

James Hubert Blake High School
PTSA General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2009

The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, December 15, at 7 pm at Blake's Media Center.

Introduction and Presentation

Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelmann, Secretary; Carole Goodman, Principal; several PTSA committee chairs, general members and new Blake parents and students.

The winners of the Reflections contest were announced and presented. Reflections is a PTSA-sponsored national arts competition to promote visibility of art programs. After each winner was announced, everyone had the opportunity to see or hear the works by the students. See blakeptsa.org for a list of winners.

Business

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Robina introduced Jennifer Lien, Student Government Association president and liaison to the PTSA. Jennifer reported that

- The SGA is sponsoring a toy drive, and they ask parents to purchase new toys to contribute. Thursday, December 17 is the last day. Toys will be donated to St. Anne's infant home.
- SGA Leadership class will sponsor "Pennies for Patients."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes from the November meeting be approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the December Treasurer's report to General Membership. Southwest Airlines is offering travelers a discount if they are members of the PTA. Just show membership card when making reservations.

PTSA POSITIONS: COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

PTSA Website – Chair: Beth Blevins, Communications VP

The PTSA website is <http://www.blakeptsa.org/> Beth said committee chairs should let her know if they would like an activities page.

Membership – Chairs: Robin Ford and Edith Salazar (could not attend).

Robin said that the PTSA has 631 members. She made a plea to the PTSA membership to encourage anyone who is not a member to join.

After Prom - Chair: Maura McMullen and Diane Bush (not present).

Maura said that fundraising is continuing. Over \$300 was made at the Mama Lucia Dine Out. Maura and Jack Goble attended the Vendors' Activities Fair for the After Prom.

A fundraising parent letter will be sent out in February. All are invited to the letter stuffing party on February 8.

The After Prom will be at Dave & Busters again this year. The goal of the After Prom is to keep the kids there, and out of harm's way. The event will cost \$27,000 - \$35 per teen. 700 teens are expected to attend. This event is funded through voluntary contributions only – no Blake money is used.

Diane said that the next Dine Out will be on Wednesday, November 18 at Mama Lucia's in Olney.

Special Education - Chair: Debbie Gartland (not present).

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias could not attend.

Robina said that Jonathan continues to be in touch with Mr. Tyrrell regarding the mentoring program.

Nominating Committee – Robina asked for volunteers to chair this committee. There were no volunteers at this time.

PALA – Parent and Student Latinos in Action – Chair: Ruben Escobar could not attend.

This month's meeting was a social.

NAACP – Chairs: Sharon Mosley-Ramsey and Bobette Banks (not present).

The potluck dinner/meeting will be held in the cafeteria on Wednesday, December 16. Household items will be collected and donated to Green Tree.

Book Sale/Comedy Night – Chairs: Orit Chicherio and Beth Blevins

The Book Sale is February 19 – 21. At this time, a venue is needed which has the space to collect and sort. Orit and Robina will look into empty stores in Cloverly and Colesville. Perhaps students could give community service in exchange for space.

Principal Goodman said that Blake only has space for the 2-3 days of the book sale.

Donation receipts for taxes will be given.

Orit would also like to arrange a drive-through book drop-off.

Beth said Comedy Night is planned for March 12. She is asking for parent volunteers. Try-outs will begin in the second week of January.

Check on blakeptsa.org for more information.

Silent Auction – Chair: Dawn Dolan (not present).

Auction date is May 7. The check was written for the on-line auction software.

Hospitality – Chair is still needed.

Renaissance – Principal Goodman said Hector Morales is very busy with the Renaissance program. There will be an assembly and a “straight A” breakfast. Ms. Katz will get regular reports.

Foundation – Exploratory meeting was held on November 30. Robina would like to create a fund to get things for the school that the PTSA cannot, because of restrictions. An example would be a language lab. Robina would like to begin the brick donation program before the end of the year. Look for an article in the *Blake Beat* this Friday, December 18.

MCCPTA Delegates – Delegates: Jack Goble and Bill Halpin
Nothing to report.

NEC Cluster - Coordinators: Lee Ann Doerflinger (not present) and Dawn Dolan (not present) (for Paint Branch
Nothing to report.

Teacher/Staff Liaison – Ms. Katz (not present) Principal Goodman reported:

- SAT deadline was extended to December 23. If students have a hardship paying, please see Miss Moore.
- Blake will have an alumni panel for 11th and 12th graders.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Carole Goodman

- New permanent, opaque shades were installed in the amphitheater.
- During the PSAT day (Tuesday), there was a senior class meeting. It was pointed out to the seniors, that since graduation date is June 1, there is no wiggle room for completing work for grades. Ms. Gelb and Mr. Tyrrell are making sure students are well prepared.
- Blake Beat was awarded “Best Newspaper” award by Maryland Scholastic.
- A filmmaker who has a documentary on the National Geographic channel about students visiting Kenya for one week to teach music will come to Blake to talk to kids.
- Ms. Goodman hosted an administrative walk-through exemplifying themes and trends. It was clear to the visitors that all levels of classes were diverse, the students were engaged and technology is widely used.
- Ten hand sanitizers were installed around the building. Each station has 4,000 squirts.
- Ms. Goodman attended an administrative breakfast. In reviewing the budget documents, Ms. Goodman noted two items of concern: first, that bus transportation is in jeopardy for the high school consortia; and second, it is called for to increase class size by 1. This translates to laying off 240 teachers. Arts programs are usually the first to be hit. There likely will be no raises or step increases. Blake is in a holding pattern, but is in a better position than other schools because we have a new building and are well equipped. Ms. Goodman encourages all parents to contact school board and county council members and let them know your concerns.
- Please visit the MCPS webpage and review the proposed budget.
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>

New Business

Beth Kauffman, the Child Development teacher, said that the Blake HS Future Educators Association will provide Parents' Night Out. Students will provide fun and dinner for the kids while parents dine or shop for just \$15/1st child and \$5 any other child for 4 hours. Friday, December 18.

Thursday, December 17 is Staff Appreciation Day. Bake cookies for the teachers.

The next PTSA General Meeting is January 19. Security Officer Lowery and Mr. Harper will speak and answer questions about school security, with a focus on texting and the internet. Spanish translation will be provided.

The *Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Award* will be awarded to a veteran and a rookie teacher. If parents would like to nominate a teacher, please e-mail Ms. Goodman a brief paragraph about the teacher.

All letters are due January 15.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary