



MRHS PTSA Meeting Minutes Nov. 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at MRHS

Number of Members present: 19

Call to order and introduction – The president called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda:

[SGA Report](#)

[Staff Report](#)

[Principal Report](#)

[President Report](#)

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[General Discussion](#)

SGA Report - Working on the food drive, Nov. 12-14. After PROM co-chair gave a shout-out to SGA for help with Prom plans.

Staff Report

- 12th grade – Has completed lessons to share information on transcript and letter rec process, post-secondary process.
- 11th grade – Completed lessons to share information on junior year tasks such as SAT/ACT, SuperMatch College Search, etc.
- 10th & 9th grade – Has completed lessons to share information on Student Services. Also joined semester 1 Health classes for suicide prevention in 9th grade.
- In Jan. and Feb., there will be in-person meetings with 9-11 graders for course selection. March to the Future sessions continue to run.
- Career Technology Education (CTE) ITL spoke about CTE Staff and the organizations that they lead: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), She++, Educators Rising, NTHS, Generation On, Architecture club, Christian Athletes, Millionaires Club, Red Cross Club, Helping HoCo. CTE teachers also coach varsity girls basketball, varsity baseball, wrestling, and varsity girls track.

Principal Report

- Big thank you for the principal's and assistant principals' gifts. The speakers are great! Just had the first breakfast cart on Friday. Only two this year due to cost. Next one end of third quarter.
- Will try to find a club with some extra money to do something in January.

- First quarter grades were due today.
- Volleyball and girls' field hockey in playoffs.
- Conference schedule went out today. All virtual. If the schedule is full, just contact the teacher.
- Non-vaccinated volunteers cannot come into the building. If volunteers are vaccinated, info must go into the Pinpoint system five days prior to volunteering. The question was asked if concession volunteers need to be vaccinated. Principal said that they probably are staying more than 3 feet apart, so it should be okay if they are not; however, it would be advisable to follow the vaccination rules for concessions.
- Today many bus drivers called out sick. They want an increase in pay. Down about 6 or 7 busses. All busses were here this afternoon.
- Principal has to monitor staff that aren't vaccinated and their test results. She does not know the number of staff or students that are vaccinated. Vaccinated students and staff can just watch for symptoms if in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, but non-vaccinated must quarantine. Athletes must test every week if they aren't vaccinated.

President Report

- Covid vaccination clinic – VP2 is working with MICH to have a mobile vaccine clinic. Will be held Tuesday Nov. 23, 12-2. The clinic cannot provide the Pfizer 5-11 year-old vaccine—only Pfizer 12 and up and first dose, second dose, and booster. Clinic will be publicized on the health department website, so community members can attend as well. We will have a membership sign at this.
- Attended PTA meeting at Mt. View – Discussed forming a parent working group to draft a letter for a later start time for MVMS. MVMS principal suggested to request a 7:55 start time. MRHS principal said that most schools with two schools on the same campus have start times of 45 minutes or more apart. She suggested try for an even later start time. Board of Education also continues to work on having healthy start times (no later than 8 a.m.) for all schools starting next school year. They have contracted a firm to review, evaluate and recommend revised school start times.
- Blowfish Poke fundraising day – Will take advantage of the first Wednesday half-day on December 15. MRHS community members have to say “Marriotts Ridge HS” for PTSA to get 15% of sale.
- Good collaboration with Boosters – PTSA president and one of the AfterPROM co-chairs attended last Boosters meeting to discuss having Boosters donate an additional \$3,500 this school year. In return, PTSA will not fundraise with corporate sponsors and will share Boosters' news in every other PTSA newsletter. Both organizations are also working towards having a shared Facebook group.
- Unanimous vote to have section of our PTSA newsletter for Boosters once a month. Corresponding secretary will connect with Boosters to gather their info for future newsletters.

Treasurer Report – We have a returned check from Global College Search Associates, LLC. Requested business to issue a new check. Membership checks still need to be deposited. Treasurer will deposit them once she receives them from the membership committee. She requested that checks be sent to school and not her home address. The Answer Class's and Chipotle's checks still to be deposited. Bank balance as of 11/8 is \$36,353.48.

October Meeting Minutes – Approved with no corrections.

