

Palmetto Middle School PTSA General Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 2018 at 9:00 am

Palmetto Middle School

Call to Order:

- This meeting was called to order in the auditorium by President Katie Abbott at 9:06 am.

Roll Call/Attendance:

- Attendance sheets were present and filled out.

Quorum:

- A quorum was established.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

- The minutes from the last PTSA General Meeting were approved (Agendas and notes will be on the website).

President's Report (Katie Abbott):

- TV Studio Fundraiser (Ms. Sabina)
 - PTSA has pledged a match of up to \$4500 towards the studio. They need our help to get the word out to raise funds. There is a website through You Caring to raise money. There are also letters to bring to businesses asking for donations to support the studio.
 - Three seventh grade students (Sebastian, Sophia, and Katie) from production class spoke about importance of the studio and the need for us to support them financially to improve the studio.
- PTSA Nomination Committee Vote (Elyssa Lewis):
 - Members: Elyssa Lewis (Chair), Franka Berlowe, Erica Watts, Nicole Zimelman, Nicole Connelly, Maria Morgan, Shara Pelz). A motion was made to accept this committee. It was seconded and it passed
 - Board Election: May 10th PTSA Meeting
 - Current Chairs/Open Positions. Email elewis@imagereflex.com
 - Let us know if you know anyone who wants to volunteer for the board.
 - Teacher Mini-Grants (Elyssa Lewis)
 - We give up to \$5000 to the teachers through these mini grants.
- Science Grant Updates:
 - Microscopes Purchase
 - This is part of our \$50,000 grant.
 - Florida Villager VR Article
 - We are only middle school in the county with this program.
- Daniel Solomon's Low Vision Awareness Day: Friday, March 9th (\$2, Wear Green!)
 - Money will be given to Lighthouse for the Blind.
- Save the Date: Volunteer Recognition @ May 10th PTSA Meeting

- May meeting will be our last meeting.
- Asking for business sponsors. All money raised goes back to PTSA to help support programs like security, school studio, etc. Chris Blanco volunteered to reach out to parents, alumni, businesses etc. to raise money for the school.

Vice President Reports

- **1st VP-Operations (Tara Hudson)**
 - Teacher Appreciation Week- 5/7-5/11. Ana Hochkamer is in charge.
- **2nd VP-Programs (Gina Vinueza)**
 - Career Day Updates 5/22 (Erica Watts). Please contact Erica if you want to volunteer. Email careerday.pm@gmail.com.
 - Valentine's Dance Recap and Thanks. It was a success!
- **3rd VP-Ways and Means (Adela Bryant- reported by Katie Abbott)**
 - Brick Fundraiser
 - We are possibly going to do a project with Art Thyme and do a mural instead of brick project. We will contact the families that purchased bricks to find out if they would like to participate in this project instead. We are unable to do bricks at this time because the front of school is being redone.
- **Guest Speaker: Christina Bracken (GoVote Miami)**
 - March is voter registration month.
 - GoVote Miami is trained to get as many people registered to vote and to get people to the polls to vote.
 - Go on MiamiDade.gov and select a party affiliation so that you can vote in the primary election.
 - MiamiDade.gov/elections is a helpful site for all things related to elections.
 - March 18th there is a walk in Liberty City.
 - You can register to vote in the state of Florida online. MDCPS have a program for high school students.

Principal's Report and School Safety Discussion (Mr. Gonzalez)

- GOB Information reported by Katie Abbott. Everything on GOB project is approved and it is a go! The only issue we are still working on is Band Room. Start date slated for March of 2019.
- Pinecrest Police present to discuss school safety.
- Prior to Parkland incidence, some of our gates were left open. Now once the bell rings, all gates are closed and there is only one entrance to enter and leave. The front gate remains closed after the bell, but not locked unless necessary.
- Raptor ID System is in place for parents and visitors to use when they enter the building.
- We are monitoring the children to make sure they have their IDs. Children are also not supposed to be wearing their hoodies.
- Erica Watts is looking at costs regarding a locking gate for the front of the school.

