

J.E.B. Stuart PTSA Meeting

March 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the President, Cindy Waters. A list of attendees is attached to the original records of the minutes.

Approval of minutes: Approval of the minutes of the February 17 PTSA meeting was deferred until April to give everyone time to review the draft.

Principal's Report and SGA Report – Pamela Jones – Ms. Jones discussed a conference she attended at Glasgow MS with approximately 120 people in attendance. The group discussed the transition from middle school to high school, MYP and AVID programs and how they work with the Stuart curriculum. Graduation rates and college attendance were also discussed.

An open house for special education will be held March 31 with parents from Glasgow and Poe Middle Schools in attendance. March 29 is the date for the Regional Science Fair at Robinson. Touching Bases was successful, having more attendees and more space than the previous event. Ms. Jones mentioned that “belt-tightening” regarding staffing is in the works. An example she cited is that IB Chemistry will not be offered in the 2009-10 school year but will be offered for 2010-2011. A minimum enrollment of 25 is required for a class to form. She has not yet received numbers from FCPS regarding staffing. She is basing all general education staffing based on 30 to 1 ratio. April 24 is the date of the staffing meeting. Currently, there are 1614 students at JEB Stuart HS. The current ratios are: English – 27:1; Teachers' loads – 150:1; Art – 80:1 and PE 200:1.

All high schools have lost staffing with the current formula. Stuart gets more due to free and reduced lunch, etc. There is not much flexibility to changing classes except for adjustments from honors to regular classes.

Guidance Report – Deborah Guillen gave the report of the Guidance Department. She announced that registration is complete and it went very quickly. She emphasized that making changes would be very difficult. The March 4 Parent Coffee had between 5 and 10 attendees.

Dates to remember:

April 3 – Honor Roll Reception

April 6-10 – Spring Break

April 22 – College Fair – George Mason Patriot Center

April 29-30 – Senior Conferences

May 2 – SAT (at Stuart)

ACT – April 4, June 13 (not at Stuart)

May – 2 senior seminars will be held.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Gallagher announced that Joe McAndrew (Athletic Booster Treasurer) will meet with treasurers of various boosters/clubs to provide tips regarding financial oversight and responsibility and procedurs.

Taste of the Town – Peggy Veroneau (TOT Treasurer) estimated the event generated approximately \$10,000 profit which could increase once the accounts are settled. She emphasized it is not accurate to compare previous years' TOT's to this year since it was completely reconfigured.

Nominating Committee – Joni Laurence, Yo Herron, Nancy Moy and Laura May were recommended to be the Nominating Committee for Board and committee positions for the 2009-2010 SY. It was MOVED (Rosse) and SECONDED (Veroneau) to approve the appointment of the Committee. The motion PASSED. Folks are encouraged to step forward. The election will be held in May.

Grants Committee – Ann Parks announced 6 requests for grants were reviews and all were approved. A complete report is attached hereto. The following grants were announced: \$250 Jennifer Bruck; \$233.10 Melissa Duprat; \$200 Doug Martin; \$250 Sharon Ponton; \$140.50 Jude Welling; \$120 Dale Whitesell.

Education Committee – Milissa Rowcliffe announced the “safe driving” presentation was a success. The next presentation will be for Hispanic parents at the end of April. A day-long presentation at Oakton HS dealing with drug awareness will be held.

All Night Party – Kathi Dutihl announced plans are progressing well for the event. The annual mulch deliver is taking place over the weekend.

Athletic Boosters – Erik Andersen spoke on behalf of the Athletic Boosters. He discussed financial procedures that had been put in place. May elections for officers will be held. They are currently working on revising the AB bylaws by using George Mason HS as a model format. He made a request for volunteers for the Raider Run which is the same day as Falls Church HS' run – they are working on getting police support for these events.

Band Boosters – Debbie Rosse announced that for the fourth year in a row, Stuart is a Blue Ribbon Honor Band in the festival.

Crew Boosters – Veronica Kinney announced Crew has 27 rowers this year. The first car wash fundraiser will be held March 21 at the Hess Station on Columbia Pike. The Crew will kick off its season with a family pasta party on March 27, the night before the first regatta at the Occoquan. Veronica expressed the appreciation of the Crew team for Ms. Jones and the Stuart staff who helped with bus transportation logistics for the team to get to practice. While the Crew is not supported financially by the county or the school, the school is instrumental in working with the team on various issues.

Drama Boosters – Rachelle Ashour reminded everyone that the spring play – “Little Shop of Horrors” will be performed March 26-28.

Hospitality Committee – Joni Laurence announced the next event will be the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, May 1. Also, gently-used books are being collected for this event.

Fundraising – Peggy Veroneau reminded everyone to sign up for Giant, Harris Teeter, Office Depot and Target school-support programs.

Cindy Waters thanked everyone for their hard work during Taste of the Town.

Stuart Education Foundation – Cindy Waters announced a 50th Anniversary challenge for each of the graduating classes would be conducted as a fundraiser for the foundation.

Cindy Waters announced the next meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting will be March 25. The budget timeline is as follows – March 30, April 1-2 – public hearings; April 27 – Board of Supervisors approves; May 21 – School Board adopts budget.

Newsletter articles are due the Thursday after each meeting by 3:00 p.m. (3/19) and should be submitted electronically. The newsletter is only available as an electronic document.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Warner Derzon
Secretary

(Attachments to Original Minutes)