

**Fairfax High School
PTSA Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2010**

Attendees: Laura Allsopp, Wayne Applewhite, Teryl Baker, Chris Duda, Lucy Edwards, Lynne Fernandes, Dave Goldfarb, Linda Hancock, Clai Jorgensen, Lisa MacCammon, Katie MacCammon, Laurie Ross, Clare Talbert, Tracy Tien, Laura Welke

Student Representative: Katie MacCammon

- May 27th Powder Puff: 6:00 Freshman/Sophomore 7:00 or 7:15 Junior/Senior
- May 22nd- Mr. Fairfax- 7:00 or 7:15; 22 guys have signed up
- Spirit Week April 19-23 (Mon.- Pajama Day, Tues.- Neon Day, Weds.- Jersey Day, Thurs.- Wacky Tacky Day, Fri.- Class Colors Day)
- Disease Awareness: Mon.- Leukemia (green), Tues.- Pancreatic Cancer (purple), Weds.- Melanoma (black), Thurs.- Breast Cancer (pink), Fri.- Heart disease (red)
- June 5th Rebels Rac'n for the Cure (part of Race for the Cure) \$45 to run, \$35 to walk. Race takes place in DC (5.2 miles).
- Career Day- Ms. Kim did a great job. Leadership students got to escort the presenters. Katie listened to a wedding planner, someone from Fox online marketing and someone from sports management for the Wizards
- Pride Time TV is on FHS website.
- Sports Physicals are June 2nd and you can sign up online.
- The play "Chicago" is April 30, May 1, 2, 7 & 8- Tickets on line for \$8 or at the door for \$12
- Dance on May 24th may be cancelled because haven't sold many tickets.

Director of Student Services: Jennifer Glaser

- Started after Spring Break.
- Thrilled to be at Fairfax High School (came from West Springfield HS where she was a counselor for 4 years)
- Will be taking care of the seniors
- Vision: FHS has strong academic & after school programs, wants to continue to have a strong counseling department (they received recognition last year) and wants to build relationships within the department and outside.
- Next year may be able to add 1 more counselor. How the caseloads will be shifted has not been determined. A lot of factors will go into the decision. Next year, there may be 600 freshmen for a total of 2400 students.

Principal's Report: Dave Goldfarb

- Thank you to PTSA for breakfast and all of the support!
- Career Day instills a sense of relevancy. Ms. Kim did a huge job- important connections were made.
- Thankful that Jennifer is here. She is already into staffing process to determine teachers. This goes on until mid-Sept. Will develop "dummy" schedules that show classes that students have signed up for or if there are conflicts.

- 2nd Rebel Round Up went well
- 4th quarter- AP exams start in 2 weeks. 1850 tests will be taken. This is the last year that the County will pay for AP exams.
- 2 AVID students won Dell \$20,000 scholarships & Dell computers. 1st in their families to go to college.
- FBLA students gave computers to 35 students through the VA Stars Program. This is a statewide program and FHS is the 1st school in Fairfax County to take part. (Mark Campbell worked very hard on this program where his students refurbished these computers.)
- Visitors to FHS:
 1. A woman from Scotland is coming to learn about professional learning communities (common planning time- 83 minutes in curricular areas). This encourages consistency without conformity. Assignments are similar and grading is similar.
 2. A woman is writing a white paper for Dell computer.
 3. AP Chinese language visitors
 4. French students already visited and stayed with FHS families.
- May 6th Latino partnership- Dr. Dominech will be the keynote speaker
- Rebels Reunite- Pick up schedules early, get rid of first day packet (go green), forms will be on the website or at school for parents to fill out
- Shared photo presentation that he will be showing at the upcoming Faculty meeting.
- Suggestions for Career Activities: Panel speaking about “What Do I need to do to get a Career?” and a summer job fair

President’s Report: Clai Jorgensen

- Slate of officers not ready yet. We still need President, Vice President, and Recording Secretary. Janice, Susan and Clare are on the nominating committee.
- Weds. is Faculty/Staff Appreciation. Thanks for the gift cards and the salads. The staff looks forward to the luncheon which goes from 10:30-12:30.
- Rebels on the Rise was moved to April 28th (students are treated to breakfast)
- Proctors needed for AP exams: May 3-May 14 (7:30-11:30 and 11:30-3:30)
You cannot proctor an exam that your child is taking.
- Seniors check senior corner on FHS website. May 12th is the last parent meeting. Apr. 27th All Night Grad tickets go on sale (order forms are on the website)
- Teacher breakfast and Rebel Round Up went well.
- Basketball game made more money than ever.
- Dinner for French students was the great.
- Update from Lora Brzezynski (Giant/Safeway/Bloom/Target)

GIANT program:

Giant's program has now ended for this school year. We raised \$2,571.52 for Fairfax. Dave Goldfarb should expect to receive a check from Giant before the end of the school year in this amount.

