

PTSC GENERAL MEETING Minutes September 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm.

President's Report - After welcoming those attending, Co-President Martha Sapp introduced the current Executive Board, and all administrators present (see below). She also thanked the outgoing President, Yvonne Prater, for her hard work and devotion to the PTSC.

PTSC Executive Board

- Co-Presidents: Rachel Glickel and Martha Sapp
Treasurer: Andrea Swangler
- Corresponding Secretary: Janice DeJohn
- Recording Secretary: Natalka Weismantel
- Parent Representatives: Cheryl Bohonyi
Wendy Bogle
Beth Hibbard
Elizabeth Major
Elaine Mealy
Deann Szatkowski
- Student Representatives: Nick DeJohn
David Prater
Jamie Taylor
- Administration: Doug Newman and Rosetta Treece

Attending Administrators

- Superintendent: Dr. James Sarruda
- High School: Principal Craig Wigley; Assistant Principals Douglas Newman, Maggy Hanna, and Matt Konowicz
- Middle School: Principal Andrew Kearns and Assistant Principal Rosetta Treece

Next, Martha gave an introductory overview of the PTSC:

Overview of PTSC

- PTSC stands for **P**arent **T**eacher **S**tudent **C**onnection
- Our main purpose is to host events that benefit the students and school. These events raise funds which we then to give back to the students and school in one way or another (mini grants for teacher members, scholarships for graduating student members). Last year we gave mini grants totaling about \$1K. We also raise money for books by hosting a book fair in the Middle School. We do not ask members to buy or sell anything to raise funds.
- Our function is to do whatever we can for the students of Northern Burlington County Regional High and Middle Schools
- We encourage parents to be involved, to keep track of what's going on, and to send us any ideas you have for how we can improve the school. Obviously, if you

have any issue with the school, you should talk to the administration first. But we are also here as an advocacy group, a voice for parents.

- Website – The PTSC has a link on Northern’s pages, as well as a Calendar of Events
 - Email - NBurlingtonPTSC@gmail.com.
 - Mailboxes - We also have mailboxes in both the middle school and high school, so you’re welcome to drop off a note.
 - We have a Facebook page and are currently looking for someone to administer it. More information will follow.
 - Membership dues: \$5 for a family
 - You’ll be included in a directory which will be emailed out (by Thanksgiving).
 - You’ll receive monthly emails, telling you what’s going on.
 - PTSC upcoming Events before next General Meeting
 - Middle School Book Fair – 10/25-10/29 (volunteers needed; please email the PTSC if you are able to work.)
 - “Kiss the Cast” – High School Drama – 11/12 and 11/13
 - Fall Clothing Drive – 11/15 – 11/21 (drop off clothes, blankets, shoes, stuffed animals at the Middle School Barn)
 - Mini-grant deadline for member teachers - 11/19
 - Barnes & Noble/Red Robin fundraiser – shop at Barnes & Noble and/or eat at Red Robin, showing a PTSC flyer and we get a percentage of the sales. These fundraisers will benefit the High School.
- Future events:** guidance department presentation, talent show, Senior Citizens prom
- **Sign-up sheets** are in the back of the Cafetorium to sign up for various things:
 - Thanks for Giving Dance
 - Middle School Book Fair
 - Baking - the only time the PTSC asks parents to bake is for the two Back-to-School Nights: High School – Thursday, September 17 and Middle School – Wednesday, September 23. Sign up sheets for those are in the back, also.

In closing, Martha noted that middle school and high school students need less hand-holding day to day than elementary school students, but that better communication becomes *more* important at this age. The PTSC stresses open communication through the Newsletter (detailed information), website, and member input.

Treasurer’s Report – given by Andrea Swangler

High School Reports – Overview by Principal Craig Wigley

Mr. Wigley, our new high school Principal, introduced himself by stressing his emphasis on communication, as well as his commitment to his visibility in the school.

Activity Report –by Assistant Principal Doug Newman
9/16 - Back to School Night

9/20-21 - Senior Portrait Make-ups (3-8 p.m.)
9/27-10/1 - Spirit Week
10/2 – Homecoming (carnival, not parade)
10/5-7 – HESPA Re-test

Middle School Reports - Overview by Principal Andrew Kearns

Mr. Kearns, new Principal of the Middle School, explained the organization of the middle school students into teams, calling this the guiding principle of the school. He also emphasized the need for students to get involved in extracurricular activities, stating that students do better academically when they are involved.

Activity Report – by Assistant Principal Rosetta Treece

9/22 – Back To School Night (6:30 p.m.)
Student Government: Declarations of Intent are due
End of Sept – fundraisers for classes
Week of 10/19 – Fall Drama meetings/auditions
Fri 10/22 – First Dance (no ticket sales at the door!)

Ms. Treece closed by reaffirming Mr. Kearns’ statement about the benefits of student involvement, and reminded those present that the Student Congress and the Class Officers (Council) offer both 7th and 8th graders opportunities for involvement.

Superintendent’s Address – Dr. James Sarruda

Dr. Sarruda opened by acknowledging Marie Goodwin, the only Board of Education member present. Next, he spoke of how the marching band had jumpstarted his fall school year with the strains of “Shenandoah” wafting in through his open window, and recounted how he had gone outside to thank the band for this touching moment.

Dr. Sarruda next addressed how the PTSC could best serve its students: by standing up for student needs among many constituencies and causes. He asked the PTSC to discuss students’ needs, to vote, and to make recommendations, in this way speaking for the students. He said he hears from many vocal interest groups, and is specifically asking to hear from this one, too.

Moving to budgetary concerns, Dr. Sarruda spoke of the need to be ready for further budget cuts over the coming years. Likening the process to many businesses that have had to “re-tool” to weather the current conditions, he said the district would need to design or re-design sustainable programs, tailoring them to what can be sustained. He stressed that we will not be able to sustain them all, saying that he expects to have fewer administrators, faculty, and support staff. To involve the PTSC in addressing these concerns, Dr. Sarruda asked for the Co-Presidents and two additional PTSC board members to work with him over the next three to four months, re-examining and re-designing possibilities in order to make intelligent trade-offs.

Looking ahead, Dr. Sarruda said this planning was being implemented to prevent surprises in terms of budgeting, such as we sustained last year. At that time, a significant reduction (\$480,000/month) had to be absorbed during the existing budget cycle. Likening the process to

the BP oil spill, he said it's one thing to stop the gushing oil, but another to develop a long-term strategy. In this, he once more stressed the need to work together.

Dr. Sarruda closed by paraphrasing a presentation he had attended, which focused on the core American values such as honor, valor, and respect. He asked for a move away from negativity and disrespect and towards positives. April 2011 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the NBC district, and should be cause for celebration.

Q&A Period

A question was asked about crowded classrooms. Dr. Sarruda responded by saying that identifying overpopulated and under-populated classes and programs, and re-distributing budgeting accordingly, are what he is after with his proposal. Last year, the district anticipated \$2 million in cuts, and was faced with \$4 million; this time, he wants to be ready for anything.

There was a request for circulation of minutes to parents who were unable to attend. Martha Sapp responded that all minutes will be posted on the school website.

Next General Meeting - Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Cafetorium. Topic to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalka Pavlovsky Weismantel, Recording Secretary