was seconded by Karen Kett. There were no questions or discussion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Board/Committee Reports:

Membership: Third Vice President Becky Herget stated that, if you are not a PTSA member, there are forms in the front of the auditorium to fill out so you can join.

Legislative: Legislative Chair Jennifer Wollmann encourages us to communicate with our legislators and keep informed so we can make an educated decision at the time of the 01/29/08 vote.

Staff Holiday Luncheon: Holiday Luncheon Co-Chair Robin Laidlaw announced that the Staff Holiday Luncheon is scheduled in the Media Center on 12/18. We need volunteers to donate food, desserts, drinks, and provide help setting up, serving, and cleaning up. If you haven't volunteered yet, email her at [foreverash@aol.com](mailto:foreverash@aol.com).

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Convention: Member Randi Trazenfeld attended the Florida PTSA Convention on behalf of Palmetto Middle but, while there, accepted an award for our PTSA for having over 1,000 members last school year.

Teacher of the Year Winner: Second Vice President Cheri Ball, member of the Region 5 Teacher of the Year Committee, announced that Palmetto Senior High School's Teacher of the Year is Terri Ortiz, an outstanding science teacher.

Announcements:

1. The Junior Class Magazine Sale, ends on 11/21.
2. Parliamentarian Claudia Glasson advised that on Saturday, 12/08, Kaplan Testing will be offering a practice SAT for all students at a cost of \$5 per student. To register, e-mail her at [Glasson@bellsouth.net](mailto:Glasson@bellsouth.net).

3. Our next PTSA Meeting will be on 01/16/08 at 9 a.m. in the Media Center.
4. The next EESAC meetings are 11/20 and 12/18 at 2:45 p.m. in Room 1005.
5. A Feeder Pattern and Town Hall Meeting will be held on 01/23/08 in the Auditorium.
6. Member Ellen Genet advised the Drama Club's next fundraiser is a dinner and drama student performance to support the Helen Marie Witty Memorial Scholarship planned for 01/17/08 in the auditorium. For more information, contact her at [Efg929@aol.com](mailto:Efg929@aol.com).

Underage Drinking/Substance Abuse and Driving Program: Health Programs Chair Sima Miska thanked Principal Weiner and PTSA President Andrea Shosfy for their support in sponsoring and promoting this program and is very happy about the large turn out. Our experts will be discussing the influence and impact of underage drinking/substance abuse and driving. The panel of experts includes Officer Danny Smith, Assistant State Attorney Christopher Angel, and Ray Estefania, Director of the Adolescent Unit at South Miami Hospital Addiction Treatment Center.

Officer Smith spoke first. He is in his 21<sup>st</sup> year of police work in Miami-Dade County and has done nothing but DUI enforcement. His most recent 13 years of police work have been with the Coral Gables Police Department. He has been involved in over 7,000 cases of DUI arrests in those 21 years.

Officer Smith stated that, after 2 a.m.; three out of five of all drivers on the road have been drinking. He told the audience many heartbreaking and moving stories of deaths, disfigurements, and injuries sustained as a result of minors drinking and driving. Lastly, he gave a demonstration of a roadside sobriety exercise which the volunteer student failed.

Next, Prosecutor Christopher Angel, Felony Division Chief, addressed the audience. He supervises 800 felony cases including DUI and the traffic homicide unit. He also deals with prosecutions under the "Open House Party Law." ASA Angel says many parents sponsor house parties for their kids, like senior graduation keg parties. The parents do this, they tell him, "So I can make sure they are safe." They are still, however, violating the law.

Adults have a responsibility to keep alcohol and drugs away from minors under the age of 21. He reviewed the criminal ramifications and civil liability ramifications for both adults and juveniles including jail time, civil lawsuits, loss of scholarships, etc.

The last speaker was Ray Estefania, Director of the Adolescent Unit of South Miami Hospital Addiction Treatment Center. He has been Director for about 15 years. He explained that tonight we heard about the consequences of an arrest from Officer Smith and then the emotional and monetary cost of prosecution (punishment) from ASA Angel. He will speak to us about professional treatment for addiction whether it be alcohol or drug related.

Underage drinking and drug use is a bigger problem in the areas of Pinecrest and Palmetto Bay than it is in the so-called 'ghetto' areas. He describes addiction as the continued use of a detrimental substance despite the negative consequences (i.e. the loss of the ability to make good decisions regarding alcohol and drug use). He stated that besides parents setting limits for their kids, they must set a good example and send a clear message that it is not okay to use drugs and alcohol. Children are unable to make good decisions about alcohol and drug use.

One of the consequences underage drug and/or alcohol use is kids with out of control behavior who become adult addicts. Kids are more at risk to develop addictive behavior because the adolescent brain is not fully developed until at least the age of 21 and many children have a family history of addiction problems.

After the panel members addressed the meeting, parents and students from the audience asked them various questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Roxy Lancellata, Recording Secretary

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