

Douglas Southall Freeman High School
Regular PTSA Board Meeting
December 5, 2011
DSF Leadership Conference Room

PTSA President, Ann Slough called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

Present:

President:	Ann Slough
Corresponding Sec.:	LeeAnn Young
Recording Secretary:	Jennifer Hollis
1st VP Membership:	Joan Thornhill
2nd VP FACT:	Cheryl Pacious
Treasurer:	Alison Wayland
Baccalaureate:	Liz Siebers
Directory:	Katherine West & Mary Kay Jarrett
Lay Advisory:	Cindy Harper
Legislation:	Ann-Cabell Williams
Signal:	Wendy Daniel
Volunteers:	Suzanne Hendrix
Webmaster:	Carolyn Luxton
Parliamentarian:	Becky Akers
Principal:	Anne Poates
Faculty Rep:	Jennifer Crowder (School Counseling Dept.)
Student Rep:	Lauren Turnamian

PTSA President:

Ann Slough welcomed everyone. See attached Agenda.

Introductions made:

MEETING MINUTES:

November Meeting Minutes approved as received.

Principal's Report: Anne Poates reported:

- Busy time of the year.
- Winter sports are in full swing; the Rebel Invitational this past week.
- There was a wonderful Veterans Day Assembly.
- 12/16/11 – big Winter Assembly after lunch (string, chorus & band programs together).
- Very successful canned food drive – biggest volume ever – Mr. Peck's class won.
- Spare change is being collected in 4th period for Christmas Mother.
- Rebelettes will have babysitting fundraiser on Sat, 12/10/11 from 10am-1pm (ages 1 yr. to early elementary school).
- Much discussion across county and state regarding math curriculum; last Tuesday was Principals meeting – there was a discussion about going to Integrated Math for students who lack the most basic math skills

- Open discussion on math issues – Lauren Turnamian agreed with the math issues that were discussed. She commented that it's too hard to teach yourself math which is what she & several of her friends are doing.
- Math Bill is about to be proposed as legislation; Ann Slough encouraged everyone to attend the next Lay Advisory Meeting which will focus on math. It will be January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm at Moody Middle School.
- Ann Slough distributed document ***Reform Math in Virginia*** by Tim Herrity (Tucker Math Teacher) for review (see attachment). Ann encouraged everyone to get in touch with our school board representatives to get this legislation passed.

School Counseling Report: Jennifer Crowder reported:

- There will be a Suicide Prevention Program at Godwin High School on 12/6/11 at 7pm in the library. This is a Douglas Freeman & Mills Godwin joint program. It is Part III of the program: Part I of the program trained staff: Part II of the program will educate 20th grade students during Health class). Currently the program is not offered to students that take on-line Health/PE but Ms. Crowder will look into this for the future.
- Scheduling is becoming min focus of Counseling Dept. Counselors will begin going to 9th, 10th & 11th grade English classes to review class selection, etc.
- 1/19/12 – Curriculum Night for rising 9th graders.
- 1/19-23/12 – All Core teachers will be making recommendations for next year's Core classes.
- 2/6/12 – Students will receive tentative schedules.
- 2/13/12 – Schedules are due back to school.
- 3/15/12 – Parent over-ride deadline (which means students are guaranteed a spot in class until this date).
- 4/27/12 – Last day for Parent over-ride
- 6/15/12 – No changes to 2012-2013 schedules after this date.
- Discussion regarding Curriculum Night; suggestion was made that Curriculum Night be open to all students (not just rising 9th graders); maybe it could be done in shifts so that rising 9th graders aren't so overwhelmed. Cheryl Pacious and Mary Kay Jarrett commented that they think it's a great idea to open up Curriculum m Night to everyone. Ann Slough also suggested that all Freeman clubs be represented at Cur. Night.

Land Acquisition Update: LeeAnn Young reported:

- Lisa Marshall (Tuckahoe-District School Board Rep) spoke at November Athletic Boosters Meeting about the proposed land acquisition for Freeman. She is supportive of the land acquisition.
- The Henrico County School Board voted to APPROVE the land acquisition.
- The next step is the Board of Supervisors has to approve.
- Lisa Marshall indicated that Pat O'Bannon (Board of Supervisors – Tuckahoe District Rep.) is the person to contact to show your support of the land acquisition.
- Dave Gerstenmaier (owner of Higgins & Gerstaemaier, PLC) created a plan which utilized the drivers' ed. parking lot as the field which seems to be more economical.
- LeeAnn, Karen Doggett and Ann Slough are in the process of putting together a Town Hall Meeting regarding the land acquisition. Pat O'Bannon and Lisa Marshall were invited to attend.
- LeeAnn emphasized that this land acquisition is NOT just for a lacrosse field (as many think). This land would be a practice field for all sports.
- Henrico County as the money in its budget to purchase this land. Also, Freeman is the next school in line to receive County funds.