- One parent concerned that anyone can walk into school before the bell rings. Mr. Gonzalez explained that we have guards watching who enters school prior to the bell ringing.
- A parent said that at the Elementary School some of the custodians are at various locations. Another parent suggested that parents volunteer to help with security.
- Parent has a question about code red drills. Mr. Gonzalez has a meeting next week to discuss how the school system will revamp the code red.
- Parent asked about school's response to students that could be a possible threat. The school is working to address students that are possibly at risk. The Florida Legislature is currently working on safeguards (metal detectors, ID scanning, etc) to put in place in the schools.
- Parent brought up the idea of having a point person at the school for the children when they see something concerning on social media. Mr. Gonzalez said that they do not like to designate one person, but allow the children to go to anyone they feel comfortable talking to. Parent also suggested having a paper report that school personnel fill out documenting these reports of concern.
- Parent asked how parents will be notified if we ever had a real-life lockdown. The school goes through Connect Ed. Messages will go out via phone, text messages and emails. Go on the website and update your information. School priority is the safety of the children. Once they have all children safe, a notice will go out.
- Parent suggested anonymous reporting system.
- Parent asked that each teacher tell the student what the plan is for his or her classroom.
- Parent asked if there has been a comprehensive security plan for the school. There is a meeting next week where we will get some guidance from the county.
- Mayor Cindy Learner spoke about the response after Sandy Hook. At that time, the Pinecrest Police came to each school and helped the school with the security plan. The Pinecrest Police will continue to do this for the Pinecrest schools.
- Parent asked for plan of where parents and children go once we do go on code red. Officer Jason Cohen from Pinecrest Police spoke about what to do as a parent. He said every incident is different and it really depends on what is going on. There is no generic answer we can give. A command post will be set up after the threat is dealt with. Then, a staging point will be set up for the parents to retrieve their students or get more information.
- Jason Cohen from Pinecrest Police spoke about Pinecrest Police response to the security situation and what steps will be taken.
 - School Board Police is lead police for the school. Pinecrest Police will be the first police to respond.
 - All of the officers have alert training regarding what to do when they arrive at the scene. They are trained to respond, go in, and not wait.
 - Pinecrest Village council voted to allow money earmarked for technology in the schools to be used for security enhancements.
 - Go to Nixle.com to sign up with 33156 zip code to be alerted of a major event occurring in Pinecrest. PTSA will send out this information in an email/push notification.
 - Parent asked if Pinecrest Police can view our security cameras.

- Parent asked if we would be notified if teachers were allowed to be armed. Parent explained that it is a district opt in to allow and that we can call Governor Scott to say we do not support or support, etc.
- Parent asked how quickly we could have Pinecrest Police go through each class and give security guidance. This has to be initiated from school board and district.
- Parent asked if Pinecrest Police have plans to know the layout, etc of the school. Pinecrest Police have the floorplan of Pinecrest schools on their laptops and will make sure the plans are current.
- Parent asked if we could have a parent fundraiser to support security at school.
- Parent asked if we can do anything to immediately help with police presence at our school. Officer Oliva from Pinecrest Police is in constant communication with the school and has a school radio keeping a close eye on Palmetto Middle.
- Ana Hochkammer spoke as council member and parent.
 - Village of Pinecrest gives a reimbursement grant of up to \$10,000 to each of the 5 schools in Pinecrest for technology. These funds will be allowed to use for security. School has to fund it, and then they will be reimbursed.
 - We have 51 sworn officers in Pinecrest. We need to recognize that if we increase police presence, how much will we pay for it through an increase in taxes.
 - School superintendent feels he will get a \$30 million grant for school security. However, this money will be taken from other departments (art, dance, etc).
 - House Seat 114 (east of 67th Avenue in Pinecrest) currently has no representative. Contact the democratic and republican candidates to ask them to answer questions regarding gun control. Election will be on May 1st.
 - House Seat 115 (Palmetto Bay) primary election is in August. Contact those candidates as well.
 - Last night had council meeting and Pinecrest voted to join lawsuit initiated in Weston. The Village of Pinecrest Council voted to join the lawsuit initiated by the City of Weston seeking a declaration that the provisions punishing elected officials for violating the preemption related to the regulation of firearms and ammunition are invalid.
 - Marshall Program was passed. We can opt in to train our teachers to have guns. Teachers will be removed from package, but everyone else that works in school can opt in. Superintendent has said he will not support this program.
 - We the residents are the ones that can vote for gun laws and gun control. Ana urged us to VOTE for gun laws and gun control.
 - Pinecrest Council has approved training for active shooter training.

New Business

- Trough generous donations of parents, we were ale to buy track uniforms. We will also be able to buy uniforms for girl's basketball. We are still looking for committee members.
- Chris Blanco (father of 6th grader) spoke about Watch Dogs program at elementary school (Dad's of Great Students). He contacted national organization and found out no middle

schools in Miami participating. He has information and set up meeting with Mr. Gonzalez. He would like to set up at Palmetto Middle. There are ties with male role models, as well as school safety. His email is cjblanco@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting involved.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- TV Studio Handout
- Police Handout

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 3/19 School Tour at 9:15 am
- 3/22 End of 3rd Grading Period
- 3/23 NO SCHOOL/Teacher Planning Day
- 3/23-3/30 SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL
- NOTE: No April PTSA Board or General Meeting. Happy Spring Break!
- 4/11-4/12 "Thoroughly Modern Millie" Show
- 4/16 School Tour at 9:15 am
- 5/7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/9-5/10 Dance Spring Show
- 5/10 LAST PTSA Meeting at 9:00 am. Board Elections and Volunteer Appreciation



Upcoming Board Meetings:

- 5/3 at 9 am

Upcoming General Assembly Meetings:

- 5/10 at 9 am

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Lisa Gitlin
Approved as:
Written 3/8/18