Committee Reports

- **Membership** – went from 471 members to 561. Raffle drawing for teachers/staff who are PTSA members. Need prizes for drawing. Ideas included gift cards to local restaurants, s'mores kits, a cake from a baker who offered to donate a dessert. Treasurer confirmed that there are funds available for this. Drawing in December. Get word to principal's secretary, so she can help spread the word among staff and teachers.
- **Fundraising**
 - Little Caesars fundraiser ended; raised \$1,668 and made 56% of fundraising goal.
 - Fundraising co-chair has asked for feedback. Price of shipping and no gluten-free options might have been issues. Incentive was a raffle; did the drawing at the meeting. Fundraising co-chair will receive check from Little Caesars soon.
- **Grocery Rewards** – N/A
- **Website/Communications**
 - There are now "contact us" buttons on the volunteer page of the website for people to contact each committee. Most committee chairs opted to use the generic volunteer email address, but three committees created special email addresses.

Facebook

- Co-chairs/administrators will transition from a Facebook page to a group that will be combined with Boosters. Co-chairs/administrators discussed social media guidelines, including around photos shared on Facebook. It seems that other schools don't seem concerned about this. Data privacy office says that if it is an event that is open to the public, there is no expectation of privacy. A Facebook group is more closed. There was a question about the "do not photograph" list. We could ask as pictures are taken if we can post. Co-chairs will look at the National PTA guidelines. Expectation is that pictures will continue to be posted on the joint group.
- Unanimous vote to pursue combining Boosters and PTSA Facebook group.
- **Student Directory** – Searchable pdf posted on PTSA resources page of PTSA website. Website co-chairs will think about what would work best on the website. Perhaps a button to take you to it.
- **AfterPROM**
 - Main Event identified as venue – need to signed contract.
 - Asked SGA advisor and a few students to come along to first meeting. SGA advisor is doing a good job of consulting SGA members for ideas. Date is May 14. Prom to be held at Hilton in downtown Baltimore, but contract has not been signed yet.
- **Senior Scholarships** – Need to recruit more members for committee. Have one staff member. Will promote it in the next newsletter and on FB. In December, committee will start discussions about scholarship's purpose, essay question and evaluation rubric.
- **Senior Banners** – N/A
- **Horizon Grant**
 - Work that will be completed with the Project LETS club with support from Dr. Suzanne Carmack (George Mason University) and her team: Now through 11/2–students complete well-being pulse check; Nov. 3– well-being research project intro; Nov. 10– physical and financial well-being; Dec. 1–social and mental well-being; Dec. 8–purpose and emotional well-being; Dec. 12–take well-being pulse check second time; Dec. 15– group share of well-being plans, logs and results; in 2022–Work with students to create

a well-being change campaign for the school and/or train them in facilitating the above program with their peers.

- Not sure if Horizon will offer a similar grant next year. Our contact at Horizon has left and gone to another foundation.
 - As part of responsibilities for being grant recipient, Horizon asks us to be advocates for improved mental health services for Howard County. Horizon is asking us to advocate for better mental health by requesting that our families sign the foundation's petition that supports full expansion of in-school therapy services and mental health services and encourages the county executive to dedicate some of the new federal funding he received to help accomplish that.
- **HCDrugFree** – N/A
 - **Hospitality** – Teachers lunch coming up on the 23rd—soups and salad. Lunch ready at 11:10. Sign-up went out today in newsletter. Will be posted on Facebook.
 - **Cultural Liaisons** – N/A
 - **PTACHC Report**
 - BoE approved adding one 3-hour early dismissal day each month for ALL students, beginning Dec. 2021 through May 2022, to provide school-based staff with additional time to address increased workload. Dates are Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 27, and May 18.
 - Bills that might be of interest: LR744 – HOWARD COUNTY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING PROGRAM – This is a PTACHC originated bill sponsored by Senator Hester to fund a pilot program to bring analytical review and tools to HCPSS from Maryland State academia. This will include comparative analysis and reporting of past present and future trends. This bill is actively being updated and is currently not listed on the Delegation Site. NEW LEGISLATIVE ITEMS – Public Hearing on November 15 at 7 p.m. at George Howard Building on CR164-2021 (conveyance of 10.18 acres in Turf Valley on Resort Road to the Howard County Board of Education) and CR 166 -2021 (new APFO School Overcrowding Exemption).
 - **Boosters Liaison** - Discussed under “President’s Report” and “Facebook”

General Discussion

- **New business** – N/A
- **Announcements** – N/A
- **Volunteer Opportunities** – Many! Still need a chair for Reflections; so far can’t run the program.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm.