

Palmetto Middle School PTSA General Meeting

September 13th, 2018

9:00 AM

Palmetto Middle School Media Center

1. Call to Order

President Gina Vinueza called the meeting to order in the media center at 9:21 am.

2. Roll Call

Attendance sheets were present and filled out.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

- A committee was appointed to review the minutes and make amendments, via email. The committee consisted of Staci Sakalo, Maria Morgan and Ileana Cohn. A vote was taken via email. The minutes from the last PTSA General Meeting were approved (Agendas and notes will be on the website).

4. President's Report, Gina Vinueza

- Welcome New Parents and Introduction of Board
- Open House
 - All went well
- Corrections to Directory (on our website)
 - Corrections have gone out and have been uploaded to the website.
- GOB update and new music room
 - Will be starting next summer. We are getting a new auditorium, music rooms and new bathrooms. High school has already started. Mrs. Dwyer spoke to the committee and they have found an extra \$1.6 million towards the project.
- EESAC updates
 - Mr. Dixon is the community business representative. He will report at the meetings. Anyone is welcome. We talk about our community improvement plan. We were one point away from an A. This is a reflection on the improvements that our lowest achieving students make. We did make overall improvements.
- Thank you to all who have helped get us off to a great start this year!
- Acknowledgments of new efforts:
 - Fran Puga and Christine Reynolds work with Ms. Siciliano
 - Helping develop a program to help students with reading improve their grades and scores.
 - Fran Puga is available to speak to parents in Spanish. Some of the forms will also be on our website in Spanish.
 - Carrie Feit and Erica Watts outreach to EBD teachers and classes
 - Helping to create a break room for our EBD children.
 - Barbara Portugal outreach to teachers and classrooms in need and info about clubs/activities posted
 - If you need anything published on the website or social media, please send it to Barbara.
 - New program developed by Maritza Shapiro: Grant/Recognition, Stephanie Langer
 - New fundraising opportunities developed by Maritza Shapiro for activities/clubs
 - Student PTSA participation headed by Nicole Zimelman

- We are looking for more student participation this year. We ask that all families that have purchased memberships to also include their children. We will have an application for students to apply for a position on the PTSA Board.
 - Erica Watts volunteer program
 - Erica is doing a wonderful job with outreach.
 - Chris Blanco Watch Dogs Program
 - There will be engagement program to get more male figures involved in our school.
- We have a parent meeting and greet at Pinecrest Gardens on 9/21/18 at 9:30-11:00 am.

5. Treasurer's Report, Amy Jellison

- Audit Status
 - Our audit will take place on 9/20/18.
- Budget Review and Vote
 - School stores and membership are our biggest source of revenue.
 - We have created a line item for sports fundraising. The money made will go into the pool to be used by all teams. This budget item for all sports and activities is called Activities Fund.
 - Question about the principals fund. Question about why the money spent last year was over \$2000. This year the budget is \$200. It was explained that many of the items now fall under different categories in the budget.
 - A motion was made to approve the budget pending revisions. The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Vice President Reports

a. 1st VP-Operations, Tara Hudson

- Teacher Breakfast Thank You
 - We had the breakfast catered. The PTSA gave \$700 towards the catering. An additional \$300 was used to buy two Keurig machines for the teachers. We are looking for donations of k-cups, cups, sugar, napkins, etc. The children can drop off donations in the school store in the morning. Thank you to the parents for setting up the machine and for the water cooler to be used for the water in the teacher's lounge.
- Bulletin Boards
 - Will be working with Mrs. Toledo to change the boards every month. Volunteers needed.
- Copy Room
 - Volunteers needed to help the teachers.
- Media Center
 - Open from 8:30-10:00 am. They need Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer donations.
- We are also looking for uniform donations for our clothing closet. Your child can drop off donations in front office in a plastic bag. Please bring in clean, unstained clothing.

b. 2nd VP-Programs, Elyssa Lewis

- Watch Dog Program Kick off Thursday, 10/04 at 6:30pm
 - Chris Blanco is leading the effort to start the program at Palmetto Middle. This organization fosters greater involvement from dads to increase safety and involvement in schools.
- Listeners Program: www.listenersprogram.org Training at our school 9/25
 - You need to be a level two volunteer. You listen to the kids so they know they are heard.
- Red Ribbon Week- 10/20-10/25
- Reflections Program: <https://www.pta.org/reflections> Dana March

- This is a national PTSA program related to the arts.
- Make sure you are receiving the LINK Newsletter.

c. 3rd VP-Ways and Means, Maritza Shapiro

- Business Sponsorship Opportunities & Sponsors to date
 - We need local businesses to support our school. Sports Clips is our first sponsor. They have offered free hair cuts for any child in need at our school. We need volunteers.
- 3rd Annual Cocktail Party 10/19
 - Thank you Nicole Zimelman for offering your home. We need volunteers. Please contact Franka Berlowe to help. This is an adult only event. This is one of our largest fundraisers. The parents and teachers attend.
- Open positions
 - We need a business sponsorship chair.
- Mural/Brick Fundraiser
 - This is a legacy program. We need a volunteer to lead this effort.
- School Store (cash only and inventory)
- Book Fair- dates?
 - We do not know date yet. We are working on date.
 - Easy (free!) Ways to Help: Box Tops, Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/?tag=palmettomiddleptsa-20>
 - We are trying to get extra credit if the kids bring in 25 box tops.

7. Memberships and Donation Report, Nicole Zimelman

- Membership/Donation Status
 - We are already only \$6,000 less than the entire year last year. More people are becoming members. We have about \$14,000 in membership. You can sign up at any time. It is \$20 for a family membership for up to 4 people. Sign up everyone in the family, including spouse and child.
- Process to appoint a student PTSA representative
 - We will have an application process for students to be chosen as a representative.
- Membership Drive!!!
 - We are having a contest for the homeroom that has the highest percentage of members.
 - Thank you for the people who have sponsored memberships. We have about \$520 in sponsored memberships.

8. Advocacy Chair, Carrie Feit

- Thank you for the PTSA adopting this program to embrace inclusivity.

9. Legislative Chair, Elizabeth Heise

- Upcoming elections and amendments
 - Early voting 10/27-11/3. Look at vote411.org. This is a website that is resource for all things related to election.
- Breaking Down the Ballot- 10/02
 - Information will be given about the election and ballot. We have experts that will form a panel to have a non-partisan discussion about the ballot. Please RSVP online.

10. Volunteer Chair, Erica Watts

- Volunteer Registration & Procedures- Parent Portal Under 'Apps/Services.'
 - Volunteer registration must be renewed every year. You can do this on the portal.

- There is a new procedure to check into the school. You must check in and then go the office. A badge must be worn at all times.
- Sports Liaison
 - There is a sign up for the committee. This committee will help assist the coaches with fundraising, organizing, etc.
- Career Day
 - 3/19 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Last year successful with about 50 speakers.
 - Email careerdaypm@gmail.com to volunteer.

11. Principal's Report

- We had a very smooth opening. Everything has gone well.
- Some of the GOB money is being designated to completely redo the music room. The expected date to start is summer 2019.
- The bond program will start in March.
- We have a parent who is connected with Junior Orange Bowl. We will bring them in to work with our students to involve them in photography.
- There is a teacher who made an inappropriate statement in homeroom. Two students went to report the statement. School immediately followed procedures. Parents were called. Region office, school police and district office were contacted. School police were on campus. It is currently under investigation. Based on the actions taken, Mr. Gonzalez feels safe and feels the children should feel safe. The children are the number one priority. Mr. Gonzalez and Mrs. Toledo went to the homeroom today to talk to the students. The students were told they could report any concerns privately.
 - Parent asked why there wasn't an immediate response to the comment.
 - Mr. Gonzalez said he followed the appropriate protocol by contacting parents, Region, and then school police.
 - Parent asked if teacher will be fired. School unable to answer that question.
 - Parent asked about teacher coming back to school. School unable to answer that question. All authorities are aware and doing an investigative process. Mr. Gonzalez said that he knows where this teacher is right now.
 - Mr. Gonzalez said his door is always open if parent has a concern.
 - Parent asked about this teacher and a previous suspension. Mr. Gonzalez not able to answer specific questions.
 - Miss Daniels is in the homeroom until a replacement is found.
- Parent brought up that it is difficult to find Ms. Beasley to get ID approved for volunteer. Mr. Gonzalez will look into this.
- Parent asked if school gives guidance to eighth graders in regards to which high school to go to. Palmetto Senior will have an event for the eighth graders. We will also have a day where magnet schools will come talk to the kids about the programs.

13. New Business/Announcements/Suggestions/Open Mic

- We are applying for green school designation to be first green designated middle school in MDCPS. We are having a problem with recycling. If you know of anyone in community schools who can help us with recycling, please contact Dana March. We were advised to hire a private vendor or ask a parent to help with recycling.
- We are looking for a foosball table and pool table donation for the EBD break room.
- Parent asked if we could purchase another raptor machine to help expedite check in process.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 9/19: Teacher Planning Day. No School
- 9/21: **New Parent Meet & Greet- 9:30am-11:00am- Pinecrest Gardens**
- 9/22: Life over Bullets- 5pm-9:30pm- Pinecrest Gardens
- 9/25: Picture Day-volunteers needed!
- 9/25: Listener's Training- 9am-12pm Palmetto Middle School
305-935-0045 to register!
- 9/27: Secondary Early Release- 1:20 PM
- 10/1: School Tour- 9:15 AM
- 10/2: Breaking down the Ballot- 7pm Auditorium
- 10/4: Watch D.O.G.S. Kick off event- 6:30 pm Palmetto Middle School
- 10/9: Fundraising Dinner at Anthony's Coal Fire Pizza
- 10/11: PTSA Meeting- Media Center- 9:00 AM
- 10/19: 3rd Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser- need volunteers!