

September 19, 2006
J.E.B. Stuart PTSA Meeting

Welcome/Introductions - PTSA President, Beth Santos

Introductions around the table, 37 in attendance.

Welcome to our new principal, Pamela Jones. Although it's a hard job to start as a new principal, Pamela has already made improvements, including daily announcements on the webpage, and PSAT administration to entire school on a weekday.

Minutes Accepted

Principal's Report – Pamela Jones

Thank you for help with Back to School packets, it was the fastest packet stuffing ever. Raider Day was big success, we plan to move it to the gym next year to accommodate the larger attendance and are considering letting seniors get their packets on same day as senior pictures next year. The Faculty feels this was one of the smoothest school openings ever, thanks in a big part to guidance. We have problems with singleton courses and guidance did a great job of matching students with classes this year.

Staffing – Stuart staffed at 1470 enrollment at the end of last year. Capital improvement put Stuart at 1507, actual enrollment is 1506. We will probably add a section US/VA history, 11th or 12th grade English, Active physics, and 4 sections ESOL. There may be adjustments to schedules, may be three additional teaching contracts for extra classes and one ESOL staff member will probably be added.

Reduction in budget- we recovered about 48% of the loss, we lost about \$52,000 and are not feeling a great impact yet--had not had to deny funds, with the exception of school supplies. There is funding we can apply for if needed.

PSAT test day will be October 18th and will be a school day for all students, including seniors. First period will be until 8:00 am, then the test period will be 170 minutes. During this time seniors will have a class meeting, senior and guidance activities. PSAT will be given to all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders except A level ESOL students. All sophomores will be graded and receive report, freshmen and juniors will receive grade report if they are registered. Registration will be available at back to school night.

Parking lot – have received several emails regarding parking lot, have changed drop off and traffic seems to be flowing better. There is no drop off where the buses go, so there is less merge problem.

Back to school night news – there will be PSAT registration, KIT sign up, 10-12 Spanish translators (Spanish IB students).

Website changes – more colorful, daily announcements have been added, hope to keep website up to date and more user friendly this year.

Questions – Did swim coach get hired? Yes, Lindsay Foelbar.

Did crew coach get hired? Check with athletic boosters.

Where will lab be set up for Keep in Touch registration at Back to School night? By the attendance office, Nancy Moy will be there with two teachers, Diane Kilbourne is looking for additional volunteers.

How many students make a class too large? SOL classes – 28, other classes 30-32, try to keep them smaller.

Student Government Association Report – Alex Solomon, President, SGA

All officers have been elected for the year – sophomore, junior, and seniors were elected last year and freshmen last week.

Homecoming will be October 21. Decade themes were voted on – Seniors 50s, Juniors 60s, Sophomores 80's, and Freshmen 20's. Spirit week is Oct 16-20, with daily themes and points awarded. Float building starts Friday. If you are lending your home/garage/yard for float building or are purchasing supplies, you need to sign paperwork at SGA desk at Back to school night on Thursday, Sept 21.

Guidance Report – Deborah Guillen

Good involvement at Freshmen Parent Night in August, and Freshmen student orientation Friday before school started.

Junior/Senior Parent night was 9/13 – please email Kari Kelly with thoughts for next year's program. Should we include college reps?

The guidance office will be open from 7 am – 7 pm Wednesday Sept 20, and 7 am – 4:30 pm on Thursday for Senior/Parent appointments.

College visits are listed on website and posted at Career center. Kari Kelly emails updates from Career Center weekly to all those with email registered on blackboard.

PSAT – Students need to register if they want to get scores. Scores are important for juniors, (used for Merit Scholarships) and the test booklet is helpful to get back. There will be sign up available in Career Center.

There will be Sallie Mae Seminar on college financing on October 12. There will be College Fair October 15 at Fair Oaks Mall and October 16 at Hayfield High School. This is a good basic information source with about 400 colleges attending.

Interims will be distributed September 26 during the last period.

The first quarter ends October 27, report cards will be distributed November 9.

We have three new guidance counselors, parents and students are always welcome to make appointments to answer questions or just get to know them.

Karen Aiken (Maq-Pes) is retiring at winter break, seniors need to give her lots of notice for recommendations to be completed prior to her departure.

Parent request cards will be available at Back to School night if you have questions for counselors.

The Career Center will have evening hours in the fall by Appointment.

Pamela Jones stated she is working with Deidre Lavery, Principal, Glasgow to increase communication. Robert Harrison, MYP coordinator at Glasgow, will be at Stuart weekly.

