



MRHS PTSA Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual

**Call to Order and Introduction:** 7:03 p.m. with 11 members present.

**Vote on Recording Secretary:** Vote required to elect Courtney Workman as PTSA Recording Secretary. With a quorum present, all voted in favor of her election.

**SGA Report:** No report

**Staff Report (Katelin Pritchard, MRHS Special Education Teacher):** Ms. Pritchard (formerly Johnson) is in her second year at MRHS where she teaches Resource English, Resource math and tutorial. The main goals of their program are to promote student independence and meaningful inclusion.

- Students conduct 2 fundraisers/year to raise program funds and provide students with experience and relationships. Students are doing a sugar scrub fundraiser right now and are holding sales in the commons this week. Please let your students know to look for them – the scrub is a great holiday gift!
- Special education has also scheduled a few field trips after break for students to explore career options.
- Another way to be involved with special education is a peer tutor. Students can sign up the peer tutor course with the approval of the special education teachers/guidance counselors.
- MRHS also has an allied sports team that plays soccer (fall), bowling (winter) and softball (spring). They get a lot of support from other sports teams.

**Principal's Report, Dr. DiPaula:**

- MRHS is going into course scheduling season. A community email was sent today, 12/19/22 with scheduling information and links. Courses must be selected 1/17.
- MRHS conducted middle school visits this week at MVMS and Burleigh Manor. The articulation process is multi-faceted and includes a parent information night (1/5) and opportunities for the students to visit in June and participate in activities. There will also be a student orientation in the summer.
- On January 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual meeting for parents to learn about midterms. This will be the first time in several years that students have midterms and parents and students have questions. That event will be announced on email and canvass.

- MRHS has started an after school study program held Tuesday-Thursday from 2:15-3:15 pm. More than 10 teachers are participating, and all core classes are addressed. This is free and students can just show up (no pre-registration required). Dr.DiPaula has been trying to get an after school bus driver on these days but there are none available.
- The Staff Holiday Luncheon (sponsored by SGA) is on Wednesday, 1/21, and staff are excited.
- Tonight, Senior class is holding a holiday social in the cafeteria and decorating cookies
- Winter sports are underway. MRHS traditionally does well with winter sports.
- The Speech and Debate Team won 10 medals at a VA tournament this past weekend. This is a huge accomplishment and they are considering attending tournaments further afield if they can raise funds.
- Student Council is planning a short (3-day) spirit week this week
- Two weeks ago, Dr. DiPaula and the National Honor Society met with the Fox 45 News Team to present Toys for Tots with the 1300 toys donated at MRHS.

Discussion – The PTSA Membership committee has gift cards (donated by Leesa and Kathy) that will be raffled off to teachers/staff who sign up for PTSA membership. Kathy will coordinate with Laurie to advertise this to staff and make arrangements.

**President’s Report:** If you or anyone you know are interested in serving as PTSA President, please let VP1, VP2 or Corresponding Secretary know. We also need an additional PTACHC rep.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Ending balance as of 11/30/22 is \$34,897.76 and everything is currently on budget.

- November income included \$95.60 (membership and hassle-free donations).
- November disbursements equaled \$136.26 and included expenses for AfterProm Corsages, the PTSA Zoom meeting subscription, Hospitality (breakfast carts) and the National PTA dues. The previous president personally paid for the Zoom subscription and was reimbursed by PTSA. Corresponding Secretary will talk with her to see what needs to be done with the subscription.

**Approval of November Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the November PTSA minutes. A second was made. All voted in favor to the meeting minutes, and they will be posted on the PTA website.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Senior Banners:** No report

**AfterPROM Committee:** Will speak with Dr. DiPaula later this week about engaging all MRHS families in the AfterPROM options and ways to get their buy-in and support. The 2023 Prom date has not been finalized, but a tentative contract for Friday, May 5, is with Risk Management. The focus right now is getting the word out and getting all the students there. Committee thanked several PTSA members for support:

- Volunteer who led an AfterProm fundraiser at Yogi Castle and they raised 7% more than budgeted.
- Volunteer who helped coordinate with Boosters and has been working on prizes.
- Volunteer who is also helping behind the scenes and coordinating with the SRO and other school programs.

