

Gwynn Park Middle School PTSA Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2008
GPMSPTSA@YAHOO.COM

PTSA President Julie Coleman brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The agenda was provided to meeting attendees. The agenda was as follows:

GPMS Principal Updates (Mr. Rivers):

Key points made by Mr. Rivers were:

- **Pot Luck Dinner** - On November 25, 2008 a Pot Luck Dinner will be held in the Media Center. The participation sign up list is posted in the room with the copier and mailboxes. The school will provide turkey and ham.
- **Tobacco Survey** – Maryland state law requires that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) conduct the 2008 Maryland Youth Tobacco Survey in the Fall of 2008. The survey was conducted at GPMS on November 20, 2008. Six teachers were identified and their classes were called to the multi purpose room during 2nd mod. The survey was completed and notifications of the children's participation were sent home for parent review.
- **RELA Walk Through** – On December 2, 2008 officials from MSDE will visit the RELA teachers for what is referred to as the MSDE Walk-Through. RELA teachers will meet this week after school to prepare for the visit.
- **Maryland Measurement of Student Technology Literacy (MMSTL)** – In December 7th grade students in Maryland take the MMSTL. This is an assessment to determine how technology literate and proficient they are. Parent notifications will be sent home with each student.
- **Student GPA Issue** – As a result of a glitch in the system the student report cards will not reflect the students GPAs. They will be calculated and an honor roll assembly will be scheduled and announced once the calculations are completed. Parents will be notified of the honor roll assembly date.
- **Curriculum Walk-Through** - There will be curriculum walk through held which are focused on observing the children in class. This observation will be used to gather data on student performance and discussions will take place to determine a strategy for improving performance.
- **Transportation Concerns** – GPMS is currently working to revise the bus policy. It was found that some of the issues reported on the bus were more related to an adult problem (e.g., bus drivers ill-equipped to deal with students) rather than extreme student behavior. GPMS will not remove students from the bus for minor infractions that do not jeopardize the safety of the students or the bus driver. Discipline decisions will be handled on a case by case basis. The school bus discipline policy review committee will meet to confirm the policy moving forward. GPMS is in communication with Transportation regarding our concerns.
- **Curriculum Walk** - The Learning Walk Process is an organized walk through a schools halls and classrooms using principles of learning to focus on the

instructional core. The objective is to observe how the teachers teach and how the students learn. This tool will be used to help GPMS educators to improve the teaching methods, enhance the students learning experience and increase opportunities for academic success for all concerned.

- **Community Service Hours** – A hand out for the Prince Georges Volunteer Center was provided. Volunteer opportunities are available for people of all ages. The Prince Georges Volunteer Center can be reached by calling (301) 699-2800. The Prince George's County website can also be used to find out more about opportunities to volunteer. <http://ww1.pgcps.org/student-services> Questions about the community service hour requirements can be answered by the GPMS Guidance Department.

Guest Speakers:

- Able Cadet R. Pritchett, LPO Sundowners, Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron, Andrews Air Force Base:
 - The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a nationwide organization dedicated to helping American youth realize personal success and achievement through a nautically oriented training program. Cadets develop interest and skill in basic seamanship and its naval adaptations while learning the value of patriotism, courage, self reliance, teamwork and accountability.
 - The Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron supports USNSCC goals by providing a stable training environment for all qualified youth. Training focuses on the Naval services' aviation programs, however, all aspects of military life are made available to allow cadets an opportunity to experience many different areas of the military.
 - Sponsorship is provided by individual councils of the Navy League of the United States, a nonprofit organization of U.S. citizens whose objective is to support the U.S. maritime services and those who are deeply interested in the welfare of young Americans.
 - The participants study a broad range of subjects which are designed to help them to become better adult citizens, learn the importance of strong maritime forces, naval history, customs and traditions, seamanship, and navigation. All of this knowledge would help their chances for promotion should they decide to join one of the sea services.
 - To join students must: be 10 years old to 18 years of age, unmarried, enrolled in school, have parental consent, possess good moral character and be prepared to attend drills regularly. They must also successfully pass a basic physical examination very similar to that required of a regular Navy enlistee.
 - The primary objectives of cadet training are to foster good citizenship and interest and appreciation of our nation's maritime services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.
 - The sea cadet activities consist of:
 - Monthly Drill at Andrew's AFB- once a month Saturdays and Sundays

