

James Hubert Blake High School  
PTSA General Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16, 2010

*The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 pm in Blake's Media Center.*

### **Introduction and Presentation**

Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelmann, Secretary; Beth Blevins, VP; Carole Goodman, Principal; several PTSA committee chairs, general members and new Blake parents and students (sign in sheet is attached).

Robina Barlow welcomed all in attendance and introduced the guest speaker, Officer Tom Pecoraro.

Officer Pecoraro represents I Drive Smart. I Drive Smart trains drivers — especially young drivers — to be safe drivers. Their driver education programs are taught by law enforcement professionals.

The most causative factors contributing to collisions are speed, alcohol, passenger numbers, time of day (after 9 pm), inexperience, and lack of seatbelts.

Young drivers are not allowed to have passengers for 150 days after receiving their licenses. The legal driving age is 18. Until then, parents are responsible and give provisional permission for their children to drive. Parents can legally revoke a teen's license at any time.

To receive a training certificate, a driving student must log 36 instructional hours. 30 in class and 6 on the road. The driving test requires only the minimal skill.

It is important to know that among all drivers, one in ten is impaired and one in twenty is unlicensed.

It is Officer Pecoraro's opinion that teens should avoid the following: uncontrolled intersections, parking lots, front end parking, rush hour/peak driving hours, residential garages, and SUV-type vehicles.

Statistically, only 5% of area drivers use public transportation and 78% drive. Driving is a huge part of daily life. It is a good idea to always assume the worst about other drivers on the road and that driving is a life-long skill development.

### **Business**

MINUTES: Catherine Kugelmann submitted the minutes for the December and January general meetings. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes from the December and January meetings be approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Pullen submitted the Treasurer's report to General Membership. To maintain budget, \$1,300 in membership dues is still needed. There were no changes or questions.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Beth Blevins is updating the calendar. She noticed that PTSA events are not on the school calendar. Ms. Goodman said that she would ask Denise to add the information to the calendar.

SGA REPORT: Jennifer Lien, Student Government Association president and liaison to the PTSA could not attend. Robina reported that the Pennies for Patients dance was cancelled, and may not be rescheduled. This will interfere with SGA's goal of collecting \$15,000. All parents are encouraged to donate or buy a t-shirt for Pennies for Patients.

#### **PTSA POSITIONS: COMMITTEE'S REPORTS**

Book Sale – Chair: Orit Chicherio.

The Book Sale is February 19 – 21 at an empty store in Cloverly Shopping Center. The hours are Friday, 2-8; Saturday, 10-8; and Sunday, 11-8. Since a week of preparation was lost because of the snow storm, the book sale will be extended to the following weekend, too. Many volunteers are needed to move and sort through books. PTSA also requested many tables.

After Prom - Chair: Diane Bush and Maura McMullen. Diane said that due to the storm, the envelope-stuffing party was cancelled. The Bush and McMullen families managed to fold and stuff 2,000 envelopes soliciting donations for the After Prom. Gift cards are needed.

The After Prom committee is need of underclassmen parents, and at the Junior Parent Meeting, 3 or 4 parents have answered the call.

Comedy Night – Chair: Orit Chicherio.

Comedy Night was planned for March 12, but because the music department will be in Florida, the date will be postponed to either April 9 or 16. This year's Comedy Night will be a community-based, informal fundraiser. There was a suggestion to hire a comic hypnotist. It was thought that the student improv. should be stressed. Because time was short, there will be more discussion at the next Board meeting.

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias

Jonathan Arias said that he met with Mr. Tyrrell and other faculty members, and a plan for the mentoring program has been drafted. Jonathan will submit this plan at the next Board meeting.

Reflections – Jack Goble said that 6 students are moving onto the State level.

MCCPTA Delegates – Delegates: Jack Goble and Bill Halpin

Bill Halpin reported that there is a MCCPTA Bylaws proposed conforming amendment request that will be made at the next MCCPTA Delegates' Assembly meeting on February 23, 2010. The change will be as follows:

#### ARTICLE XI: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (VOTING BODY)

Section 1. The general membership (voting body) of MCCPTA shall consist of the board of directors, ***executive committee, area vice-presidents, cluster coordinators, standing***

**and nonstanding committee chairs, subcommittee chairs and committee points of contact**, the presidents of each local PTA or their alternates, and delegates from each local PTAS or their alternates as specified in Section 2 of this article.

It was moved, seconded and passed to request the change. Bill also reported that there is a proposed resolution to propose changes to the definition of "Serious Incidents" in Regulation COB-RA. This will be discussed in greater length at the next executive meeting.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Carole Goodman

- The parking lot is cleared, but parking spots are reduced in number. Please encourage all students to carpool.
- There is a new stop sign at the Johnson Road entrance.
- The African-American symposium was snowed out and is postponed until the spring.
- The Music Lesson will premiere on Feb. 18, at school and at the Silver Spring AFI.
- There will be a free mock SAT/ACT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting will be on February 17. All schools are behind on registration. Ms. Goodman encourages all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to continue their music classes.
- The public science lectures with a noble laureate in science, John Mather, have been postponed until March.
- The school board has not decided how to deal with the snow storm make up days. A waiver is possible.
- Basketball games and Mr. Blake have been rescheduled.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Robina reminded everyone that the Students with Disabilities College Workshop with Eliot Applestein will be held on February 24 at 7 pm in the Amphitheater.

Next month, Ms. Wagner will speak to the general membership about a pilot program designed to encourage critical thinking.

**New Business**

There were no further announcements or questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary