

Palmetto Middle School PTSA General Meeting Minutes

October 11th, 2018. 9:00 AM. Palmetto Middle School

1. **Call to Order at 9:05**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Prior Minutes-** Approved by Amy Jellson seconded by Lynn Goldenberg
4. **President's Report, Gina Vinueza**
 - **Welcome** (and quick presentation from Girl Scouts troop 763 regarding their silver service project to make chemo bags for teenagers)
 - Presentation after today's meeting on how to keep our kids safe from **Human Trafficking**
 - **New Parent Meet & Greet** at Pinecrest Gardens was a BIG success! More events to follow monthly, including some in the evenings and in our neighborhoods- Stay Tuned and let us know if you or someone you know can sponsor refreshments for these or any other events!
 - **Breaking down the Ballot- THANK YOU** to Elizabeth Heise, Carrie Feit, and all who helped make this event successful! Hope everyone is registered to vote! Early voting starts soon.
 - **Watch D.O.G.S.** Kick off event was another big success- Thank you to Chris Blanco for his leadership and to all who came out to get involved!
 - **EESAC** updates (Mr. Ainsley Dixon Business/Community Representative) Went over school improvement plan, top areas of focus-academic results most improvement seen in ELA. Working to keep improving, created reading program to identify children who need additional support. Also improved in math-63-69 overall, believe success due to iReady. High school tutors assist students in math every Thursday. Missed being an A school by 1 point.
 - **Give Miami Day!!!!** November 15th- tell everyone you know to help support our school! Please consider making a donation.
 - **Magnet School Applications** NOW OPEN until January 30th. Apply via parent portal. Once application is submitted, no changes may be made. Apply to up to 5 programs.
 - **AP Information Night** for 8th Grade parents 11/7- time to be announced but in the evening. Ms. Farkas, AP world history teacher at Palmetto High, is attending.
 - Please email me with any questions, suggestions, ideas, concerns ANYTIME.
5. **Treasurer's Report, Amy Jellson**
 - Audit Completed- thank you Maritza Shapiro, Leslie Menendez and Dana March for helping with audit! Maritza helped redo budget to make it easier to understand. Thank you.
 - Budget Review and Vote-updated budget was provided. New line for all clubs and areas that raise money, now named academic enrichment. All fundraising goes into general pot, to be shared with all in the academic enrichment line. School store is doing really well this year. Healthy bank balance. Budget passed.
 - Forms!!! Please check with your VP before spending money. Get all expenses approved. Forms are online and can be emailed to you. Use the new forms please!
6. **Vice President Reports**
 - a. **1st VP-Operations, Tara Hudson**
 - Media Center- great volunteers who are very dedicated. Books are not being put into circulation because we do not have a full time librarian. We found a retired librarian who is interested in helping, but we need a staff member to oversee. A lot of books are old and destroyed and we need to put new material into circulation. This is especially important for our lower readers.
 - Student Suggestions, Questions, Ideas, Concerns Box- box will be located near media center and it will be locked. Kids can leave messages, like the bully box. New way for them to express feelings.

- Holiday Lunch- Liz Albelo is in charge and working hard. Catered lunch for faculty and staff. We will need volunteers and donations. December 18 from 11-1:20.
- If you want to bake for meetings or donate, please let us know.

b. 2nd VP-Programs, Elyssa Lewis

- Watch Dog Program Updates-big opening event with over 50 dads plus their children attending, goal is to increase male role models and volunteers. Thank you to Publix, Vicki bakery, Mrs. Fields and Papa Johns for your donations.
- Red Ribbon Week- 10/20-10/25
- Turkey Bowl- grade level flag football games
- Reflections- Dana March working, might need some more volunteers.

