

Douglas Southall Freeman High School
Regular PTSA Board Meeting
November 7, 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:	Marcia Palmer
Webmaster:	Carolyn Luxton
Parliamentarian:	Becky Akers
Principal:	Anne Poates
Faculty Rep:	Shannon Edwards (School Counseling Dept.)
Student Rep:	Lauren Turnamian

PTSA President:

Ann Slough welcomed everyone. See attached Agenda.

Introductions made:

Shannon Edwards from the school Counseling Department was introduced.

MEETING MINUTES:

Alison Wayland asked that the October Meeting Minutes be corrected to show updated financial information.

Principal's Report: Anne Poates reported:

- Welcome to 2nd quarter.
- Diversity Dialogue Day at University of Richmond is coming up; Freeman will participate for the 2nd year in a row.
- Circle of Friends has started at Freeman. This is a program that is working to break down barriers and trying to include students as lunch buddies, etc.
- The Rachel's Challenge banner at the entrance of the cafeteria has a lot of signatures and continues to get more.
- The boys and girls volleyball teams are doing great!
- Veterans Day (Friday, 11/11/11) will be a very busy day at Freeman.

- Veterans Day assembly will take place at 9am on Veterans Day; Paul Galanti is the speaker (Vietnam POW from 1966-1973).
- Safety Audit will also take place on Veterans Day (middle of the day).
- Pep Rally will also take place at end of day "Hunting Eagles." Last football game against Godwin Eagles is Friday night.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday evening, 11/8 and Monday night 11/14/11. Forms were sent home with students because teachers thought attendance was low when parents had to register on line.
- School is gearing up for Christmas Mother (clubs & students collect extra change). There will also be a canned food drive contest between classes.
- Mrs. Poates asked parents to make follow-up calls to her if you don't get a response from e-mails that are sent to her. She has had an issue with SPAM.

School Counseling Report: Sharon Edwards 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.
- The week of 12/6-9/11 10th grade students in Health class will be educated in suicide prevention.
- In January the 2012 scheduling process will begin. Students will get their initial forms in February. At around this time there will be a Career Night, AP Night and school counselors will visit all area middle schools.
- Ann requested a Club Information Night for parents.
- The School Counseling website is currently being updated.
- The Junior Handbook was reviewed with all junior @ 2 weeks ago.

Faculty Report: Laura Jones absent due to family emergency.

President's Report: Ann Slough reported:

- Ann Slough attended PTA Convention this past Friday/Saturday (compiled a 5 page summary); Meg Smith (Teacher of the Year) spoke. She emphasized "work and stay on your children EVERYDAY; support your teachers; reinforce appropriate behavior; communication between teacher & parents I crucial. Let your children know how important their education is. Failure to try is NOT acceptable."
- 2011 PTA Children's' Advocate of the Year also spoke (Joan **).
- Many amendments were proposed and passed at the convention. One big amendment that passed was the combining of the PTA Training Conference and Annual Convention.
- Emergency Resolution calling on Governor McDonnell to allocate a portion of the state surplus to K-12 education was introduced at convention (see attached).
- Ann Carson (Virginia PTA President) believes that there are issues with the math curriculum in Virginia and asked Ann to help on a special committee regarding this issue.

Treasurer's Report: Alison Wayland reported:

- Distributed 2 page budgets from 7/11-10/11 (see attached). Alison explained that there was a mistake in the September financials.
- Alison asked for feedback on the way she presented the financial information; feedback was positive.

- Freeman Fund is down about \$4000.00 compared to budget.
- Membership is on budget.
- Current expenses on budget.
- Current balance: \$22,666.00

Membership Report: Joan Thornhill reported:

- Not much movement since last month.
- 1079 members to date (which is more than last year).
- State dues are due on 12/1/11.

Programs Report: Cheryl Pacious reported:

- Cheryl Pacious reported that she think
- The actual program on 10/27/11 was very high impact; Freeman students were 2, 3, & 4 when the Columbine massacre occurred so this was the first time many of them have seen footage of the event. Randall Kahn (keynote speaker) said it was one of the most impacted groups he's ever seen.
- The follow-up training session was also very impactful & INSIGHTFUL.
- The evening program for the parents was fairly well-attended (100-150 people). The parent program is a little different than the kids program.
- It is up to the students to do what they want with the program. The "How To" manual is very helpful.
- Cheryl is excited to see how this program will progress.
- 10/12/12 Teen Technologies & Tethering program took place. It was a very good program and the parents that attended were very involved.
- Next program on 11/16/11 at 9:00am in teachers cafeteria. FACT coffee: "How to Keep Your Teen Alcohol and Drug Free."
- Mary Kay Jarrett asked about the possibility of evening programs. Cheryl explained that evening program have not been well-attended in the past.
- President Ann Slough thanked Cheryl for all of her hard work and dedication!
- Treasurer Alison Wayland commented that she thinks the programs have been very inclusive which is the goal of the PTSA.
- Lauren Turnamian commented on Rachel's Challenge and said she thinks it's been a great program; her friends talked about it all week.

Freeman Fund: No report.

After Graduation: No report given.

- Liz Siebers brought up an e-mail that was sent from a parent questioning whether the Senior Party is too big.
- Senior Parent Night was held on 10/6/11. There was a huge turnout. The process of applying to colleges was discussed. The After Graduation Party was explained,

Baccalaureate: Liz Siebers reported:

- Not much to report. Baccalaureate will take place on Monday, June 11th. Currently there is a glitch with rehearsal that is being worked out.

Henrico County Council of PTAs: Miriam Tice absent:

- Next County Council meeting will take place at Godwin High School on 11/15/11. There will be School Board Breakout Sessions at this meeting. Dr. Pat Russo (Superintendent) will attend.

Cultural Arts/Reflections: Louise Mauck reported.

- Reflections update: 4 entries from Freeman were submitted to the county-level today (Categories: 1 Visual Arts/ 1 Music/1 Dance/1 Literature).
- Thanked Lauren (Student Rep) for her help with Reflections; the challenge each year is get more participation.

Directory: Mary Kay Jarrett and Kathryn West reported:

- All done – 1750 copies. Requested volunteers to help label directories on 11/1/11 in the office conference room.

Hospitality: Ann Slough reported:

- There is a teachers dinner on Monday, 11/14/11 (parent-teacher conference night) and soup makers are needed.

Lay Advisory: Cindy Harper reported:

- Lay Advisory still evolving; some new schools attended last meeting. Issues that were discussed at last meeting were MAP testing, re-districting, IB Programs, and increasing communication (between schools, School Board, etc.).
- Superintendent Dr. Russo will be attending the next Lay Advisory Meeting at Godwin High School on 11/15/11 at 6pm.

Legislation: Ann-Cabel Williams reported:

- Ballots were distributed at last meeting and turned in. There was a 20% participation rate (higher than the 6.9% average). All legislation passed.

Parent Volunteers: No report.

Signal: Wendy Daniel reported:

- 2nd issue published.

Webmaster: Carolyn Luxton reported:

- 135 e-mail addresses to date.

Old Business: No unfinished business.

New Business:

- President Ann Slough presented a report on POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION (see attached report). Ann is going to formulate a resolution for the next meeting. Ann Slough reported that Superintendent Dr. Pat Russo, Ed Buzzelli, Assistant Superintendent, and Lisa A. Marshall (Tuckahoe District School Board Rep.) have done everything possible to have this presented to the Henrico Co6unty Board of Supervisors

Next DSF PTSA Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm by Ann Slough, PTSA President.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hollis

DSF PTSA Recording Secretary