

**Haddonfield Memorial High School  
Parent Teacher Association  
May 14, 2007**

President Gail Arruda called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

March minutes were approved as amended.

(The regularly scheduled meeting was not held in April).

**President's Report:** Gail acknowledged the contributions of the 2006-2007 executive board and all the parents who have been very involved whose last child is a senior. She thanked Mr. Baker for his tireless work of the past several months and said his stewardship has made a difference.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion to accept April's report was approved. In May the beginning balance was \$11,156.75 and the ending balance was \$10,650.59. The May report was accepted. A vote was taken approving the following allocation of the \$3,245 surplus for the year: \$350. to the music department for the cost of 3 piano keys; \$670 for a fall assembly; \$250. (previously recommended by the executive board to fund a Memorial Day speaker) to be reallocated to courtyard improvement for the spring events, since Joe McElroy will be the speaker, without fee; \$1,575 for open gym nights in 2007-2008; \$400 for an open gym night in May, 2007.

Discussion ensued about what the gym nights were like as well. There was also a discussion about booking a wellness/good decisions program for an assembly for the next school year. There have been no assemblies in 2 years. The re-vamping of the Memorial Day activities for this year were discussed. It was noted there is a \$900 line item for funding for new clubs. Benches previously approved should be in place by the end of the summer.

**Slate of Officers for 2007-2008:**

Was approved, as follows:

Sarah Tambussi, President

Sue Warner, Vice-President

Tracey Stieffel, Treasurer

Delores McMullin, Corresponding Secretary

Deb Nussbaum, Recording Secretary

Gail Arruda, Trustee

**Zone PTA:** The superintendent search will be done first, then the search for the principals positions.

**Committees:**

**Post-Graduation Reception:** Sharon Jachter will be calling junior parents for donations soon.

**Post-Graduation Party:** This will be held at Tavistock. Additional money is available this year. It will be held from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Next year the idea of an all-night event will be explored.

**Principal's Report:** Mr. Baker presented Gail Arruda with a framed print of the high school and thanked her for her service.

The Junior Prom was great and there were no "incidents". No one was even tested with the new strips used to test for alcohol. Mr. Baker noted their availability and the "pre-

emptive” education with the “Fatal Vision”, “Smashed” and BADD programs prior to prom day seemed to have a positive effect. In presenting these programs, the school had counselors available to assist any student upset by them in light of the recent tragedy. Discussion was held about the possibility of moving the proms to Saturday nights to curtail the weekend shore parties. Mr. Baker said that could be explored, but would be more expensive and also meant the students would not be under school supervision at all that day. There were pros and cons which can be explored further.

There were 5 students who tested positive for alcohol at the Sophomore Dance in late April. Testing strips were not in use yet and 6 students were sent for testing, one of whom tested negative. Mr. Baker said that students successfully navigated a chaperone “gauntlet” at the start of the dance, but were observed appearing intoxicated later on, probably due to consuming a large amount of liquor quickly just before walking in.

Memorial Day events have been planned by students. A rainy day plan is also in place. It is *not* optional to leave without parental permission and parents will be so notified.

AP testing is going on now.

**Haddonfield/Japan Exchange Committee:** Lynn Owens discussed this program, which will begin this summer and will run from July 22 through August 3. 8 additional host families are needed for the 21 girls coming from a private school in Japan. In return, 21 HMHS students will go to Japan next year for the cost of airfare only. Mr. Brown has brought the program to HMHS and fundraising is being done now. Boys will participate in the future, but for this year, families with daughters are encouraged to volunteer to host. A private room is not necessary and activities are planned for every day. HMHS students who are interested in going to Japan next year may also attend the activities. Dr. O’Brien, who has hosted such students with his family, spoke in favor of the program.

The business portion of the meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m. so that Steve Weinstein, the new President of the Board of Education, could speak about the budget and the search for the new superintendent and principals.

Recording Secretary: Bernadette Duncan