- Summer training: boot camp and other trainings
 - Working at the Andrew's AFB Joint Service Day
 - Marching in the Memorial Day Parade
 - Attending other functions
 - Shipboard training at Norfolk, VA
 - Attending military concerts and other military functions
- Contact information is:
 - **Commanding Officer**
LCDR Nathan Rolfe
co@cmcorsairs.com
443-306-4681
 - **Executive Officer**
NSCC ENS Diana White
xo@cmcorsairs.com
443-535-3763
- Ms. Keitzman, Surratts-Clinton Library Teen Department - Ms. Keitzman provided information on the teen-focused programs in the Prince George's County Library System. Surratts Clinton location, contact and hours:
 - Address : 9400 Piscataway RD.
Clinton, MD 20735
Tel : (301) 868-9200
TTY : (301) 808-2061
 - Hours :
Mon.-Thurs. 10am-9pm;
Fri. 10am-6pm;
Sat. 10am-5pm
Sun. 1-5pm (Sunday after Labor Day through mid-June)

She mentioned the following programs:

- **Game On!** – For teens, who love gaming or want to game but don't have a console. Gaming nights are held at many PGCMLS branches. The schedule is:
 - **November 24 - Do Gaming? A Competition of Teams 3:30 pm Hillcrest Heights Branch.** Teams will compete for prizes as they play video games such as Naruto: Ultimate Ninja 3, SoulCalibur, Star Wars Battlefront, Dragon Ball Z and SmackDown! vs. Raw (games are selected at the discretion of the library staff). Registration required. Ages 12-18.
 - **November 29/December 13 Gaming Daze: Play Video Games @ Your Library 2 pm Beltsville Branch.** Ages 13 –18. Teens will have the opportunity to play video games on a Nintendo Wii and Xbox 360.
- **Looking Ahead to College** - Eighth through eleventh grade students and parents can participate in a three-part workshop series to prepare for college both academically and financially.

Cash for College, Thursday, December 4, 7:00 pm Hyattsville Branch

Paying for college is a key concern for most families. Meihua Zhai, director of research and policy analysis at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), will provide the important financial aid information for students and parents. He'll offer guidance on when and where to start looking for financial aid and suggest helpful resources. NASFAA is a nonprofit organization representing financial aid professionals and focused on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis and training.

- **Connect & Learn @your library - Homework Help**
 - **Live Homework Help**
Interactive Online Tutoring - Students get immediate, free help from qualified tutors in math, science, social studies and English (K-12, college intro & adult learner) from 3-11 pm. Tutors speak Spanish and English.
 - **Testing & Education Reference Center**
Practice Tests & eBooks - Work online to practice standardized tests for college and grad school admissions, employment, and citizenship, plus eBooks, college and career search help.
 - **Research Databases**
Online References - Research databases include electronic encyclopedias (Encyclopedia Britannica, Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos and more), historical and literary resources. Facts for Learning (a scholastic database), search tools such as Searchasaurus and many other great reference sources to help with reports and research projects.
 - **AskUsNow**
24/7 Live Online Reference Service
Even when the Library is closed, students can get answers to their questions, help with homework, or just satisfy their wild curiosity through live online question and answer sessions with librarians. También en español.
 - **Teen Advisory Board** – To hear what teens want at the Library. Teens have fun, help plan and run events and can earn volunteer hours for this community service activity. They just need to contact Surratts-Clinton Branch to apply. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 2, at 7 pm

Treasure's Report: Ms. Bridget Ali presented the October Treasurers report.

Beginning balance October 1, 2008	\$1015.63
Receipts:	
Membership Dues	\$17.44
Book Fair	\$2752.06
Total	\$2769.50
Reimbursements:	
	\$0.00

Total	\$0.00
Disbursements:	
Payment PGPS Men's Day	\$63.40
Book Fair Payment	\$1816.06
Total	\$1879.46
Bank Fee	
	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00
Ending Balance, October 31, 2008:	\$1905.67

Mr. Rivers made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report and Sherri Clemons seconded the motion.

Membership Update: There was a request for membership cards made. This will be looked into and discussed further at our next schedule meeting. Membership application are available and can be obtained by contacting Membership Chair, Ms. Cindy Brooks or President Coleman.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes: The October PTSA Meeting Minutes were unavailable for approval. President Coleman decided and the members present agreed to approve the October Meeting Minutes at our next scheduled meeting. (December 16, 2008). Secretary Lisa Williams will be contacted to provide the meeting minutes via email for posting to the GPMS website.

Student Highlights: President Coleman reported that the PTSA would like to recognize our students for their achievements and participation in the PTSA. Names of students to be highlighted can be sent via email to President Coleman prior to each meeting so the student can be recognized during the meeting.

Inauguration Day: PGCPSS has decided to close schools for on January 20, 2009 for Inauguration Day.

Proposed Budget Allocations: \$200.00 was proposed for the Renaissance program and \$250.00 was proposed for the parent programs run by the parent liaison. The membership voted and agreed to make these budget allocations.

Mr. Rivers made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Capacine Abdul-Aziz.