**PAMS PTA MINUTES**

**September 17, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by president, Janine Sarach, at 5:35 pm.

**In Attendance:** Janine Sarach, Bobbi Vinsand, Terri Weaver, Jane Frampton, Michelle Prendergast, Stormie Henley, Lisa Lauderback, Kelly Brenner, Kelly Faulkner, Dorothy Castillo, Jen Crow, Jenn Hickey, Erin Hagge, D. Alex Bergren, Jessie Hubba, Julie Wiley, Sheldon Layne, Carol Eastman, Karen Serogylos, Laureen Drake, Trisha Saunders, Kathy Rush, Barb Stebbins

The minutes from the Budget Meeting in July and the General Meeting last week were read and a motion was made to approve; it was seconded.

**Administration and Activities Report/Mr. Bergren:**

* Boys and girls soccer has started. The boys defeated Landstown last night, and the girls also started off with a win.
* One Act Play is underway and getting ready for the end of October Festival and a performance at Princess Anne Elementary School.
* Football starts next Tuesday.
* We are off to a good start to the school year. We try to set high expectations for the students from the very beginning of the year. The 6th graders are learning how to make all the transitions.
* We received the official word that we will be moving into the “old” Kellam High School next summer. A transition committee will be put together to help with the move and to make things as smooth as possible. We have had an increase in enrollment to 1460. Kemps Landing and ODC will come here (they have about 1100 students combined).
* The question was raised about who decides what comes and goes to the new location. The School Division makes those decisions, along with lots of input from all of us. We (the PAMS staff) will also look into what Kellam has to offer. Jen (Crow) is also in the process of getting info from their library (book counts, etc.).

**Partners in Education/Jen Crow:**

* A letter went out to welcome back all of our Partners in Education.
* Wrestlers want to do a Spirit Night with Lucky Oyster.
* Jake’s BBQ does an Art Night – they will be meeting with Mr. Jewell, our art teacher about this.
* The Va Dept of Education is now requiring all new teachers to have training in CPR, AED, etc. We have someone on board to do one group, but if anyone knows of someone who is a certified trainer that would be willing to come and do a group for a reasonable fee, please let her know.

**Membership/Janine reporting for Gerrold Walker**

* We already have 745 members (51%), and that doesn’t include another stack that came in that Janine will be entering shortly.

**Treasurer’s Report/Barb Stebbins:**

* The Income/Expense Comparison by Category Report and Balance Sheet as of 9/16/13 were distributed.
* Line items were reviewed. Our current balance is $18,821.75.

**Corresponding Secretary/Michelle Prendergast:**

* This year, along with a birthday card, we will be giving the staff chocolate from Royal Chocolate.

**Volunteers/Bobbi Vinsand:**

* We currently have 470 volunteers on the list.
* All slots have been filled for the upcoming testing.
* We will need volunteers to sell dance tickets and chaperone. Mr. Bergren will also have staff chaperone.
* Guidance Department is working with us to provide food for PAES families in need. We already have had an overwhelming response to provide food items and perishables for the weekends. We are making plans to do Thanksgiving dinners also.

**Reflections/Bobbi reporting for Kristin Sprauer:**

* Deadline for entries is October 25th. The 2013 theme is “Believe, Dream, Inspire”. We are doing our reception along with Kellam High School and Princess Anne Elementary School and it will be held on December 20th, here at PAMS.
* Kristin is looking for someone to assist her with the Reflections Committee this year so that they can become familiar and take over next year.

**Book Fair/Stormie Henley:**

* Book Fair sale is scheduled for the week of December 9th thru the 13th. We are also looking at Saturday, the 14th to have books for sale the same day that we are scheduling the “Sample Sale”. The books will be taken over in carts for display and purchase.

**Rachel’s Challenge/Mr. Bergren reporting for Mrs. Burchett:**

* Mr. Bergren explained to our new parents the purpose and focus of Rachel’s Challenge and club, “creating a culture of kindness in which to serve others”. We were the first Virginia Beach middle school to implement the program and have since helped other schools launch the program.
* The vbschools.com web page is featuring a great article in the “Compass Keepers Club” section about Rachel’s Challenge and featuring former student Will Sexton. We are encouraged to read it.
* Audra Patty (now Burchett) is the sponsor of our Rachel’s Challenge Club. The 6th graders will see the assembly tomorrow at 1:10 along with new 7th and 8th graders in the gym; parents are welcome.

**Newsletter/Janine reported for Tiffany Jones:**

* The first newsletter went out last week. Looks great!

**Web Site/Janine reported for Donna Gowens-Parker:**

* We renewed our domain name and updated our info. If our committees have any changes, please get in touch with her.

**Facebook/Janine:**

* Janine will be updating our Facebook page this year.

**Spirit Wear/Janine reported:**

* We have a lot of spirit wear in stock and we are easing back on the inventory. We will limit our orders to the blue and gray shirts and hoodies and the bags.

**Hospitality/Erin Hagge:**

* Erin will be doing all of the “appreciation” weeks. We need help in hospitality with some of the other events that we plan.

**Red Ribbon Week/Kristi Bryant and Stormie Henley:**

* This is a week observed across the US to promote awareness and prevention of alcohol, tobacco and drug use. It is observed October 28th – November 1st this year and we will be giving out red pencils, twizzlers, etc. and Friday will be “Wear Red Day”.

**Principles of American Citizenship/Julie Wiley:**

* The first email went out to the teachers. “Responsibility” is the trait for the month of September. Each “A” day homeroom teacher will nominate someone from their class. They each receive a certificate, along with a group picture. One person from that group is selected to be honored and they receive recognition and some sort of gift.

**Box Tops/Janine reported for Sheri Harris:**

* We collect them all! There is a bin in the foyer. Don’t forget to register your card with the school at Kroger, Target, Farm Fresh, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, etc.

**New Business:**

**Open Houses:** They went well and were well-attended.

**Goals for this year – Teacher Grants:** Janine explained how this would work. An application form was put together. The teachers can then fill them out and request money from the PTA in the form of a “grant” to help fund a project, material, supplies, etc. that would impact a group or grade level of students. We have received five already as follows:

*Carole Forbes asked for $153.78 for Teen Living to receive Scholastic Choices Magazine.  The magazine, along with their Promethean and online resources, makes it possible to utilize the magazine in an even bigger way.*  – The PTA discussed and determined to grant this request.

*Cathy O'Malley asked for $220 for the 7th grade science students to create an oyster garden.  Growing oysters in the classroom can positively impact our waterways.  The oysters that students will raise will eventually filter up to 50 gallons of polluted water a day.  The students will grow the baby oysters into maturity and then release them on a sanctuary reef within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.* – The PTA discussed and determined to grant this request.

*Jamie Arnett asked for $1584 for the 6th grade math students to receive access to* [*glassmaker.com*](https://bl2prd0810.outlook.com/owa/redir.aspx?C=ozMki2gLzkeZeXWP3V3pn3HVEVNfi9AI2Dsd7JHJQiJQBKJbRbJp9kLxfGMHZn2KQMrfPrH-GXM.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fglassmaker.com)*.  This web-based program allows students to take tests, quizzes and do various assignments online where the scores are captured in real time.  The students can see their scores and go back and fix errors and the teachers can monitor if the student is grasping the concept thus molding their lesson to areas that need more or less attention based on student results.  The program allows students to complete study guides and fix areas where they are struggling.  It makes them more prepared for the tests.* – The PTA discussed and determined to contribute $1000.00 towards this request and ask that the school come up with the remainder.

*Elisa Zajac asked for $336.30 for 8th grade science students to receive a subscription to Current Science Magazine.  The magazine makes the connection between the content learned in both physical and earth science to real life applications.*– The PTA discussed and determined to grant this request.

*Kassi Sanford asked for $2400 for new chorus concert outfits.*-After much discussion, the PTA determined that we needed more information from Ms. Sanford regarding the request before a decision could be made.

Although it was previously discussed that we (the PTA) would form a committee to review and decide on these grants, all those present at the PTA meeting were in favor of these requests being read to the group as a whole (during our monthly PTA meetings) so that input could be given and we would make the decisions as a group.

**Admirals Hockey:** Janine read a proposal from the Admirals that we sell reduced price tickets at $11.00 with $2.00 each ticket coming back to the school and we have a “PAMS Night” at the hockey game. We will see if we can make it on a Friday or Saturday night. Janine will look at the calendar and move forward on this.

**Lend a Hand:**  Mr. Bergren explained the Lend-a-Hand event to the new parents and what the money goes to. Last year we raised $4300 for Cerebral Palsy of Virginia. The date for this year is Saturday, April 26th, 2014 and we are adding another event, the Panther Pride 5k, to be held on Sunday. The details are being worked on. The Tidewater Striders would time the event. Be thinking about what charity you would like to have benefit this year.

**Bricks:** Bobbi brought up the idea of selling “dedication bricks” for the new Kellam HS as a PAMS project. If we sell them, we get back half the amount. They have been doing this at Kellam and it has been very successful. Think about it.

**Holiday Lights at the Beach:** Do we want to sell tickets this year? We sold about 100 last year. We will get the letter and decide next month.

Our next meeting is October 8, 2013. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05.