

**Fairfax High School  
PTSA Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2008**

**Attendees:**

Shelly Bechert, Scott Brabrand, Mark Campbell, Mary DeOrnellas, Frances Dowd, Theresa Giroux, Linda Hancock, Tammy Harper, Heike Harrup, Clai Jorgensen, Susan Kuck, Teresa Liarakos, Lisa MacCommon, Erika McGrath, Diane Mortiere, Katharine Schultz, Joan Szabo, Clare Talbert, Judy Thurston, Pam Wagner, Kay Walters, Laura Welke, Janice Wyatt

**Student Representative:** Frances Dowd

- Can Food Drive is in progress.
- Core Groups- environmental group, Gater Bowl tournament

**Head Librarian:** Ann Voss

- Happy to be at FHS!
- Online resources-databases are available under FHS library tab.
- She encourages students to get away from Google & Wikipedia
- Be green- send articles to yourself
- Water is allowed in library (no candy, please!!)
- Students in library work hard during R & R

**School Board Report:**

- Channel 12 or City web site- click on School Board
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month is a work session

## Hot buttons:

- Budget: cuts are significant (3 tiers are proposed)
- Change of start time for High School
- Fairgrade- modifying grading scale
- We need to work together & supplement where we can.
- There is the added pressure of additional students

**Principal's Report: Dr. Brabrand**

- Recognize the wonderful support from the City School Board.
- Class size may raise by 2.5 students
- Central office reductions have been proposed
- Removing APs proposed
- He is going to do everything that he can to keep teachers and programs
- Enrollment is going up (100 this year)
- If class size goes up, fewer class sections are needed
- There will be an election in Feb. to fill Gerry Connolly's chairmanship
- Dr. Brabrand cannot imagine have to go beyond the Tier 3 budget proposal.

## Good news:

- Fairgrade- more credit for Pre AP, AP, Honor courses
- 40% of students have not taken an AP (at least one)
- 20% take many
- 21% less F's- across every group
- 50% less F's in AP, Pre AP, Honors

- Library- busy place during R & R
- Weds.- Political person coming here to visit classes
- Exciting- Cheer was runner up at states
- Fall Sports Banquet tomorrow
- Every angle will be pursued to minimize impact of budget
- Every transcript has an explanation of the grading scale, every high school has their own addendum to transcripts. Fair grade brings up issues that should be discussed.
- Dr. Brabrand likes the idea of increasing credit for AP.
- We'll get through it.
- Go to City School Board and County School Board and let them know what is important
- Will be spending judiciously for remaining of the year
- Few small things to complete renovation (some remaining money)

**President's Report:** Clai Jorgensen

- Go to County budget web site & make comments- 1500 words. It gives you a voice and they listen.
- Can Food Drive- need is great!
- National Gallery of Art- field trip- Photography- needs chaperones
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Capitol Steps
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Night 7:00
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>- All Night Grad
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday PTA Dinner 7:00
- Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> Multipurpose Room – Bullying/Harassment Training
- Cluster VII- Vertical training- Trust/Honesty-Books-Instructional Coaches- 5 stages of the brain

**Secretary:** Clare Talbert

- October Minutes approved

**Treasurer:** Lisa MacCammon

- \$11, 555 in budget
- \$1500 in dues will be paid out soon

**Academic Boosters:** Shelly Bechert

- Academic Recognition- 100 attended out of 500
- How can we get more kids there?
- Discussing having it during R & R or maybe an extended Pride Time
- Looking at other ideas to increase attendance
- Thank you for the Honor Roll in the hallway
- Students will be designing the display

**Band Boosters:** Joan Szabo

- Distribution of fundraisers this weekend
- Pizza and snacks in Jan.
- Greens- pick up Thursday night
- Concerts Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>

**Orchestra Boosters:** Tammy Harper

- Jerry Chen, Violin, and Stephen Miskimins, Bass, both represented Fairfax HS at the Senior Regional Orchestra this weekend at West Potomac HS.
- Intermediate Orchestra Concert- Dec. 16, 2008 at 7:30pm in the auditorium
- Advanced Orchestra Concert- Dec. 18, 2008 at 7:30pm in the auditorium
- Pie Sale ends on Nov. 14th

**Newsletter:** Judy Thurston

- Mailed on Sat.
- Opt- out
- Will send another reminder

**Athletic Boosters:** Mary DeOrnellas

- Fall Sports Banquet is tomorrow.

**Academy:** Heike Harrup

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Academy- Creative Leader's Project- professionally oriented, professional trainer (leadership), ethics in the workplace (panel), focus in their professional (ie., state dept. diplomats-working with language students)- PTSA welcome to attend (Contact Heike)

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>- Teacher of the year- Mr. Kinne (oversight that he is not in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year in FCPS- he taught 2 years in TEACH for America)

“Next to Normal” at Arena Stage on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>- Rock musical \$10.00 & meeting cast after the show

Rebel Round Up- record attendance!! Thank you for providing it! Faculty loved it!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.