



Present: Tammy Goldeisen, Joanna Ramos-Romero, Sharon Blessing, Leesa Yhim, Ernestine Wright-Palmer, Theresa Yodzis, Francine Bennett, Eric Bennett, Amy Grutzik, Lori Bacon, Michele Kocak, Bruce Neimeyer, Antoinette Marbray, Linda Mattes, Nicki Mantzouris, Ruchira Mahajan, Elizabeth Fitch, Shawn Hastings-Hauf, Jennifer Clarkin, Kristin Reier, Yu Chen, Chris Jacobsen

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting started promptly at 7:01 p.m. Joanna Ramos-Romero called the meeting to order and reminded everyone of the PTSA mission.

SGA report

Eric Bennett reported that the SGA just did an Instagram promotional event where 2 gift cards were given out to students.

Staff Report

Kristin Reier, French teacher and world language instructional team leader, reported that 95% of students in her classes have their cameras on. The world language team has used creative ways to keep students engaged, e.g., French students had a crepe making class, and Spanish students had a pajama day.

She also reported that NHS (National Honors Society) just completed the toys for tot drive. It was the best year ever. They collected 551 toys and \$500 in online donations.

Ms. Hastings-Hauf, Assistant Principal, reported that the staff are getting ready for the next school year. They anticipate moving back to a seven-course schedule, and students will have a chance to select their courses starting on December 23, 2020. It is important for students to choose alternate courses. In general, students have been actively participating in their classes, to the delight of their teachers.

Jenny Clarkin, math instructional team leader, reported that AP teachers are working on how to help students bridge the learning gap between ending their course in January and taking their AP exams in May.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Goldeisen feels excited about Ridge Roundup, which took place right before this meeting. She is looking forward to hearing feedback from the community. January 7 at 6:00 p.m. is the new student orientation for 9th grade students and students who are new to Marriotts Ridge.

Back to school night will occur on February 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the evening.

She mentioned the Howard County NAMI (National Alliance Mental Illness) speaker, Denise Guiliano and wanted the PSTA board to consider having her speak to the PSTA in February or March of 2021.

The positive office referrals program is doing well, and teachers are submitting multiple names of students. She asked whether parents would like to reach out to the teachers to send out positive comments. Parents at the meeting loved the idea.

Mrs. Goldeisen reported that in the month of February and March we will not have a staff member presenting at the PTSA meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Parents gave feedback on the first Ridge Roundup community forum. We had more than 50 participants, and it was nice to meet the teachers. It was suggested that perhaps we could have several reminders regarding sending in questions, prior to the actual meeting. The PTSA will send out a short survey to the participants for feedback.

Linda Mattes asked about the possibility of a class specific meetings.

President's Report

Joanna reported that she has no update on electronic voting. The ballots went out in early November, and we are awaiting to hear from the Maryland PTA regarding the emergency proclamation to adopt virtual voting.

Finance Report

Treasurer Nalini Munnangi was unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were approved unanimously without corrections and will be posted on the MRHS PTSA website.

Committee Reports

Membership – Sharon Blessing reported that we currently have 522 members: 193 families, 22 faculty, and 4 community members.

Grocery rewards – Nothing to report.

Fundraising – Currently on hold.

Afterprom Committee – Theresa Yodzis is coordinating the prizes. The committee got feedback from 12 students through SGA on prize references. Mrs. Rashid noted that prom this school year may be limited to the Senior class of 2021. She is planning a zoom meeting with her prom committee to hash out how to include this year's Juniors in any planned events.

Homewood PBIS reached out to the MRHS PTSA asking for help in recognizing their staff. Theresa felt it was a big ask. They are trying to give out themed boxes to all their staff. We could give a financial contribution, buy some boxes, or do an Amazon sign up list. We can discuss this at the next Executive meeting. Mrs. Goldeisen cautioned against buying things for teachers in another school.

Hospitality – Leesa reported that we have logo tote bags for all the teachers, and hospitality is getting donations to fill them up for pick up in January from school. On that day, there will be a drive-through breakfast for teachers and staff.

Liaisons – Yu reported that the CAPO community has been very quiet.

Website – Francine Bennett noted there was nothing new to report.

Facebook/Communications Report – Lori Bacon/ Francine Bennett no new reports. Sharon Blessing noted there is an app to get the addresses and telephone numbers from last year, available to PTSA members only.

HCDrugFree – Representative could not attend.

Horizon Foundation – Bruce Neimeyer reported that we received the Horizon Foundation grant in the amount of \$1,250 to provide mental health support to students. He has also identified another grant in the amount of \$50,000 to provide mental support to Marriotts Ridge and the surrounding communities for which the PTSA can apply.

Student Directory – Bruce Neimeyer will set this up this year. He has received the file and will put out the list before the next meeting.

Senior Scholarships – Amy Grutzik will start working on the scholarships in January with Sharon's support.

Senior Banners – Nothing to report

Reflections – Open

PTACHC Report – Nicki Mantozouris reported that a speaker from the Mount Hebron High School community gave a nice presentation on how to engage with our legislators including the Board of Education, and she will send out the full summary when it is posted on the PTACHC website.

Volunteer Coordination – Leesa Yhim had nothing new to report.

General Discussion/Closing

The Mount Hebron PTSA Vice President is hosting a webinar on December 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. entitled, "How to Create Change: Beginning Your Advocacy Journey," and all are invited to attend.

There was a general discussion about supporting Homewood teachers. There are no Marriotts Ridge students at Homewood at this time. The PTSA executive committee will discuss this at their next monthly meeting.

The meeting concluded promptly at 8:02 pm.

Next meeting will be a virtual Zoom meeting on January 11, 2020.