

MWES PTA Meeting Minutes
01/14/08, 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by Amy Crawford, Recording Secretary

PTA President – Angel Bivens

Angel welcomed all to the meeting. The members reviewed the minutes from the PTA meeting on December 10, 2007. Mr. Weisner noticed an error in teacher's names on page 2. "Ashley Flynn" will be changed to Ashley Armstrong and Lisa Flynn. Adrienne Taylor asked that Flat Stanley Ducklings be changed to "Flat Ducklings" on page 2. Adrienne Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Ms. Bowen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

First VP - Greg Thomas

No report.

Second VP - Barbara Ohnmacht

Barb brought up the topic of Market Day as a possible fundraiser. There will be an informational meeting about this topic on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. It seems like a good fundraiser, but it involves a lot of work. Angel will speak to Kim Harvill to see if she will consider continuing to do the Sally Foster gift wrap fundraiser next year. Barbara is wondering if we will need to do another smaller fundraiser at the end of this year to cover our anticipated \$2,000 to \$4,000 shortfall. The idea of selling pretzels was brought up as a possibility. Jayne Miller was not present at tonight's meeting, so Barbara Ohnmacht will discuss this idea with her.

Treasurer – Jayne Miller (Report given by Angel Bivens)

Jayne stated that we made a \$10,200 profit from Sally Foster. She reminded teachers to please turn in receipts in order to be reimbursed. Teachers are encouraged to spend their stipend money. We had originally projected that Sally Foster would make \$11,500, so we did not reach that goal.

Corresponding Secretary - Amy Lowe

No report.

Recording Secretary - Amy Crawford

No report.

PTA Council – Marc Norman

Marc was not present at the meeting, but he sent a packet of information concerning the PTA Council to Angel Bivens. Angle could not review the information in time for tonight's meeting, so Marc will report at the next meeting.

PTA President - Angel Bivens

Angel thanked Jane Jones for updating the PTA's new website. The web address is: www.mwespta.org. The minutes from all meetings are posted there, as well as room parent information and information about after-school programs. The PTA's website is linked to the school's website. Visitors to our website may email questions to the PTA. The PTA president, Angel Bivens, checks email from this site once per week and responds to inquiries.

Angel informed everyone of two awards for which we may nominate candidates. Awards are: Howard County Volunteer of the Year award and Friends of Education award sponsored by the Board of Education. Anyone interested in nominating someone can see Angel for more details.

Angel told us about an organization called School Kids USA which provides customized school supply kits. We could sell these kits to parents at the beginning of the year not for profit but as a service to parents. No minimum order is required. Angel asked for a volunteer to investigate the company further. Mrs. Tammy Brown will investigate the company and prices. Diana Kessler will research other companies which provide this service for comparison purposes.

Principal – Jim Weisner

We currently have 602 students enrolled. Last year at this time we had 648 students. Mr. Weisner discussed staffing for next year. This year's 5th grade class is very large (120 students) and our current Kindergarten class has just 73 students. As a result, Manor Woods may lose some staff members next year. For example, first grade currently has 6 teachers, but next year we will not be able to have this many.

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Feb. 6 and 7, 2008. The teachers will have a work day on Friday, Feb. 8, but there is no school for students that day.

The SIT meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Helen Mercer reminded everyone of the Living Logically workshop on Wednesday evening at W. Friendship Elementary school from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The Pink Cabbage store at the intersection of Rt. 144 and Triadelphia Road has 12 vendors within the building. They have volunteered to provide a volunteer to help us with the blood drive.

Mr. Weisner reported that the playing fields were damaged by a four-wheel truck. The damage will delay opening the fields for one year. The police did catch the teenager responsible for the damage. Damage totaled \$2,000. The teenager's parents will pay the bill to repair the fields, and the teenager must apologize to the students.

Committee Reports

Reading Campaign - Adrienne Taylor

Flat Ducklings are coming in! Adrienne is posting them on the front bulletin board and on a bulletin board near 3rd grade. Reading logs went home this week. Team presentations about the reading campaign went well and the students seem enthused about the reading campaign. Mrs. Flynn coordinated visits from the Glenwood library for each pod.

SIT

There is still no SIT representative. See Angel Bivens if interested in this position.

Basket Bingo – Adrienne Taylor

Jane Jones has ordered baskets for the event. Donations are coming in. Room parents will coordinate donations from each class. Mrs. Fields will donate an Orioles-themed basket. Mrs. Varlotta will donate a basket on behalf of the staff. Miss Bowen will coordinate fillers for the staff basket.

After-School Programs – Cheryl Brown & Lisa Delmonte

Flyers for spring after-school programs went home last week. Programs from the fall were offered again. A new program was offered: Schoolhouse Rock (drama). There are only 9 students currently registered for this program, and we need 20 students in order for the program to go forward. A note was put in the Menu and information will go home to parents via eSchool newsletter. Show proceeds will go back to the PTA. Next fall, Cheryl and Lisa would like to offer a photography class and chess club. They are currently looking for an instructor for chess club. Instructor must have liability insurance. Question of insurance – does PTA insurance cover teacher teaching class after school? Barbara Ohnmacht will look into this insurance issue. Mr. Weisner recommended that Barbara ask other schools how they handle this issue.

Walking Program – Jane Jones

The kids have walked 10 times so far. Some kids have walked over 15 miles.

Bulletin Boards – Gina McIntyre

No report.

Ducktales – Francine Bennett

Ducktale articles were due this past Friday to Francine.

Hospitality – Marcia Revasio

No report.

Room Parents- Dawn Harvey

Room parents are busy coordinating Valentine's Day parties and school supply donations for teachers. Room parents will also coordinate donations for theme baskets per class for Basket Bingo.

Blood Drive – Angel Bivens reported

A blood drive is scheduled for March 27, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.