

Palmetto Middle School PTSA General Meeting
April 11th, 2019. 9:00 AM

1. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Gina Vinueza in the library at 9:16 am.
2. Approval of Prior Minutes
 - A vote was taken and the minutes from the February 2019 meeting were approved.
3. Election of 2019-20 Palmetto PTSA Officers
 - Welcome & Introduction of Nancy Lawther, Miami County Council PTSA President, to speak about our Election
 - Pointed out a slight deviance in bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order. Per bylaws, the nominating committee is supposed to be elected at a meeting. The member name should be mentioned and agree to serve at a meeting. There should be five members on the nominating committee. If there are more than five people nominated, you must go to a ballot. The top five would be become the nominating committee. The person with the top number of votes would become the chair pro tem to run the committee.
 - We did not follow the proper procedure this time. The PTSA ratified it this time, but going forward, we will need to follow proper procedure.
 - Only members who have been paying members for more than 30 days, will be allowed to vote, if we go to a vote.
 - There will be three tellers who will count the vote.
 - Voting procedures and rules were reviewed.
 - Recording Secretary please read the bylaws: ARTICLE VI: Officers and their Election
 - Thank you to Nominating Committee and presentation of the 2019-20 Slate of Officers
 - Slate was announced:
 - President: Erica Watts
 - 1st Vice President (Operations): Suzette Colton
 - 2nd Vice President (Programs)t: Macarena Jones
 - 3rd Vice President (Ways and Means: Carmen Font
 - Recording Secretary: Amy Jellson
 - Treasurer: Maritza Shapiro
 - Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Gitlin
 - Macarena Jones was nominated for position of President. Macarena spoke to the PTSA and expressed importance of continuity (2 years of president and 1 year as parliamentarian).
 - Nancy Lawther suggested giving slated candidate chance to speak, as well.
 - Erica Watts spoke about her experience as a volunteer with PTSA.
 - Franka Berlowe nominated for position of 2nd VP programs. Franka spoke to PTSA about her experience with PTSA and her interest in nomination as 2nd VP.
 - Macarena Jones spoke to PTSA about her experience with PTSA and interest in her nomination as 2nd VP.
 - Nominations for President closed.
 - Nominations for 1st VP closed.
 - Nominations for 2nd VP closed.
 - Nominations for 3rd VP closed.
 - Nominations for Recording Secretary closed.
 - Nominations for Treasurer closed.
 - Nominations for Corresponding Secretary closed.
 - Tellers are Francisa Puga, Liz Abelo and Christine Reynolds
 - There are 55 voting members.

- Voting
 - Ballots were distributed.
 - Gina Vinueza instructed us to write in the nominations, as well as any write in which we might be interested. You must circle the person for whom you are voting. You must fold your ballot twice.
- Presentation of New Elected Officers
 - Votes were read
 - President:
 - Erica Watts 31 votes
 - Macarena Jones 26 votes
 - 1st Vice President (Operations):
 - Suzette Colton 51
 - 2nd Vice President (Programs):
 - Macarena Jones 13
 - Franka Berlowe 42
 - 3rd Vice President (Ways and Means):
 - Carmen Font 49
 - Recording Secretary:
 - Amy Jellson 48
 - Treasurer:
 - Maritza Shapiro 52
 - Corresponding Secretary:
 - Lisa Gitlin 48
- Presentation of New Elected Officers
 - The selected officers for 2019-2020 school year are:
 - President: Erica Watts
 - 1st Vice President (Operations): Suzette Colton
 - 2nd Vice President (Programs): Franka Berlowe
 - 3rd Vice President (Ways and Means): Carmen Font
 - Recording Secretary: Amy Jellson
 - Treasurer: Maritza Shapiro
 - Corresponding Secretary: Lisa Gitlin
- A motion was made to destroy the ballots. The recording secretary will destroy the ballots.

4. Guest: Ms. Norris- 5000 Role Models

- ELA teacher/Sponsors 5000 Role Models. This program targets at-risk males. They provide mentoring, tutoring, field trips.
- They need support, especially in the form of boys clothing for the field trips (white long-sleeved collared shirts, black slacks and black belts).