What about communications with Poe? Pam is in same county group with Sonya Swansbrough, new principal at Poe, and they speak regularly, which will improve communication with Poe. Liz Bojtos, guidance, will be working with Poe students on registration.

Teacher Requests **Fall Festival – Cheryl Binkley**

“Our Town” will be performed November 16-19. Spring musical will be “South Pacific”. The spring show will be the Cappie show for this year. About 50 schools compete for Cappies and usually only 12-14 received nominations, Stuart has received nominations for the last two years.

Groups that are fundraising may want to sell items prior to the fall show opening night on November 16 from 5-7 pm. The idea is for a “Fall Festival” in the Auxillary Gym with the Boosters clubs, PTSA, All Night Party and other groups to set up booths for fundraising and holiday shopping. We would try to get more involvement in the fall show with a more festive environment. Other ideas include a pre show dinner. Debbie O’Rouke in the Activities office is enthusiastic about the idea. What does the PTSA think?

Discussion and questions:

Will craft people be invited? School groups have first priority for sales and publicity
Can All Night Party do sales on all nights? Sales can be open for all, except for food items, which is the fundraiser for Drama Booster sales – prefer to have general sales on opening night.

Who would organize? The groups interested in participating and the activities office will help.

Could we do this on Sunday or another night instead of opening night? Probably, Sunday show is in the afternoon. Discussion re merit of Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

This is a good opportunity for the Athletic boosters to sell to a wider diversity of people. The boosters would support it. Friday or Saturday would be better. (Mark Edmondson)

Conclusion:

Beth Santos: This is a good idea, Drama is not asking the PTSA to be in charge, but inviting to participate, the PTSA will help with promotion and each group that wants to

participate will take care of themselves, Drama would advertise event along with the play. **PTSA supports the “Fall Festival” event, preferably for Friday or Saturday. Cheryl Binkley will check with Activities Department re Friday or Saturday.**

2007 Graduation Rebecca Watt

In coordinating graduation this year we are considering having the girls wear red robes instead of white robes. In the past the girls have had problems with what to wear under the white robes and red would be another choice since it is a school color. The initial vote of the seniors was 2/3 stay with white, 1/3 change to red, and have different color for boys and girls.

Discussion on the appropriateness and whether there are any cultural considerations to wearing red robes. Are white robes more difficult to photograph? No.

Conclusion – try to have samples of both red and white robes at the PSAT day senior events and have the seniors vote on color.

Treasurer’s Report Peggy Veroneau

The 2006-07 Budget, Expenses to date and JEB Stuart Audit Committee Report were distributed. Membership is down a little this year. We received \$2300 from grocery receipts at the end of last year and we will push this again this year.

The Audit Report was reviewed, recommending that two signatures be required on checks over \$1000. A motion was made to accept it. Kathleen McBride noted that bank will not enforce the two signature requirement and often it is difficult to get the checks signed and recommended two signatures on the request form rather than checks.

Discussion followed noting that: there are few checks that are over \$1000, Athletic Boosters required two signatures, we could have more than just two people authorized to sign checks. **Motion to approve Audit report as currently written, motion seconded and approved.**

Choral/Orchestra boosters have not cashed the Taste of the Town checks. Boosters report checks have been deposited, but not yet cleared bank.

VP School Activities, Mary Beth Slack

Academic Committee – Tammy Wiles Martin – During the September 7 meeting the Guidance Department introduced our new counselors and reviewed services available for students. On Thursday October 5 there will be an IB informational meeting with David Roylance, Stuart IB Coordinator, speaking. This meeting will be most helpful for ninth and tenth grade parents. The Thursday, November 2, will have a presentation by Tracy Hartley, a counselor at the Fairfax High School Arts Academy for faculty, staff, and parents. It will be announced on the calendar and through KIT. Academic Committee meetings are at 7:30 pm in room I150.

All Night Grad Party – Susan Soloman – Graduation will be June 1. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month. We plan to reserve the Audrey Moore Rec Center and will try to use a theme similar to the prom to save on money and planning. (007 James Bond theme possible for class of '07)

Athletic Boosters – Mark Edmondson – We had our first meeting, our next meeting will be October 2 at 7:30 pm in the library. The Raider Challenge is on. (possible problem with the link in the emails was noted, Mark will look into). The new school athletic department website, www.raidersports.org, is up and running and is an excellent tool for school sports information. The Boosters have a new website as well. Please attend sports. We will be opening concessions for football and field hockey.

Question: can we link raidersports website from Stuart website? A: it's being worked on. Contact Diane Weeks for booster passes; they will be distributed at the game.

Band Boosters – Debbie Rosse – Our first competition was at Woodbridge, we placed third out of thirteen bands. The next competition will be on the 30th and next football game performance will be October 6. We are happy about our new uniforms. For information on the band booster website contact Debbie.

Poe Liaison – Debbie Rosse – The next Artspeak at Poe will be October 16th at 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall, featuring Meg Gillentine. There will be student interview and a performance. IB Theatre students can purchase \$10 tickets to see Cabaret at Arena Stage.

Choral Boosters – Lori O'Neil – The Madrigals will be performing at VEMA competition this year on November 17th at the Homestead.

Hospitality – Deborah Peeples – Desserts are needed for the Back to School night teacher dinner. Please drop off at the front office by 4:30 pm.

Orchestra Boosters – Maria Haynes – The Symphonic Orchestra will play September 21 at Back to School night. We have a meeting October 6 at 7:30 pm.

Parent Ed Programs – Amelia Gomez – College Counselor, Ruth Pearlstein will speak to students and parents on the college application process, college essays, courses, etc at a meeting on October 9 at 7:30 pm. Send Amelia an email with any questions for discussion. Discussion – October 9 is Columbus Day holiday – Amelia will try to reschedule and send out info on KIT.

Another idea for speaker is on drug and alcohol information.

Discussion: (Pam Jones) The school has a speakers list from the county office that she will give to Amelia. The Safe and Drug Free Youth Office will be having a speaker at a faculty meeting. The school security officer will be speaking to seniors on PSAT day re homecoming and what police officers are looking for when they patrol. A “crashed car” may be placed in front of the school as well. He is a “proactive” officer. Drug and alcohol use is a problem we underestimate.

Amelia will pick a date for a speaker.

Internet safety is an issued covered at Poe, (Debbie Rosse)

Special Ed Reps- There will be a meeting Monday evening for orientation for special ed and to set date for speakers. Email Annemarie with any ideas.

Volunteers – Volunteers for Back to school night are needed.

VP Fundraising – Diane Weeks

Barnes and Noble night is Tuesday, December 5, 6-9:30 pm.

Grocery receipts are off to a slow start.

Some donations are already coming in for Taste of the Town.

Please note the ad in the Student Directory (back of cover page) for TT Nails, where you can get a discount and a \$1 donation will be made to Stuart.

VP Communications – Kathi Dutilh

Legislative Rep – George Waters – Fairfax County is losing \$17 million from the accounting error. Fifty percent of that has been returned. All will be returned if/when the state legislature appropriates the lost funds as expected. Bob Hull is working on and we need to urge Republican delegates to pass this legislation. Some schools lost great amounts. \$138 million was lost in entire state, \$17 million in Fairfax. Fairfax County discovered the accounting error. Have asked Kaye Kory for county list of each schools' loss.

Superintendent's Ad. Council. Rep. - George Waters (reporting for Cindi Waters) –

The School Board is embarking on the strategic governance initiative, trying to reduce parental input into policy decisions. They have created an ad hoc committee to work on this, with no public hearings. The initiative would get rid of committees which are not required by law and defer authority to the superintendent with out public input. The School Board is who we vote for and this would completely restructure the school board. There should be more public input into this decision. The four person ad hoc committee working on this is headed by Kathy Smith, and includes Dan Storck, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, and Brad Center.

Membership – Beth Gilmore – We have 200 members. Membership cards can be picked up at Back to School night. New members can join at Back to School night.

Newsletter – Go Babaoglu – Articles are due Thursday. We are thinking of presenting articles on new drivers and what to expect. **Liz Rissell** – an email went out requesting articles, please send to: jebnews@yahoo.com.

Parent Handbook/Website – Kathi Dutilh – The Parent Handbook will not be published this year, the Student planner and Stuart website has the information already. Nancy Moy has done a great job on our PTSA website: stuartptsa.org.

Beth Santos – Sarah Nash has done a great job on the Student Directory. They will be available at Back to School night for \$5. Each student will receive one on Monday, September 25.

Hispanic PTSA – Nelly Samaniego – The first Hispanic parent meeting will be held on September 26 in the Little Theatre with the Minority Student Achievement Committee speaking. The goals for this year are to increase involvement in school activities and increase membership. Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 – October 15. The Hispanic Heritage celebration is scheduled for Thursday, October 5 in the cafeteria at 2:15. Everyone is invited and students who would like to work the event will receive community service hours.

New Business – Beth Santos

Benches & Trash Cans – Kristina Crane is investing purchasing benches and trash cans for the front of the school with funds from last year. She will be reviewing with Pam.

Adjourned.