- Stay tuned for more information regarding the Town Hall Meeting, It is very important that as many people come as possible to show their support of the land acquisition.

Faculty Report: Laura Jones reported:

- The feedback from the Parent-Teacher conferences has been successful.

President's Report: Ann Slough reported:

- Ann Slough spoke about *The Ecology of Learning: Re-Inventing Our Schools* by Susan P. Starseed.
- Book Description:
We are engaged in a highly charged national debate about what's wrong with our schools, who's to blame for the problems in our schools, and how to fix them. We hear about bullying and violence, about failing schools, bad teachers, test scores and cheating scandals, school vouchers, and charter schools. But as the politicians and pundits point fingers, our children seem to be invisible, and we never really discuss what goes on inside their classrooms. It's as if our children enter a black box through the classroom door. In *The Ecology of Learning*, Suzanne P. Starseed opens the black box of the classroom and shines the light of the best current scientific research into it. Through this lens we see that the way we've been educating our children is at odds with what science tells us about the brain, learning, and motivation. This same scientific research points us toward a better way to educate our children. One that will improve their critical thinking skills, self-reliance, and ability to apply what they learn at school in the workplace and in their everyday lives.

Treasurer's Report: Alison Wayland reported:

- See Attached DS Freeman PTSA Profit & Loss through January 20122.
- \$4108.00 net income this month.
- \$19,049.00 checking account balance.
- Question from Alison: "Who is in charge of All-Night Graduation Party?" The All-Night Grad. Party has not been budgeting for yet. There are outstanding contracts (hypnotist). It was indicated that there was an All Night Grad Party meeting last week and there is a separate treasurer in place for this event and it has a totally separate account.

Baccalaureate: Liz Siebers reported:

- There is a Senior Parent Night Meeting proposed on 1/19/12. However, this is not a good night because of the Curriculum Fair (same night).
- Baccalaureate will take place on Monday, June 11th. Rehearsal time is still TBD.

After Graduation: No report given.

Henrico County Council of PTAs: Ann Slough reported:

- See Attached Notes from November 15th meeting at Godwin High School.

Cultural Arts/Reflections: Louise Mauck reported.

- Reflections update: No news from County-level yet.
- Certificates and gift cards to Barnes & Noble's have been given to all school-level winners.

Freeman Fund: Renee Riggs reported

See Committee Report (attached).

- Art department has requested funds; 40 students are working on a stain glass project and they need money for tools and supplies. After some discussion, Renee said that she would go back to the Art Dept. and ask for more detailed information.

Membership Report: Joan Thornhill reported:

- 4 new members since last month.

Programs Report: Cheryl Pacious reported:

- 25-30 attendees for FACT Coffee "How to Keep Your Teen Alcohol Free"; it was an excellent program.
- Thanked Mrs. Poates for getting 2/8/12 program – "Update of HCPS Financial Literacy Course." (See attached).
- Looking into a program on concussions for March FACT coffee.
- Question proposed to Cheryl – "Have there been residual effects from Rachel's Challenge?" Answer – YES.

Directory: Mary Kay Jarrett reported.

- Directories are out!

Lay Advisory: Ann Slough Reported:

- Topics discussed at last Lay Advisory Meeting: Advanced Academic Academy at Tucker High School; Charter Schools; No Child Left Behind; Retirement/Budget for teachers; Kings Dominion Law.
- Job Fair held in November for Henrico County Schools – very well attended.
- Nancy Godfrey is creating a survey for parents regarding math issues.

Legislation: Ann-Cabel Williams reported:

- Voters are in; no new news.

Parent Volunteers: Suzanne Hendrix reported.

- Handed out Baccalaureate and After Graduation completed volunteer forms to appropriate people.

Signal: Wendy Daniel reported:

- 13 subscriptions to date.

Webmaster: Carolyn Luxton reported:

- 154 e-mail addresses to date.
- 50-70 website hits/daily.
- All Night Graduation Party asked for link for senior information.
- Request made to link the Senior Handbook to the website.
- Alison Wayland suggested we need to push e-mail participation and Ms. Poates volunteered to do ConnectEd message about requesting e-mails.

Old Business: No unfinished business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm by Ann Slough, PTSA President. Happy Holidays everyone!

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hollis

DSF PTSA Recording Secretary