Discussion – The MRHS Spring Dance Concert is tentatively scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. Once the AfterPROM contract is approved then the dance concern will be rescheduled if needed so that it does not conflict.

**Facebook:** All is going well. Keeping Facebook updated is a group effort. Mary requested submissions for other (non-sports) groups like the Speech and Debate club and asked Dr. DiPaula to spread the word to other club advisors to promote to all groups of kids. Submissions (pictures and blurbs) can be sent to Facebook group administrator.

**Membership:** Have 402 members with 47 (or 48) of those being staff. Usually we have more staff join, which is why VP1 is attending the staff luncheon to promote PTSA membership to staff and encourage others to join. There will be a gift card drawing for all staff members.

**Fundraising:** No report

**Store Rewards:** No report

**Website/Communications:** Reminded chairs to continue giving Corresponding Secretary the content for the newsletter. Let website administrators know if you want anything featured on the banner of the home page.

**Senior Scholarship:** Committee members are discussing prompt ideas with a target of Jan 31, 2023 to finalize the prompt. In January, the Committee will also update/create marketing material to post online and at the school and begin marketing in February.

**Mental Health:** No Report

**HCDrugFree:** No report

**Hospitality:** No Report

**Cultural Liaisons:** No report

**PTACHC Report:**

- HCPSS Report presented by James LeMon - HCPSS Connect has a feedback form and all are encouraged to use it to provide feedback to the Connect team. Still need families to fill out Free and Reduced Meals forms, if necessary. Info about JROTC has been sent out
- HCPSS Emergency Preparedness presented by guest speaker, Ian Rifield, HCPSS Director of Safety and Security. HCPSS' goal is to foster a safe environment for students. The

Safety and Security Office conducts safety planning for all of HCPSS from the individual school level to assessing system-wide threat trends, which there has been a large increase of post-COVID. Mr. Rifield emphasized that it is important to identify when kids are struggling and bring it to the school's attention (or for the school to bring to parents' attention), before problems grow worse. HCPSS takes all hoaxes and jokes seriously and monitors social media. Mr. Rifield explained how safety procedures at each school are handled - Each school has a specific plan for handling various emergencies, and a checklist to follow. Parents can help by subscribing to all HCPSS communications.

- o A modified lockdown occurs when there is a threat in the area. The perimeter is hardened; instruction still occurs (inside only)
- o A lockdown occurs when there is a threat in the school. No instruction will take place and students will remain in the classrooms, behind hardened doors, all quiet.
- Legislative update, presented by Brent Loveless – HCPSS provided testimony 12/14 on state bills that would affect Howard County.
  - o HoCo 10-23 - a bill that will change the makeup of the Board of Education from seven elected members to either 5 elected member and 2 appointed members, OR to potentially expand the board to 9 members, with 7 elected and 2 appointed. In either case, the two appointed positions would be at-large positions with voting power.
  - o State Sen Lam and Delegates Watson and Terazzo came to PTACHC after the meeting ended to take questions. They stated that
    - they want this process to be open and transparent
    - The driver for this bill is to reduce "parochialism" in the current BoE
    - It is unclear who will appoint the two members and the processes for identifying and vetting members for appointment is not worked out
  - o This bill is in its very early stage, but PTACHC voted to recommend withdrawing the bill as written. PTACHC will revisit this bill as it moves through the process
  - o Brent Loveless always needs help reviewing the legislation that is moving through the government - please volunteer

**Boosters Liaison:** The most recent Boosters meeting addressed the following:

- HC Fair Fundraiser and whether to offer more than fried Oreos since there is competition at the fair;
- Mustang Madness, which will be held at Kelsey's on March 11; and that
- Boosters is continuing to work on the potential big screen gift for the school.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**Volunteer Opportunities** – PTSA needs a president and a second PTACHC rep if possible

**New Business** – N/A

**Announcements** – PBIS met this month to discuss what they can do for the students. The administration recently conducted a student survey that will inform the type of PBIS event offered to students. The hope is to do an event prior to midterms to provide encouragement. The school psychologist also mentioned that attendance is a problem and requested that PBIS help promote this positive behavior.

**Meeting Closed – 7:49 PM**

The next PTSA meeting will be held in-person Tuesday, January 17, at 7pm.