

**Folly Quarter Middle School PTA
Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2011**

Attendees:

Kate Busher	Cathy Corrao	Lisa Feinberg	Chris Geibel
Jim Geisbert	Rena Heneghan	Karen Kelly	Davina Mentle
Rita Morsberger	Bernadette Mullinix	Lauren Murray	Mary Jayne Register
Janet Rohner	Alex Ross	Cindy Skalny	Jennifer Speace
Debbie Wiggin	Rick Wilson		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Cathy Corrao

Review of Minutes

The June, September, and October Meeting minutes were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Report – Cathy Corrao

Cathy thanked Janet Rohner for organizing the Elaine Harmon visit.

1st Vice President Report – Janet Rohner

The Elaine Harmon visit was a success. Approximately forty to fifty people were in attendance. The discussion was very worthwhile. Elaine brought her uniform, pictures, and other memorabilia that enhanced the presentation. Janet also wanted to thank the Hospitality Committee for providing snacks.

Janet announced that the Spelling Bee will take place in January. She will announce the date once it is set.

2nd Vice President Report – Lisa Feinberg

The FQMS Geobee is on schedule. Students are meeting after school on Mondays with Mrs. Bader to prepare for the contest. The Geobee is sponsored by National Geographic and will be held in January.

Falcon Day is scheduled for Friday, December 23. Lynn Wymer is coordinating the bake walk. Volunteers are needed to help out on Falcon Day and for baking.

Treasurer's Report – Davina Pruitt-Mentle

The most recent budget was presented.

Delegate Report – Debra Wiggin

The council has requested proof that we have paid our dues. Cathy and Davina will provide necessary information to show that dues were paid on October 29, 2011.

The FQMS PTA by-laws need to be reviewed and renewed by May 2012. A committee needs to be established for this function.

Several council committee and advisory positions are open. The council would like parent volunteers to participate in these areas.

The council would like to hear parents' opinions concerning the proposed middle school curriculum changes. Parents are encouraged to attend the January 12 (discussion) and January 26 (action to be taken) meetings. Highlights of the proposed changes include elimination of a separate reading class, 90 days of P.E., increased amount of time per class, and world language to be offered in 6th grade. Parents are encouraged to get involved in this decision. Cathy and Debra will work together to create an email to explain how to testify, upcoming meeting dates, and details. The BOE Docs will have an updated report available after December 6. The proposed changes are being made to put HCPSS in compliance with the Department of Education's Common Core Curriculum and Race to the Top requirements. On December 8 at 4pm, the report will be presented to the BOE.

Principal's Report – Rick Wilson

Mr. Wilson thanked the following people for all of their efforts:

1. Janet for arranging Elaine Harmon's visit and Rachael Aiello for goodies.
2. Susan Hopkins for goodies during American Education Week.
3. Rita for providing a book for each of our neediest students.
4. Lauren and Chris for food on 11/4 and 11/21.
5. Cindy Coburn for her hard work on the directory this year.
6. Everyone who helped during our 3rd annual Turkey Trot.
7. Rita for all of her work arranging the Native American Speaker/Presentation. Feedback was very positive.

FQMS recognized over 82% of students for 3.0 or higher performance during quarter 1. 17.5% had 4.0's!

Yesterday, a police officer issued written warnings to all drivers parked in the designated pick-up area. The curb is painted red, signifying that there is no stopping, parking, etc. allowed along that curb. Mr. Wilson has contacted the police officer and is waiting for a response.

Highlights of Upcoming Events between now and the next meeting, 1/5 (weather permitting):

Tuesday 12/6- Picture re-take day

Friday 12/9- 8th grade bowling field trip for service learning

Saturday 12/10- Saturday school

Wednesday 12/14- Extended homeroom-progress reports issued

Saturday 12/17- Saturday school

Tuesday 12/20- Winter concert at RRHS 7-8pm

Friday 12/23- Falcon day

Monday 12/26-Sun 1/1- School closed- Winter Break

Corresponding Secretary Report – Bernadette Mullinix

Bernadette will send a thank you note to Elaine Harmon for her visit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fall Fund Raising Committee – Mary Jayne Register

Mary Jane agrees with the figures contained in the budget. The net profit for the fall fund raiser will be over \$16,000. Last Monday, the top sellers were rewarded with lunch at Unos, followed with a movie, and then dessert at the Cheesecake Factory. Eyre provided free transportation to and from the event. Lunch, dessert, and movie tickets were all donated. Mary Jane will submit a human interest story to a local newspaper about the success of the fundraiser and generosity of the sponsoring organizations.