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

- Business Sponsorship Opportunities & Sponsors to date- Lynn Goldenberg is working as the chair, Thank you. We have 5 sponsors so far.
- 3rd Annual Cocktail Party 10/19- Franka Berlowe is chair, please sign up to donate items. Parents please volunteer to help collect items next week.
- Mural/Brick Fundraiser- Art Thyme is working on sample.
- School Store (cash only and inventory)- moving to cash only. Several items on sale!
- Book Fair- 11/8 through 11/18- we will need volunteers!!
- Boo Gram Sales- Cristina Blanco is chairing, need volunteers to set up and help sell in the breezeway.
- Pizza Sales- enrichment programs are working on pizza sales.
- PTSA School of Excellence- please fill out the printed survey.
- Readers Program (Francisca Puga) created a wonderful reading lounge for our lower readers. Books and furniture have been donated. Grade level pull outs with volunteers. Christine Reynolds is also assisting.

7. Membership and Donation Report, Nicole Zimelman

- Membership/Donation Status- currently we have 668 members and \$20666 in dues and donations. 8th grade has the fewest members, 6th has the most. 43 staff and teacher members.
- Process to appoint a student PTSA representative & Application (10/30 DEADLINE)- temporary cards made for all children who are members. All members have the opportunity to represent their grade level, they need to fill out a form and indicate their goals and reasons. They will also need a teacher recommendation. One rep and one alternate for each grade. They will attend meetings during homeroom. 8th grade rep will serve on the board, attend board meetings and will be a voting member.
- Membership Drive Winners! Top teacher received 100 gift card, students win donut party....2nd place Ms. Su class, 1st place Ms. Alvarez, 74% of her class is PTSA members.

8. Advocacy Chair, Carrie Feit

- Education and Advocacy – increasing awareness of students who need assistance, working on educating parents on community events. Transgender awareness speaker coming in March. Please vote. Always looking for interesting speakers.

9. Legislative Chair, Elizabeth Heise

- Upcoming elections and amendments- VOTE 11/6/18 or EARLY, know your candidates and do your research. Check out vote411.org.
- Breaking Down the Ballot- 10/02-thank you to everyone who attended.

10. Volunteer Chair, Erica Watts

- Volunteer Procedure Updates/Ids-thank you to all volunteers, thank you to Mr. Gonzalez. Will send out separate sign ups. Working to communicate with chairs. We have a lot of volunteers.

11. Principal's Report- Some classes were leveled off recently due to the recent budget conference, leveled off the last class yesterday. It is beneficial to our teachers to have smaller class sizes. Iready parent guide reports are ready. Data chats are happening. Intervention and enrichment are happening. Iready is beneficial to the lower performing children. Sustained silent reading is being used for students who are high performing. 45 minutes per week for highest students, 60 for grade level and 75 minutes for lowest, but each session must hit a 75% completion rate. Students without computer access may use Ms. Barker's lab. Sports going very well, thank you to dad coach Mr. Martinez for boys soccer, girls soccer doing well. Cross country competing almost weekly and having success. Coaches must attend meetings and agree to "sponsor" the sport. NJHS...right now does not have a sponsor, as she stepped down. Looking for a new sponsor. Parents may assist, but there must be a teacher sponsor. There is a small stipend for any teacher who steps up, sports, clubs etc. Avila investigation there are no updates, still under investigation.

12. PTSA President from MPSH

- High School GOB update- construction has started!!!!

13. New Business/Announcements/Suggestions/Open Mic- Buy your tickets online!!!! We will put the link out again and on our website. Katie Abbott is running for Pinecrest Council. We would love more silent auction items.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 10/19: 3rd Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser- need volunteers!
- 10/22-25: Red Ribbon Week
- 10/26: Teacher Planning Day: NO SCHOOL
- 11/5: School Tour- 9:15am (please invite any potential incoming 6th graders!)
- 11/6: ELECTION DAY: NO SCHOOL
- 11/7: AP Information Night- Media Center- Time TBD (evening)
- 11/8-18: Book Fair
- 11/8: PTSA General Meeting- Media Center- 9:00 am**
- 11/12: Veteran's Day: NO SCHOOL
- 11/13-16: Spirit Week
- 11/14: Picture Make Up Day
- 11/15: Give Miami Day!!!!**