

**Haddonfield Memorial High School
Parent Teacher Association
September 18, 2006**

President Gail Arruda called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

April minutes were approved, as amended. There was no business meeting in May.

Corresponding Secretary: Thank you notes were received from PTA Scholarship recipients Kendyl Ressler, Emily Robertson, Ashley Hendry, Jared Willmann, Alex Augugliaro, Corinne Brandt, and Patrick McGettigan and from Mrs. Vimislik and Ms. Marcello for the back to school refreshments. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Brad Wilby and Sarah LeCates and will be sent to Jacob Schwartz's family. Jake, a HMHS graduate and the son of a former PTA president, died last week.

Treasurer's Report: An audit has been completed. The beginning balance was \$17,921.55. The ending balance was \$7,452.19 as of 7/31/06. Past disbursements were approved. The proposed budget for 2006-07 includes proposed disbursements for \$400 for marching band uniforms, \$2,285 for benches, and \$1,800 for audio-visual equipment. A discussion then was held about the inclusion of Senior Showcase in the budget, as it will probably not be held in 2007 due to waning interest. A discussion was also held about how to make up a possible shortfall in the PTA scholarship fund, as the Senior Showcase raised money for that purpose.

It was noted the *Memo* will not be mailed this year, but will be available on-line.

The focus of the budget is to make it more student-centered, with more funding for activities, assemblies and speakers. The budget was approved, with the removal of the Senior Showcase line items.

Mrs. Vimislik discussed the issues regarding declining interest in the Senior Showcase, including time commitments, overlap with other activities and lack of a faculty advisor. She thought it may have run its course and suggested that a slide show just prior to departure for the Senior Trip, with a donation by the parents might work. A parent suggested calling this the "Senior Send-off". Mrs. Vimislik also noted that all social activities, except the 4 major dances, have been losing money.

Trustee's Report: The Board of Education would like to send the same representative to each PTA meeting. They proposed Lynn Biehn, who has a freshman and a sophomore in the high school. There was some discussion about whether it would be preferable to have a Board member who did not have children in the school and/or whether this function overlapped with that of Joanne Miller, who is the HMHS PTA representative to the Board, but, overall, the consensus seemed to be that this would be an opportunity for better communication. Ms. Biehn advised that she would attend the meetings as a parent, whether or not she was the official Board representative.

Zone PTA will offer funding for a program on risk taking to be offered at the middle and high schools this spring.

Committees:

Meredith Wickman reported that Project Graduation was a success and over 90% of graduates participated. \$10,700 was spent and a \$335 surplus remains. The committee upgraded the quality of food and gifts. It was the consensus that any surplus should be used for the same event spread over the next few years and not be diverted to others.

President's Report: Directories have gone to the printer and will be ready for Back to School Night.

New Business: Zone PTA has been approached by "Vision", a drug counseling organization, to share \$5.00 in profit from every \$20.00 ticket sold for a house tour on Moore Lane, to be donated to a program, not yet defined, being developed by John Toto. On Monday, 9/25 All Sports Boosters will hold a merchandise sale in the cafeteria. These items will also be sold at Back to School Night and the Fall Festival.

Sue Heindel is collecting PTA dues and donations and will also collect them at Back to School Night.

Gail Arruda will write to the teachers to invite them to join PTA.

Marsha DeFina advised that there will be sign ups in the cafeteria and on-line for Leukemia/ Lymphoma "Light the Night" on 10/7. There will be an HMHS team for this event.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Vimislik welcomed new parents. The beginning of school went well except for issues with the construction and flooding. The latter hit the band and choir rooms particularly hard and still does not have a complete solution. Band is now being held in the choir room. Mr. Stanz has been "great" about being flexible. The science rooms will be done very shortly. The art room will be inspected 9/22 and is substantially complete, except that it has temporary windows. The cafeteria is now air conditioned. Locker rooms are finished. Track renovation will be deferred for a year and spot repairs will be done. A discussion of the causes of the flooding and potential remedies ensued. 4 seniors are National Merit Semi-Finalists: Mike Carwile, Eric Hinrichsen, Sarah Turrin, and Mark Weidman.

HMHS has won the Shop-Rite Cup for the third year in a row.

The curriculum audit process is beginning, involving English, World Languages and Practical Arts. Parent input is welcomed. Mrs. Vimislik would like to see more research and writing folders and thinks the senior project should be reconsidered. The audit should be done by February or March, 2007 and recommendations will be implemented the following school year.

New band uniforms should be received next week.

The school is working on the physical education waiver process.

The yearbook was audited. Actual cost was \$88.00 each. Taylor will come in to talk to the yearbook staff about what they want for this year including whether to cut back and make it less expensive or include pages of parent ads. The spring supplement for last year was on a computer that had problems and may need to be reconstructed. It should be available in a month or so.

HMHS was cited in *New Jersey Monthly* as the 14th ranked high school in the state, while *Philadelphia Magazine's* article on elite schools in the region ranked it 34th, with 29 of the top 40 schools being private.

A part-time instrumental music teacher, Mr. Gouse, is being hired to work with the middle and high schools.

On 9/20 there will be a Club Fair in the courtyard.

A discussion was held about audience members sitting through an entire student musical performance and the varsity awards ceremonies, which lead to a discussion about the length of the awards ceremony and how certain activities are considered for awards.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. O'Brien reported that over 100 students were inducted into the middle school Peer Leadership program tonight. He discussed district goals for the year, including increased communication, and talked about the 24/7 policy. He noted changes proposed to the interim policy and said the Board of Education will vote on his proposal shortly.

Karen Ressler suggested daily announcements be posted on the e-board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Bernadette Duncan