We began the year with just 39 supporters and ended with 169 supporters signed up with Giant's A+ program. The cash raised this year is a

substantial increase over the 2008-09 school year when we raised only \$559.23.

We can do better year next year. For example, Robinson Secondary School earned \$6,367.51, Chantilly High School earned \$5,604.88, and Westfield High School earned \$7,330.78 this year from the A+ Bonus Bucks program. With 2,300 students at Fairfax, we need to increase our supporters next year.

Also, two Fairfax High School students performed exceptionally well in Giant's A+ Bonus Bucks recent writing contest. Victoria Nguyen, Grade 11, was selected as the WINNER from among all 9th to 12th grade entrants in Giant's writing contest! As part of the contest, Ms. Nguyen wrote a letter to the President of the United States answering the question: "What would you want President Obama to do in the area of education that will benefit your school?" In addition to her prizes, Victoria earned 2,500 additional Bonus Bucks points for Fairfax High School. Her letter is featured on the Giant Food/aplus.com website. Shary Tchatchouang was selected as a finalist for the A+ Bonus Bucks Writing contest! She earned Fairfax 1,000 additional Bonus Points. Both students will be congratulated in this month's PTA newsletter. It is important to note that our students competed with those in all other states where Giant has a presence, including Maryland, Massachusetts, NY, Connecticut, etc. The Giant website also lists the nine finalists. Fairfax was the only school to have two winners.

SAFEWAY program:

Safeway's program is year round and is not based on the school year. For the 2009 calendar year, we were just informed that Safeway contributed \$2,823.45 to Fairfax. Safeway's contributions to Fairfax are direct deposited to Fairfax's account at First Virginia Bank each month. Those contributions average about \$300 per month.

BLOOM program:

Bloom has recently changed its program. Schools will now earn equipment instead of cash. Bloom has an online catalog from which "equipment" can be selected when credit has accrued. The catalog is not user-friendly and is primarily geared to elementary schools with its selection of items. We currently have 947 points accrued. To receive orders from the catalog before the end of this school year, they need to be ordered by the end of April. Please advise to whom I should speak to determine what items Fairfax wants to purchase. The catalog has everything from headphones to staplers to reams of paper to a megaphone to flash drives and memory cards. The portable megaphone is 840 points and may be an idea for pep rallies if the school does not have one.

For next year, if the school does a summer mailing to incoming freshmen parents or to any parents, I would like to include a flyer in that mailing. In addition, I would like to speak for 5 minutes at the freshman parent orientation in August and pass out a sign up form for these programs at that meeting. Is that possible?

Secretary: Clare Talbert

March Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Kuck

- Our checking account balance is \$7805.39.
- There were many transactions this past month:
 - \$850 Donation received from "Friends of City of Fairfax/Chocolate Lovers' Festival." The donation will fund the \$250 "Ingram/Student Volunteerism Scholarship" and partially fund Girls' State.
 - The PTSA donated \$250 for the Special Ed Prom.
 - Two art teachers were granted \$205 each to attend a conference in Baltimore.
 - \$1325 was donated by parents for Teacher Appreciation. The money was then given to Karen Bryan to purchase gift cards for teachers.

Fairfax Community Coalition will be presenting about depression (related to the depression screening) at the May PTSA meeting. We should invite the parents of rising 9th graders. It may be held in the Chorus room. The PTSA will have a quick business meeting.

Boosters:

Band: Barnes and Noble (Fair Lakes) fundraiser on May 21st and 22nd, where students will perform and read books. Online orders are included.

Depression Screening: The screening took place on Jan. 26th. Parents & Guardians were contacted if there was a concern.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.