

Palmetto Middle School PTSA General Meeting Minutes

February 14th, 2019. 9:00 AM. Palmetto Middle School

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Gina Vinueza at 9:19 am in the media center.
- b. A moment of silence was taken to remember the victims of MSD.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

- a. A vote was taken and the minutes from the January 2019 meeting were approved.

3. President's Report, Gina Vinueza

- **Welcome**
- **Mentioned Valentine's Dance. Starts today in sixth period. Pick up by 5:00 pm.**
- **Yearbook: 8th grade dedications & Ad Deadline Extended!!! February 22nd**
- **Online Payments**
- **Digital Citizenship**
<https://www.commonensemedia.org/>
http://digital.dadeschools.net/digital_citizenship.asp
 - We will be bringing in more training to work with the students. These events are taken seriously.
 - Urged parents to check their student's social media accounts.
 - Audrey March met with Mr. Gonzalez yesterday to have an assembly to address students and social media.
- **Bylaws**
 - We reviewed the bylaws and they are posted on the website.
- **Standing Rules**
 - We review the standing rules and they are posted on the website.
- **Thank you to Maritza for coordinating Diversity & Inclusion training for our 8th graders. Next year we plan to offer it at the beginning of the year for 6th graders.**
- **Thank you to Erica Watts for coordinating Human Trafficking education event. Follow up resources will be posted on our website soon!**
- **Thank you to Carrie Feit for coordinating Empathy training for our parents! We would love to have more involvement in this valuable training in the future!**

- **Upcoming Educational Events for our families: Jo Ivester on March 13th, Digital Citizenship**
 - March 13th at 9 am in the media center
 - Jo Ivester is a transgender activist.
- **Mixer**
 - Working on this. Hope to invite incoming sixth grade parents as well.
- **Nominating Committee:**
 - **Erica Watts, Chair Pro Tem, introduced this year's Nominating Committee for a vote:**
 - **Carmen Font**
 - **Joanne Becherer**
 - **Carrie Feit**
 - **Shannon Shapiro**
 - **Virginia Bertot**
 - A vote was taken and the five members of the nominating committee were voted in. The Nominating Committee will next meet and elect a Chair. PTSA will send out and post information on how to make a nomination.
 - **Interested in serving on Next year's Board or know someone who is (incoming 6th grade parents welcomed), please contact Nominating Committee at NominationsPMS@gmail.com**
- **Summer Youth Internship Program (Career Technical Education), rising 10th-12th graders**
 - Paid opportunity over the summer. Will give training and certification.
- **MDCPS Calendar for 2019-20 approved**
- **Please email me with any questions, suggestions, ideas, concerns ANYTIME**

4. Treasurer's Report, Amy Jellson (reported by Maritza Shapiro)

- a. See budget report. Will be posted on website.

5. Principal's Report, Mr. Gonzalez

- a. We are currently going through course selection for next year. Making sixth grade visits currently. Articulation for our school is at the end of the month. They will be selecting courses for next year. Teachers have to sign off on their core courses.
- b. We have hired a math interventionist. They are pulling select children during their electives on Mondays and Tuesdays. We will also offer an FSA math prep.

- c. All testing this year will be in April and May. Sixth grade testing is done all via writing in a booklet (no computer testing).
- d. We are looking for a part time media center clerk.
- e. History Club placed third out of 50 schools yesterday.
- f. Science Club came in second place.
- g. Math Club came in first place
- h. Girl's flag football is undefeated.
- i. Spelling Bee is coming up Tuesday.
- j. Tennis and golf are under way.
- k. Parent asked if we can increase availability for children to take Spanish as an elective. This depends on student request. Another parent asked about keeping numbers lower in electives. This also depends on student demand.
- l. Mrs. Ladinas (art teacher) is slated to come back. We cannot hire her until we have confirmed Mrs.Schaefer retires.
- m. PTSA and EESAC were able to get the new wrestling mats.
- n. Question about increased security in regards to MSD anniversary. There are five officers on campus today.
- o. Mr. Avila incident still under investigation. Mrs. Banks was hired as the science teacher.
- p. Mr. Diez is currently on leave.
- q. Cheerleaders did a flash mob today for "Show the Love for Palmetto."
- r. Eighth grade dance is May 31, 2019. Venue to be determined.

6. Student PTSA Representative Report, Audrey March

- a. Student involvement in Digital Citizenship Campaign

7. Vice President Reports

a. 1st VP-Operations, Tara Hudson

- You can sign up to help in the copy room.
- Student Suggestions, Questions, Ideas, Concerns Box
 - Many notes were about the art teacher and the students requesting to keep Mrs. Ladines.
- Media Center Update
 - Media center is run only by volunteers. Volunteers can only check in and check out books. We are not able to remove or replenish our inventory. We were able to get a media clerk three days a week. She recently left. We are interviewing for a new media clerk.
 - We have new rules. No gaming in the media center. Students can only do quiet study or research.
- Teacher Appreciation Week (Anna Hochkammer)

- May 6-10

b. 2nd VP-Programs, Elyssa Lewis

- Valentine's Day Dance 2/14/19 TODAY!
 - Wristbands are still on sale.
 - Thank you to everyone who helped and donated.
- Spelling Bee-1/23/19 (Elizabeth Heise)
 - Thank you Mr. Gonzalez for being our liaison.
 - It went well! We would like to encourage more participation and support next year.
 - We were able to have an audience this year.
- Watch D.O.G.S.

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

- Mural/Brick Fundraiser
 - You can buy the pennants to be hung on the mural in the breezeway.
- Thank you to all who helped for our 1st Family, Flix, and Food. Changes & suggestions for next year
- Possibly bringing food trucks to Palmetto Middle. We will have an event for the teachers to have food trucks at lunch February 22.

8. Advocacy Chair, Carrie Feit

- Meet Jo Ivester, Youth Transgender Activist-Wednesday, March 13th at 9am in Media Center
- Inclusion/Empathy Workshop thank you to all who attended

9. Legislative Chair, Elizabeth Heise

- Legislative Updates
 - It is so important to vote for policies over parties!
- Look at www.smartvote.org
 - You look up a policy and it will recommend the candidate.
- The Village of Pinecrest will have a water vote regarding getting city water brought to homes in Pinecrest.
 - Katie Abbott (Pinecrest Representative) spoke about importance of voting regarding bringing water to every home in Pinecrest.

10. Volunteer Chair, Erica Watts

- Volunteer Updates
 - Please volunteer!

- palmettomiddlevolunteers@gmail.com
- Career Day- March 19th!!!
 - Letters of invitation will go out next week.
 - It is approximately 9:30-11:30 (arrive at 9:00 am). You can see up to four classes. Each class is a 20 minute time slot.
- Food Truck (2/22 for Teachers and Date TBA for Students)
 - Menu has been set and it will be \$10 for a meal.
 - We will have a date for the students one day after school.
- Sports committee is active and involved.
- Green spirit day March 15.
 - \$2 to wear green that day.

11. New Business/Announcements/Suggestions/Open Mic

- We made volunteer position a standing chair at our executive board meeting.
- Please join the PTSA if you are not yet a member.
- Suggestion to find ways to include students who cannot afford to attend events (like the dance, etc). Give them a way to speak up and say they would like to attend.

12. Important Dates:

**2/14/19- 2nd Annual Valentine's Day
Dance**

2/19/19- NO SCHOOL President's Day

3/2/19- Pedal to the Park Event

3/4/19- School Tour- 9:15am

**3/13/19- Meet Jo Ivester: Transgender
Activist**

3/19/19- Career Day

3/25-3/29/19- SPRING BREAK

4/1/19- School Tour- 9:15 am

4/4/19- Spring Picture Day

**4/11/19- PTSA MEETING- Media Center
9am**

13. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am.

**Next General Meeting
April 11, 2019 @ 9:00 am
Palmetto Middle School Media Center**