

PTSO General Membership Meeting

May 9, 2016

In Attendance:

Angela Benson	Nanette Henderson
Liz Mullany	Denise Perez
Chrissy Park	Luisa Powe
Vicki Barbero	Pamela Kipps
Elena Jordon	Shirley Norman-Taylor
Anne Lopez	Julie Gorski
Carol Henry	Janice Myers
Deb Arquette	Matt Ragone
Michelle Anderson	
Stacie Kelley	
Sandy Woods	
Barbara Cammarata	

1. Meeting called to order 7:02 pm
2. Janice Myers-last meeting will be in early June when the new board would be elected; still in search of Board members
3. Principal's Report: Mr. Ragone:
 - Thank you to the PTSO for Teacher Appreciation Week and all that was done. Lunch was appreciated and enjoyed by all.
 - Military Connected Youth Process Action Team (MCYPAT)
 - Mr. Ragone is on committee
 - Welcomes military families into county
 - Focus on military families with special needs kids
 - Purple Up Campaign-month of April; celebrated at SC this year but would like to see more focus next year
 - Needs PTSO liaison and/or committee to welcome students and parents
 - Student ambassadors will be trained
 - On SC website home page go to "Parents" tab; information for military families
 - New Mentorship Program
 - Welcome lunch held today for mentors and students
 - 25 students currently participating each week
 - Mentors include parents, counselors, teachers, AA, SRO
 - What type of students were chosen? Type of student wide open; kids that may be under the radar; any student can participate

- Fill PTSO in on what has been happening over the course of the year
 - Confederate flag
 - April-newspaper article
 - inflammatory; angered people; made people feel uncomfortable
 - Mr. Ragone's goal: wants every student to feel welcome; not going to rest until all feel welcome
 - Don't tolerate things that charge people up Working to make sure this does not happen again
 - Student Council (new): student lead; moderator will be trained
 - Cultural Proficiency Training: teachers will be trained and will train other teachers
 - Would like PTSO to be avenue of communication
 - "I want to hear from you." Don't want to put some things in KIT (which is not a dialogue)
 - Discussion continued about the newspaper article:
 - How did editorial get past newspaper advisor?
 - Should have been fact checking
 - Sparked interesting dinner conversation with children
 - Hope there would be a response
 - Concern about the last line of article—appeared threatening
 - Students not willing to respond due to last line of letter
 - Need to think of it like a PR campaign; not a list but a phrase
 - Needs to be student teacher respect
 - Where do we go from here?
 - Group of parents met with Mr. Ragone to share concerns
 - Do the students feel the presence of Mr. Ragone and the rest of administration?
 - Concern voiced about the "feeling" in the school both positive and negative
 - Mr. Ragone-Addressing concerns about article; as of meeting date there had been no responses to editorial; reiterated that letter was not ok; we need to be model for the kids; Wants Student Council to think about: How are we going to respond? What is the standard? What is the positive? What is our code?
 - Difficult for administration to be visible; good reminder for admin to be more visible
 - Janice Myers-"kudos" to Matt; Hopefully we can move forward; Matt has been good about returning emails
 - Discussion about Minority Action Committee; Why are those kids receiving help?
 - gap in achievement
 - MAC is spin off from central office committee
 - Parent-student wouldn't attend—concern about "minority" in title; Are we creating/making a division?

- Mr. Ragone-successful model in Chantilly pyramid; long term vision is for it to be a non-profit and work with the pyramid;
 - All are welcome to attend MAC sessions—not just for minority students; meets about 2 Saturdays per month; 10:00-1:00 in Library
 - Guest speakers; prep for SAT, ACT; time management
 - 35-40 kids each session
 - MAC-uses adult and peer tutors; trouble getting tutors
 - Parent wanted to know if it could be called something other than MAC; suggested “multicultural” rather than “minority”
- Website is in need of help but don’t want to put money into right now; county going to a system where all schools use same template for their websites
- Mr. Ragone-Focus for staff is improving Communication and Teacher Expectations; Can’t make it all better right away but are working on it
- Parent group that spoke with Matt is not PTSO driven; their concerns were not just about the article, but article was tipping point; Shared their concerns in a talking points paper; Matt sent parent his talking points; group of parents willing to share their concerns
- Ongoing as to how parents will be addressed
- Send emails to Matt or PTSO—this issue is a community issue
- Discussion about Lorton Library Tutoring Program
 - teacher recommendations for students to participate
- Information about MAC and Lorton Library Tutoring program available on SCHS website
- Follow up discussion about the school community: Carol Henry shared that she worked with Dale and Jane when we opened. There was a tremendous sense of community; people had worked so hard to get the school built; Matt coming from outside. She can go to him and respects the one on one with him. Urged parents to communicate with Matt one on one; door is always open

4. ANGP-Elena Jordan

- Tickets sales are slow; will not be sold at door
- Flocking-also doing “Stampedes” now with horses
 - sponsors came thru to buy the stallions

- 50 stallions so 2 stampedes could be done at a time
 - More inflatables and games than before; great price on this
 - Need volunteers; especially underclass parents
 - Sheri-need volunteers to pick up food
 - ANGP questions-translated; available on website
 - ANGP information- go to home page for ANGP link
5. Honor Roll-cookies this quarter; 695 students this quarter
 6. Scholarships-number received up this year received about 20 so far; will give 3 this year; last year gave 4; board voted to give 2 at beginning of year; were able to give one more
 7. Baccalaureate-looking for talented Seniors; audition on May 23; contact Carla Olivo for audition
 8. Last meeting-1st week of June
 9. Adjourned 8:18 pm