

## **Thomas Edison High School PTSA September Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

Called to Order – 7:06p by President Angie Vereen

We all stood for the pledge. President Angie announced that we have a quorum and called for introductions. All officers and attendees shared their names and their students' grades.

President Angie shared that there are several openings on the PTSA committees and encouraged all attendees to sign-up. She included that there is information around the room to explain opportunities within the PTSA.

### **Treasurer Report – Lolita Lawson, Treasurer**

Lolita noted that copies of the budget on each table. Balance at the end of school year 2016-17: \$8,700.08; beginning balance \$9,280.08. Lolita shared that the budget for this year is still in progress. Currently, income is anticipated to be \$15,750.08 and total expenses anticipated are \$7,457.00, overage of \$8,293.08. New budget item this year is hosting a coffee hour with the principal, \$100.00.

Q: What is the budget based on? Answer: Based on last year's numbers. Q: Did you actually give the awards listed last year? A: Yes, we gave 3 awards of varying amounts. Q: How much was made on restaurant night? A: Not much, approximately \$250.00. Q: Have you asked your membership for donations? A: No, but there is a space when joining to give extra and we always ask for volunteers or donations for all activities.

Member: I composed a letter to solicit funds in my previous PTSA and would like to share that information. I signed up for fundraising committee.

Q: How is the membership fee divided? A: We get \$6 and the rest goes to the parent body.

Q: Is the PTSA a 501-3c? A: Yes, and it is printed on your membership card. It is also stated on the website.

### **Membership Report – Michelle Leete, VP**

I am here to help you engage with the PTSA and to get the most out of your membership. You must be a member to take advantage of the benefits. We have a membership drive through December 8<sup>th</sup>. Top two classes to enroll the most members will win a pizza and ice cream party. There will also be a prize for parents and teachers. There is a new membership portal online. Virginia is an early tester of this new tool. It is the best and easiest way to join. No additional fees to use.

Q: Have you considered having a cell phone number for people to join through? A: No, the portal belongs to VPTSA, not us.

Q: What percentage of parents join the PTSA? A: About 10-15%

Q: Clarify what is meant by class? A: Grade level class, freshmen, sophomore, etc.

We had 300 members last year and our goal is at least that amount.

Q: Where do members come from? A: Mostly seniors for scholarship opportunities and new parents of freshmen. I (Rhonda Dickens) went door to door last year to solicit members.

Q: Have you reached out to last year's members? A: No.

Member: Most people don't understand what the purpose of PTSA is. Maybe invite parents to learn more about what PTSA does.

Q: Will there be a membership drive at the PSAT this weekend? A: No.

#### **Communication Report – Malika Smith, vp**

I am currently updating social media accounts. Working towards independent website, until then using the school's website will remain in use. New this year, I plan to distribute a newsletter quarterly.

#### **Volunteer Report – Rhonda Dickens, chair**

My primary role is to communicate need for events. I usually do so through Sign-up Genius. Upcoming events: PSAT, Edison birthday cupcake celebration, ...

#### **Scholarship & Awards – Monique Michael – absent.**

President Angie shared that we will still award scholarships this year. New this year we will do the Reflections awards. The Citizens Essay contest is coming up. This year's theme: "What does it mean to dream big?" And Power Plates is also coming up. There are also volunteer adult awards.

#### **Education/Audit Committee – Sulema Gaughran – absent.**

President Angie presented, sharing that Mock ACT/SAT events have been scheduled for the entire year. Sulema does not have a student at Edison. Anyone who would like to help or take over this role, please let us know.

#### **Fundraising – Aster Wilburn, chair**

Currently we are selling seat cushions at all events. Working on an idea to award students a haircut and/or style. We need more people.

#### **Special Education – Angie**

This is a new committee. Laura Baker is the chair and has signed up 5 parents. She is learning her new role and hopes to post on the PTSA FB page soon.

### **SGA Remarks**

Janine, class of 2018– We need parent chaperones for the homecoming dance on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There is a sign-up form circulating. There are several volunteer roles. We need as many parents as possible.

Q: Should we setup a Signup Genius? A: We will check with our sponsor and keep in contact with the volunteer chair to you know if we need the Signup Genius.

Gabby Paz, class of 2019 - Advocated for support of homecoming activities from students and for parents to encourage their students to be involved in SGA.

### **Principal Report: Ms. Pamela Brumfeld**

We had a good start to the new year. Current enrollment of 2075 is growth over last year. Edison is closed to transfers because it is at capacity. The impact is that teachers are sharing classrooms. This is occurring throughout FCPS. Student behavior has been good. Lunch time is full and smooth. Upper classmen has been welcoming. As always, students need to be on time. Arriving at 8:05 is late. Class begins at 8:10. Parents we need your help in this area. Report cards will not be distributed on paper this year. All parents should be on ParentVue to receive electronic grade reports. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, there is early dismissal day due to PSAT day. Seniors should use that day for post grad planning.

Parents of 10<sup>th</sup> graders should be hearing about a MYP project. It's for 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders. Topics are of student's choice. To be completed approx. March/April. Parents will be able to see them in April. Last year was the first year Edison was authorized to do the program. Each student has to have a supervisor, who can be a teacher or a parent. Friday is a school planning day. No school. Brumfeld encouraged parents to be involved. The PTSA needs you. Spread the word. The PTSA supports the children in this building. Please share with Mrs. Vereen topics that you are interested in; she will work to make it happen. Please give her feedback.

### **New Business:**

Two questions for Ms. Brumfeld. Q: What are the library hours? A: M/W/Th til 4p; T/F til 3p. Q: When is writing center open? A: Currently tutors are being trained. The launch party is Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. The WC will visit advisory classes to inform students. The WC is to help students become better writers not just to edit work, and they tutor all subjects. They are available during advisory, lunch, Eagle time, and after school. Brumfeld: all students should use because it is very effective.

Q: Can library hours be extended? A: No due to staff work hours. Q: Can parents volunteer? A: No because the librarians are concerned about protecting their resources.

Coffee hour: David Schlemmer asked for PTSA to host. He's on the human relations committee. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month there will be free coffee and tea and a goodie. A small opportunity to mingle and get to know each other.

Q: Will this be for internal or external? A: Both, but were hoping to get help with goodies. President Angie: we thought the coffee hour would be face time for parents with principal and other staff at the school? A: We can discuss that option.

Next month: In lieu of meeting it will be a college and career seminar on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Prize drawing: starbucks card. #7 winner

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p