Staff Appreciation – Lauren Murray

The Staff Appreciation Committee's next event will be on January 23.

After School Activities – Karen Kelly

The winter intramural letter will go out tomorrow. It will also be publicized in the newsletter and the registration form will be on the website.

Volunteer Coordinator – Kate Busher

No news to report.

6th Grade Activities – Jim Geisbert

On Saturday, December 10th each grade is asked to provide volunteers to ring the Salvation Army bell for one hour at Chatham Mall in Ellicott City. Sixth grade is currently looking for volunteers. Mr. Wilson will also ask for volunteers as well as mention it to the Leo Club.

Reflections – Rena Heneghan

The Reflections Contest deadline was Monday. FQMS had eight entries. The theme was "Diversity Is..." Committee members along with Rita posted informational posters around the school to publicize the contest. It has been a struggle to get students interested in participating in this worthwhile contest. It was suggested that next year we offer a fall intramurals program with a focus on producing an entry for the contest.

Cultural Arts – Rita Morsberger

On November 30, Native American Storyteller, Dodvie Thomason, performed for the entire school in two assemblies. Positive response from Mr. McCauley and polling of students found Dovie to be entertaining.

Book Fair – Rita Morsberger

FQMS PTA sold \$5,234.63 worth of books, of which we received \$1,308.66 cash to go to our budget. We received Scholastic Dollars – incentive money -- by doing workshops, etc., and that allowed us to fund 17 books for our Free and Reduced Lunch students. These books were put into the students' lockers with a sticker from the PTA. We also provided two \$15 gift

certificates by random drawings for our teachers. Mrs. Amy Korman and Emy Coonts were the recipients of those gift certificates. With the remaining Scholastic Dollars we purchased six books for remaining teachers who used our Wish List board and didn't receive a book from a student or a student's family. Rita's hope over the last two years, and Celia O'Brien did in the prior year, to make parents more aware that teachers have libraries in their classrooms that students use for reading materials. That is what the Wish List board is for, and we hope eventually to have parents donate to classroom libraries.

The Book Fair for next year is set for Nov. 26 – Nov. 30, 2012, which is not American Education Week. At this time American Education Week is not available.

2010 we sold 7,171. 2011 we sold 5,234. We were open three less days and two nights.

Parent Forum – Alex Ross

A Parent Forum will be held on January 27, the same night as the FQMS dance, from 7:00-9:00. Two presentations are planned, "Cyber Bulling and Security Issues," presented by Davina Pruitt-Mentle and "Transitioning to High School," presented by Ms. Coons and Ms. Anaka-Maas. By presenting two topics, the committee hopes to provide options for parents of all grade levels. The committee also hopes to find two parent-volunteers that have both a high school student and an 8th grader, to speak about their childrens' experiences. Ideally, they would like to have one parent volunteer from GHS and one from RHHS.

The committee is looking for ways to promote the forum and the dance. It was felt having the 8th graders themselves organize the dance should help with attendance. An idea to encourage parents to attend was to reimburse the \$5 ticket fee to each student if a parent attends the forum. Information about the dance and forum will be available on Falcon Day.

Cathy and Mr. Wilson volunteered to speak at the forum. It was suggested to also have a high school student speak. PTA funds are available to pay for the DJ. It was also suggested rather than run the presentations concurrently, to present them sequentially so 8th grade parents could attend both. Mr. Wilson mentioned that he has heard of a few bullying incidents using Xbox LIVE which parents may not be aware of, and that may be a possible topic to be included.

This committee is in need of a chair for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.