

James Hubert Blake High School  
PTSA General Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010

*The PTSA General Membership meeting was held on Tuesday, January 19, at 7 pm at Blake's Amphitheater.*

### **Introduction and Presentation**

Attending were Robina Barlow, President; Brenda Pullen, Treasurer; Catherine Kugelman, 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 speakers, Officer Lowery and Mr. Harper.

Officer Lowery is an Education Facilities Officer (EFO) with the Montgomery County Police. This position is a partnership among the police department, the state attorney's office and Montgomery County Public Schools.

Mr. Harper is the Team Leader of Security at Blake.

Here is a brief synopsis of Officer Lowery's presentation:

Serious felonies are down. There may be gang members at Blake, but it is important to note that there is not gang activity at Blake.

According to MCPD, there are 40 gangs in Montgomery County, with 1200 members. If you wonder if your child is involved with gangs, look for signals: tattoos, hand signs, wearing a certain color often; repeatedly doodling a symbol on notebooks, desk, backpacks. Cyber activity has increased among gangs.

In the event of an emergency, Montgomery County Public Schools uses "codes" to define a situation. Code Blue means that instruction continues, doors are locked, roll call is taken, and student's movements are controlled. Code Red means imminent danger – the school is "locked down." Doors are locked, instruction is discontinued, students are not allowed to move, authorities are contacted, ConnectEd is activated. It was stressed that parents should not drive to the school to pick up children.

Mr. Harper said that crime is down, 22 thefts were reported. The security team deals primarily with conduct issues.

Cyber safety is a new concern. Students are using on-line activity to bully, including "flaming, harassment, masquerading, and outing/trickery."

At the conclusion of Officer Lowery's and Mr. Harper's presentation, a question and answer period began.

## **Business**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Robina introduced Jennifer Lien, Student Government Association president and liaison to the PTSA. Jennifer reported that the SGA had many events in February for Pennies for Patients. Last year, Blake collected \$12,000. This year their goal is \$15,000.

#### **Events:**

January 29 Assembly to inform students about Pennies for Patients

February 10 Mr. Blake

February 12 Home game with 10% profits to Pennies for Patients

February 13 Dance

February 16 Dine In/Dine Out at Ledos

February 23 Bengal Ball

February 25 Dine In/Dine Out at Mama Lucia

There will be a collection during 1<sup>st</sup> period.

Ms. Gelb wants PTSA to help with coat check on February 13.

**MINUTES:** Due to lack of sufficient copies, the minutes for December were not presented. Both the December and January meeting minutes will be presented in February.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Brenda Pullen submitted the December Treasurer's report to General Membership, there were no changes or questions.

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

MCCPTA Delegates – Delegates: Jack Goble and Bill Halpin

Bill Halpin reported that there is a motion before the delegate assembly from Sherwood requesting the elimination of the Sherwood Area Vice President position and their administrative consolidation into a unified four cluster Area with the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook clusters. This change includes the position currently named Northeast Consortium Area Vice President to be renamed Northeast Consortium (Blake/Paint Branch/Springbrook) and Sherwood Clusters Area Vice President.

An aye/nay vote was requested among the membership, and was passed with the ayes carrying. Our MCCPTA delegates will carry these voting intentions to the next MCCPTA Delegates' Assembly meeting scheduled January 26, 2010.

After Prom - Chair: Diane Bush and Maura McMullen. Maura said that the next Dine Out will be on Wednesday, January 20 at Mama Lucia's in Olney. Blake will receive 8% of total sales.

The After Prom committee is in need of underclassmen parents.

Robina explained that beginning in 2011, Dave & Busters will begin requiring either increasing the After Prom fee or adding another school. The PTSA will give parents an opportunity to have input. There will be a meeting in March.

Book Sale – Chair: Orit Chicherio.

The Book Sale is February 19 – 21. Orit reported that Kramer Enterprises generously offered the use of an empty store in Cloverly Shopping Center for our Book Sale. We will have use of the facility from January 25 through February 25. Many volunteers are needed to move and sort through books. PTSA also requested many tables.

Comedy Night – Chairs: Beth Blevins/Orit Chicherio.

Comedy Night is planned for March 12.

Robina explained that because of lack of interest, she wanted to take a vote whether to have a Comedy Night. She asked the membership if anyone would attend. There was a show of 5 hands.

For now, Orit said she would take over planning.

Silent Auction – Chair: Dawn Dolan did not attend.

Many volunteers are needed.

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

Robina said that the PTSA has 630 members. There will be an end of year push with both membership and Direct Appeal.

Education – Chair: Jonathan Arias

Jonathan Arias said that he met with Mr. Tyrrell, and they are formulating a specific mentoring plan. A draft will be ready by the next meeting.

Robina asked Ms. Goodman if the tutoring information available at Back to School night could be resent. Ms. Goodman will send information by EubieMail.

Special Education - Chair: Debbie Gartland

Debbie said they the Special Education committee is currently taking nominations of outstanding teachers and volunteers. This is a county-wide award.

Mr. Applestein has offered to give a seminar on college aid for special education students.

Robina said that all students would benefit from another seminar by Mr. Applestein. It was clear from a show of hands, that parents of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students would be interested in attending.

PALA – Parent and Student Latinos in Action – Chair: Ruben Escobar

Ruben said that there would be an awards night in February honoring outstanding Latino students, including 5 that were inducted into the National Honor Society.

NAACP – Chairs: Sharon Mosley-Ramsey and Bobette Banks could not attend.

Robina talked about the symposium at Blake for Blake History month.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Carole Goodman

- The *It's Academic* taping will be at WRC studios on Saturday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. All are encouraged to attend.
- Mr. Tyrrell and Mr. D'Anna are planning a symposium during Black History Month. This will include a performance, a guest speaker and an interactive experience. There will be 4 30-minute sessions.
- Last month, Ms. Goodman reported that bus transportation was in jeopardy for the high school consortia, but this information should not have been in the budget review. Ms. Goodman met with the administrator's union and was told that we need to "sit tight."
- The numbers for the choice program for the upcoming school year will be 450. Paint Branch will have 419 students and Springbrook will have 403.
- Registration for next year's classes will begin.
- The Student Government Association is spearheading Haiti relief.
- Ms. Goodman pointed out the new permanent, opaque shades will be installed in the amphitheater.
- A filmmaker/director that has a documentary on the National Geographic channel about students visiting Kenya for one week to teach music will come to Blake this spring. He will teach a master class. There will also be a screening of his documentary.
- On February 25, Blake will host the first of four public science lectures with a noble laureate in science, John Mather.

**New Business**

There were no further announcements or questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Kugelmann, PTSA Secretary