

**Folly Quarter Middle School  
PTA Executive Board Meeting  
October 18, 2007**

**Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

President Rohner mentioned a meeting to be held between the Howard County Board of Education and PTA Presidents. She may not make it this year but people should let her know of any concerns.

The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and acknowledged to be accurate.

**First Vice President – Jennifer Hays**

- Grade-level activity chairs have been identified for each grade. A meeting was held with them to go over past activities as well as Falcon Days/Nights.
- Currently working on 8<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts for the Slam and Jam on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- All committee chairs were invited to meet the staff team leaders on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:20pm. This is just a brief introductory meeting.
- The directory is not ready yet due to computer problems and the printer not being ready. Planning to have it ready the first week of November.
- Any items to be included in the newsletter should be sent to Dana Potts.
- Upcoming dates:
  - o November 16 – Falcon Day
  - o December 7 – Falcon Night
  - o December 21 – Falcon Day

**Treasurer – Debbie Oldhouser**

- The first deposit for the magazine drive was made in September.
- Spirit Wear invoice was paid in August.
- As of October 18<sup>th</sup>, the account had \$44,000. \$22,000 is owed to QSP for the magazine drive, which leaves a balance of \$21,000 in checking and a \$5,000 CD for scholarships.
- We had budgeted \$40,000 for the magazine drive and only got \$37,000. But there are some things in the budget that may not show costs so the shortage should not be a problem.
- The bank account was reconciled.
- The council dues and bonding insurance was paid.
- A parent from last year wanted to pay \$15.00 for a check that was never cashed by the PTA. It was decided to tell her not to bother.

**Delegate – Joanne Griesser**

- A delegate meeting was held on October 1st.
- Steve Drummond spoke on safety measures that are being initiated in the school system
  - o Emergency and hand-held radios in each school
  - o Emergency continuity plans for each school
  - o All Howard County employees have undergone background checks
  - o Contractors working in the schools are responsible for checking their employees
  - o Questions for individual schools should be directed to the school administrator
  - o General questions can be directed to Steve Drummond or Ron Mills
- Community for Emergency Response presented Neighbor to Neighbor, a program aimed at neighborhoods helping themselves in an emergency. They would like to present the program to a future Executive Board meeting.
- The Howard County coat drive has started. The drive ends on November 5<sup>th</sup>. President Rohner mentioned that Karen Mobley is the committee chair for Community Outreach and she will handle this.
- PTA leadership training is being offered at Faulkner Ridge December 4-6. Attendees must attend all three days.
- The PTACHC is looking for support for the Homewood School and the ARL from various school PTAs in the county. It was decided that a proposal should be made at the next PTACHC meeting for the PTACHC to adopt these schools and use their funds for Teacher Appreciation.
- The Howard County Library presented Online Tutoring. The services include instant tutoring online, database and research assistance. They are interested in giving a demonstration to teachers and parents. Joanne will forward this information to Dana Potts to be included in the newsletter.

**Principal – Dr. Perkins**

- Outdoor Education was a success with a record number of parents attending.
- Hispanic Heritage Assembly was also a big success. The Guatemalan Ambassador enjoyed the assembly and photos are on the county website. He thanked the PTA for money for the band and support of the assembly.
- The Principal's Council has begun with two students per grade randomly selected each week to participate. So far 25 students have participated. It will continue to grow each week.
- The first Coffee and Conversation was well attended. Came out of it with plans to hold "Parent Information Nights." November 15<sup>th</sup> is the next date.
- Quarter 1 assessments begin on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Staff Reports**

- Mrs. Szalecki provided a list of Dates to Remember:
  - o 10/22 - 10/26 – Browsing week at the Book Fair
  - o 10/29 – 11/1 – Book Fair sales
  - o 10/26 – 11/1 – First Quarter Assessments
  - o 11/1 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
  - o 11/3 – Howard County GT Band concert at Glenelg High School
  - o 11/5 – Picture re-take
  - o 11/5 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vision and hearing re-screening
  - o 11/9 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Medieval Times Field Trip
  - o 11/13 – Report Cards issued

### **Committee Reports**

- **Cultural Arts – Heidi Trout**
  - o The band for Hispanic Culture Day cost \$600.
  - o Gayle Danley will be the Artist-in-Residency from October 29 – November 9<sup>th</sup>. The kick-off presentation is October 29<sup>th</sup> and is open to parents. The Slam n’ Jam Poetry Competition is on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The PTA will organize snacks and drinks. A discussion about prizes took place and it was decided that some kind of recognition prize should be given but not a prize for competition.
  - o The River Hill PTA has invited FQMS parents to attend a presentation on October 23<sup>rd</sup> called “Parents Guide to Painless Studying.” The information for this event will be passed to Peggy Johnson for public distribution.
- **Membership**
  - o 426 members so far. Reminders will be sent to parents who have not joined. Last year there were 485 members. A reminder will also be sent to staff about joining the PTA.
- **Brick Garden**
  - o Holly Kohr and Pam Carnock are getting out information to publicize the brick garden.
- **Reflection**
  - o Chris Geibel is sending out information on this program. The deadline is December 9<sup>th</sup> and the theme is “I can make a difference.”
- **Community Outreach**
  - o Karen Mobley is the chair. Besides handling the coat drive, book drive and canned food drive, she has proposed several ideas:
    - Personal care items and food
    - Gift card drive
    - Possibly an assembly to discuss homeless issues and then roll out a program for each grade to adopt a family.
    - Educational speakers from Grass Roots or a homeless organization.

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- Adopt a sister school.
- Math-a-thon to collect pledges for charity.
- **Spirit Wear**
  - Two new products – a girl’s zipper sweatshirt and a sports bag
  - Back to School night sales were less than the previous year due to the location of the table. Revenue for the evening was \$945.
  - Looking for another opportunity to sell Spirit Wear.
  - Report sent by committee chair Leah Healey.
- **Garden Committee**
  - Front gardens were weeded.
  - The pansies that were planted have died due to the drought. Nothing more will be planted until the drought is over.
  - Report sent by committee chair Kathy Reynolds.

**President – Janet Rohner**

- Maryland State PTA convention is set for November 16-17 in Towson. Anyone interested in attending should tell Janet.
- Kings Dominion is having a math and science day on Friday, May 16.
- Rocky Run has “kids eat free” night on Tuesday. They will also support fundraisers with 10% going to the school.
- All committee chairs must pre-approve expenses with Debbie.

**Closing**

- A question was raised about purchasing collapsible tables. Dr. Perkins stated that the school will be doing this.
- A question was raised regarding the possibility of instituting a hand washing campaign to address the issue of staph infections in schools. Dr. Perkins stated that there are already reminders in place and the school staff will continue to stress the need for hand washing.
- Adjourned at 8:25pm.