5. President's Report, Gina Vinueza

- Parent Mixer & possible coordination with Ms. Landines Art Show, May 18th
 - Hope to combine Art Show and Parent Mixer. Contact Dana March if you would like to help.
- GOB update (Palmetto Middle's GOB plan passed and is on schedule) + Band Room rebuild
 - See Principal's report
- Pinecrest and Palmetto Bay Mayor's Educational Advisory Committees are both looking at improving transportation between our villages and for students in all of our schools.
- Please email me with any questions, suggestions, ideas, concerns ANYTIME

6. Treasurer's Report, Amy Jellson

- Presentation of the budget

- i. Question about how much cash on hand. There is about \$25,000 cash left to spend (plus the money from the grants about \$22,000). All of the money has been allocated.
 - ii. Budget will not be posted. Members can contact PTSA to review the budget.
- Vote on changes
 - i. Need to add line for Enrichment to summer line for \$1100. This will be enrichment training for teachers (diversity and inclusion training) over the summer.
 - ii. A motion was made to add this item, a vote was taken and it was approved.
- Approve Budget
- Thank you to the volunteers. Volunteer breakfast will follow meeting.

7. Principal's Report, Mr. Gonzalez

- Thank you to the volunteers on behalf of the staff and teachers. All of the volunteers make it easier for the staff and teachers. A special thanks goes to Diana Bryan.
- Block Scheduling for next year and mandatory class
 - i. This is a year-to-year vote.
 - ii. Next year we will be moving to block scheduling with 4 classes each day. There will be 4 core classes and 3-4 electives. We are waiting to find out if we were chosen to have the social-emotional class as the 4th elective.
 - iii. 1-3-5-7
 - iv. 2-4-6-8
 - v. There are discussions about new electives. A list will be sent out for children to do subject selection before the end of the school year, if new classes are added.
 - vi. A survey was done with the children to find out what kind of electives they would like to see at the school. One class that came up was coding. Mr. Gonzalez will continue to investigate which classes to add.
- Testing Updates
 - i. Calendars distributed with dates.
 - ii. There will be morning and afternoon testing. Please plan accordingly.
 - iii. Calendar for accommodations was distributed.
 - iv. Testing Block schedule distributed.
 - v. All 6th graders will be taking paper-based testing. ONLY THE STUDENTS WITH ACCOMODATIONS IN 7th and 8th grades will be taking paper-based testing. The rest of 7th and 8th graders will be taking computer-based testing.
 - vi. The children who applied for special programs, like Forensic Science, TV Production, etc., will hopefully find out by late April if they made it into those programs.
- GOB
 - i. We are currently at 50%. The 100% meeting should be in May.
 - ii. The music room will be worked on first (new AC, new roof, new lockers, new sheet rocks, sound proofing, etc.).
 - iii. Looking to start in summer and hope to finish by December. They will start in the music room. The gate will also be moved out and add a push out/automatic lock door.
- Front Door
 - i. A new front door to the school (to increase security) is in the works.

8. Student PTSA Representative Report, Audrey March

- Cheer try outs coming out. Information meeting on May 1 (for incoming 6th graders to rising 8th graders).
- Art Show is May 18. Please contact Mrs. Ladines if you would like to help.

9. Vice President Reports

a. 1st VP-Operations, Tara Hudson

- Student Suggestions, Questions, Ideas, Concerns Box
 - It has been successful. There have been over 70 comments in support of the art teacher, Mrs. Ladines.
 - The children have suggested digital photography, coding and cooking. WE do not have the facilities for a cooking class.

- Clothing Closet is low on stock- please donate
 - Please bring clean and gently used clothing.
 - The clothing is used for students who need uniforms. Do not forget jeans!
- Copy room needs volunteers! A request for volunteers will be posted on FB- please sign up.
 - Email Jenny Diemar.
- Media Center Update
 - Still looking for a clerk.
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10 (Suzette Coulton & Franka Berlowe)
 - The theme is a Hollywood theme.
 - May 6- VIP Breakfast
 - May 7- Salad Bar
 - May 8- Mr. Gonzalez Lunch
 - May 9- Spa Day (10-minute massages)
 - May 10- Surf and Turf Lunch catered by an Affair to Remember
 - Nancy Lawther is not comfortable with PTSA collecting and raffling gift cards. Parents can do this on their own, but cannot funnel it through the PTSA.

b. 2nd VP-Programs, Elyssa Lewis

- Reflections Chair for next year needed! Please contact Dana March for more info.
- Watch D.O.G.S. (Chris Blanco)
 - Father's In Education Day 5/16/19. Please see Chris Blanco to volunteer.
 - See Chris Blanco about getting involved in Watch D.O.G.S.
- Career Day (Erika Watts) was a success. We had 54 speakers.

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

- Mural/Brick Fundraiser
 - This will be the last year for the bricks. We will be moving forward with only pennants.
- Required Reading Sale will be replacing our Book Fair
 - The past two years was not as successful as we had hoped.
 - We hope to move towards selling the required reading books along with Books and Books. They books will be sold at 6th grade orientation and at a later date. This program works great at Palmetto Senior High.
- Diversity and Inclusion Training for 6th graders next year
 - We will do this next year.
 - We are using a company called We Envision Harmony.
 - There will also be a staff and teacher training component.
- Business Sponsorships
 - WE have two additional business sponsorships as a result of career-day.
 - Jersey Mike's (they also provided free sandwiches to the teachers).
 - LIV Blow Dry
 - A doctor also became a sponsor.
 - If the children get a business sponsor, they will get 10 hours of NJHS volunteer hours.
- We are doing sponsorship for our Science Enrichment Program. We have 33 students going to Texas for the National competition.

10. Advocacy Chair, Carrie Feit (reported by Gina Vinueza)

- Event with Jo Ivester, Youth Transgender Activist
 - Event was successful. Thank you Carrie for bringing these events to PMS this year.
- Advocacy Chair Development for next year
 - Contact Carrie Feit if you are interested.
- EBD Unit Project (Erica Watts)

11. Legislative Chair, Elizabeth Heise

- Legislative Updates

- This legislative session has been rough on public schools.
- Today they will be talking about the Guardian Program. This is the piece of legislation to arm teachers and staff.
- Charter program was given \$200 million. A charter school can now be built right next to a public school.
- It is important to know your candidates and their position on public schools.
- Nancy Lawther spoke:
 - 89.9% of parents who responded to the survey were against teachers being armed.
 - It is a decision of the school board.
 - All of the safety allocations will be used for the Guardian Program.
 - Nancy Lawther spoke about the bill that will force us to share the revenue with charter schools. If it does not pass, the other monies will be used for this.
 - There is discussion about underperforming schools. If a school is underperforming for two years, there can be a School of Hope/charter school placed next door.
 - Another bill will give students at underperforming school a voucher to be used at a private school. It was rejected as unconstitutional. The bill is now going to go forward again. That means our tax dollars will be going towards vouchers that can be used at private schools. In essence, our tax dollars will be underwriting private schools.
 - Another bill to approve Civics materials. This could mean that the materials can be slanted.
- Girl's lacrosse clinic at MPSH
 - A clinic will be held on April 28th at 4 pm.

12. Volunteer Chair, Erica Watts

- Volunteer Updates
- Coastal Clean Up for Earth Day (4/20/19)
- Sign Language Club (4/9/19 was the first meeting)
- Food Truck (2/22 for Teachers and Date TBA for Students)
- Thank you to the volunteers.

13. New Business/Announcements/Suggestions/Open Mic

- Thank you to the volunteers on behalf of the teachers.

14. Important Dates:

4/8/19: Announcement of Slate 2019-20	4/25/19: Girls Lax Clinic (MPSH)
4/9/19: Sign Language Club Meeting- 8:30 am	5/2/19: Last PTSA Board Meeting
4/11/19: PTSA Meeting- Media Center- 9:00 am	5/6/19: School Tour
4/11/19: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast	5/6-5/10: Teacher Appreciation Week
4/11/19: Early Release	5/16/19: Fathers In Education Day
4/18/19: 8 th Grade Islands of Adventure	5/17/19: Deadline for Legacy Fundraiser
4/19/19: No School	5/18/19: 8 th grade IOA Trip
4/20/19: Coastal Clean Up	5/18/19: Art Show
4/22/19: Earth Day	5/19/19: NO SCHOOL

15. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Next and LAST General Meeting
 May 9, 2019 @ 9:00 am
 Palmetto Middle School Media Center