

**Folly Quarter Middle School PTA
Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2011**

Attendees:

Cathy Corrao	Janet Rohner	Davina Mentle
Bernadette Mullinix	Debbie Subera-Wiggin	Rick Wilson
Megan Newman	Rita Morseberger	Virginia Kwitkowski
Laura Hulett	Alex Ross	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Cathy Corrao

Review of Minutes

The June minutes were reviewed. The Sept 1 minutes were tabled due to lack of numbers for a quorum. The Sept 6th PTA budget was also tabled due to lack of members present for a quorum. It was suggested we may need to change number of members present to vote when we can amend our PTA bylaws later this year.

Special Guest – Alex Ross, Parent Forums -middle school transition forums

Officer Reports

1st Vice President- Janet Rohner

A possible speaker, Elaine Harmon was presented and discussed. A 91 year WASP. She is woman who flew planes from factory to their bases during WWII. She was one of the original “flygirls”. She apparently is on Facebook and twitter. She likes to interact with students. Some suggestions were during Book Fair, Veteran’s Day, American Ed Week, Mother/daughter spring event.

2nd Vice President- Lisa Feinberg

Not present. Cathy reported that Geo Bee has started. They have held their first practice session.

Treasurer- Davina Mentle

Budget was discussed.

Magazine Drive-- Need to clarify if magazine drive met its goals. Many confirmed that they received emails that the drive was successful and goals were met. Davina does not have the deposits to support this at this time. Cookie drive may have been more successful than magazines.

Intramurals—Lower than expected participation. Some parents mentioned not seeing intramurals advertised and could not register their child because a class was full.

Administrative /Staff Reports

Mr Wilson

Mr Wilson thanked the Staff Appreciation Committee for breakfast following Back to School night, Mary Jayne for magazine/cookie drive again this year, Tania Dubeau for serving as our SIT parent rep, and all who are helping with Outdoor Ed this week.

Scholarship Requests are up significantly this year.

Greenhouse update—security system being installed this week. Look for dedication date soon. Composting is up and running. Master Gardeners will be meeting with staff before Thanksgiving.

Facebook and Twitter accounts are coming to HCPSS

Family Portal Feedback—most report not user friendly for teacher and parents, difficult to switch from one student to another to view information, also frequently low grades if teachers try to post assignments ahead with possible scores. For those not familiar with teacher ease, they thought the new system was okay. For those with teacher ease experience, majority if not all preferred the past teacher ease system for its ease of use and locating all information on one or two screens versus multiple layers. Ms Newman also reports not teacher friendly –difficult to email positive scores to parents and/or warning to parents of students struggling. All emails have to be done individually at this time. With teacher ease parameters were set and emails were generated automatically.

Mrs Goldeisen will be recognized as MD's Asst. Principal of the Year at the MASSP annual conference tomorrow.

Communication: Poor communication thru schools out , news, radio. Very unclear the dozen or so schools that were still closed during hurricane at the beginning of school year. Interestingly some parents said they knew about FQMS being closed through Facebook. Mr. Wilson reported this finding to Mrs. Caplan at HCPSS.

Last day of school is June 11th at this point due to add on from Hurricane closure. Parents can email superintendent regarding calendar feedback. In 2012-13 it is planned to add on/ build in 5 days for school closures which may or may not be used. There was some discussion that state emergency closures should be waived. Ho Co Superintendent has made sure Ho Co complete their 180 day requirement. Last year several other counties sufficed with less than 180 days due to extreme weather conditions.

Ms Newman discussed that Sue Sherman is trying to revamp Staff Recognition program looking for \$10 a month or \$90 a year PTA donation to support staff recognition with gift cards most likely. It was discussed that this might be able to come from Staff Appreciation budget once cleared with Chris Geibel and Lauren Murray.

Jenny Speace is the other teacher that will share PTA teacher rep position with Ms Newman.

Upcoming Events- Ms Newman
Saturday 10/15- Saturday School
Friday 10/21- School closed for students
Tuesday 10/25- Picture Day
Wednesday- 11/2 Fall Concert RHHS 7-8 pm
Thursday 11/3- End of 1st quarter
Friday 11/4- School closed for students
11/7- 11/11 Book Fair
11/13 – 11/17 American Education Week

PTA Delegate- Debbie Subera- Wiggin

MLK essay contest for middle and high school students with \$150 prize money for middle school students is being held. Students need to submit their work by 11/15. Nominations will be 12/16. Awards will be given on 1/15/12. Checkout hcps website for details.

County Coat Drive commenced thru 11/1. Coats can be dropped off from 2-8 on 11/1. 1,000 coats were collected /distributed last year.
Substance Abuse Program offers student assist with tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse.
HC Drug Free program, Donna Weaver is are FQMS rep. Records are locked in principal's office.

School improvement program (SIP) contact is Bill Ryan. School improvement Team (SIT) contact is Tania Dubeau. They meet quarterly on Thurs. Info can be found on PTA website.

Board of Ed selection process amendment did not pass.

Special Guest- Alex Ross 8th grade transition to HS. Apparently there used to be a parent forum run by guidance team. We are looking to bring back the parent forum sometime in the first two weeks of Jan and possibly combining it with a school event. A PTA sponsored school dance was suggested. HS questions and presentation of cyber security/ cyber bullying could be combined while students attend function/dance. Mr Wilson says if 8th graders come, others will follow. This may increase attendance at Parent Forums. Janet Rohner stated that past Parent Forum were well done, that 20 attending was a good turnout. PTA Forums are trying to increase their awareness and participation.

PTA Website - Tania Dubeau --checkout website, community events are posted and PTA related information.

Outreach Committee- Karen Mobley not present. Bernadette Mullinix reported on community happenings--GUMC opening a food pantry on 3rd Sat on every month 9-10 am. Grand opening this Sat 10/15 and Lisbon UMC has coat drive 11/5 9 am -1 pm.

Book Fair- Rita Morseberger Nov 7-11 can sign up online. Volunteer spots are filling nicely. Scholastic is also offering on-line purchasing which may convert to scholastic cash rewards. There will be a delay on getting on line purchases. Last day of book fair, on line purchases are submitted and shipped to school for later sorting and distribution. Smart boards are a possible purchase idea with scholastic cash. There was discussion on difficulties of purchasing school equipment not going thru county channels. This would need to be clarified. Good idea, need clarification from county.

Cultural Arts- Rita Morseberger update: Stephanie Bodine author of “The Compound” is available in April. Compound was a Blackeyed Susan Award winner last year. Spanish Cantarae on schedule for Friday 10/14. Rita will be getting check from Davina.

Directory—Cindy to purchase paper. Will be sent to print office on RT 108. On line version has some security issues that need to be worked out. Directory not linked to membership. PTA service for all. Paper costs will fall to PTA. Printing free at 108, may be a little smaller print. It was decided a directory was better than no directory.

Membership- Virginia Kwitkowski currently at 462 members and rising. 90% of the cards are done.

8th grade events—Laura Hulett June 1st closing ceremony/dance, June 8th-picnic possibly at Piney Run. Piney is cheaper than Ho Co destinations unfortunately. Other suggestions—Western Regional, Meadow Brook and /or Greenbriar State Park. Volley ball tournament to be scheduled.

Brick Garden - Bernadette Mullinix want to get updated contact information/agreements with brick supplier ? and installer, Jay Rhine to insure prices are still accurate before pursuing advertising. Janet Rohner and Holly Coors to pass past information along. Hope to clarify and advertise during book fair, American Education week and with Mms Maurisch. Will pass info along to TRES principal

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm