

**Fairfax High School
PTSA Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2009**

Attendees:

Scott Brabrand, Shelly Bechert, Lisa Evers, Linda Hancock, Tammy Harper, Heike Harrup, Clai Jorgensen, Sharon Kourtz, Susan Kuck, Teresa Liarakos, Renate Manville, David Meyer, Toni Milmoe, Diane Mortiere, Jeanine & Mitch Neal, Katharine Schultz, Joan & Jule Szabo, Clare Talbert, Judy Thurston, Pam Wagner, Laura Welke, Janice Wyatt

Presentation on Peer Mentoring: Jeannine Neal, Joan Hartman
& Peer Mediation students

Peer Mentoring is important because:

- It can be easier to talk to a peer.
- A student can come or a teacher can recommend.
- PTSA for helped to pay tuition to Peer Mediation Conference.
- Improvisation is used to demonstrate various issues (like teasing, harassing, cyber bullying)

Steps to Mediation to resolve conflict include:

- Sit down face to face
- Parties tell their side of the story
- Mediators facilitate
- Discuss needs and solutions
- Agreement can be written or not

Improvisation: Peer Mediators act out situations, audience ask questions to uncover issues and come up with solutions. The students presented a sample improvisation for the PTSA.

Principal's Report: Dr. Brabrand

- Happy New Year!!
- Kids are amazing here!
- Peer Mediation has an increased presence at Fairfax.
- A threat assessment team is in place.
- Peer Mediation is very proactive.
- Many times peers help peers- does not work in all situations.
- Please go to public hearing & speak about budget.
- There are 3 Tiers of proposed budget cuts. Tier 3 would have the most impact on schools.
- Budget is most important issue rather than Fairgrade or start time.
- Your story needs to be heard! These are not ordinary times!
- Start time change is not a money issue. What is the merit? Middle School Principals are against it. Take a position!
- Grading scale- Doesn't feel that we needed to change grading scale, but supported change in points awarded for AP. Honors, Pre-AP, AP and dual enrollment are

being looked at. He believes in students taking the most challenging courses that they can handle. It might take place this year-AP only.

- Interims are better @ FHS.
- Langley HS and Loudoun Co. HS are coming to visit R& R at FHS.
- Late buses for Thursdays cut. There will be 4 late buses for SOL review.
- Athletics going well.
- Latin Team won this weekend.
- The play “Singing in the Rain” is coming soon!
- There is some renovation being done on the field.
- Planning to renumber the classrooms.
- A technology plan has been submitted to the School Board.
- Jan. 22nd is the 1st Budget Meeting
- We can still do good things for kids in these tough economic times!
- Heike presented that Dr. Brabrand keeps the environment at FHS positive.
- Going to add computers to classroom as class size goes up. He hopes to buy equipment this spring.

Academic Boosters: Shelly Bechert

- Need help with “Rebels on the Rise” Breakfast,
 - Feb 24th with food and set up
 - Feb 25th at Breakfast
- Honor Rolls are up and look terrific!

Cluster VII: Renate Manville

- Presentation about Understanding Poverty was interesting.

Box Tops for Education: Lisa Evers

Lisa would like to collect and donate the proceeds this year to Doswell Brooks Elem. (a needy school) if that is okay.

Sign up on Speakers List for Budget Hearings- Important to be involved!

Feb. 18th is Rebel Round Up

Gym lockers have been broken into.

Students need to:

- Lock the locks completely
- Not leave stuff outside lockers
- FHS investigates the best they can.

“**Singing in the Rain**” should be a great show!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.