



**Present:** Joanna Ramos-Romero, Sharon Blessing, Ernestine Wright-Palmer, Leesa Yhim, Tammy Goldeisen, Yu Shen, Nalini Munnangi, Linda Mattes, Jennifer Shea, Abi Onabiyi, Lola Onabiyi, Mairine Shen, Pam Wilson, Michele Kocak, Francine Bennett, Theresa Yodzis, Elizabeth Fitch, Nicki Mantzouris, Ruchira Mahajan, Eric Bennett, Lori Bacon, Bruce Neimeyer, Lori Bacon, Leigh McIntyre, J. Civitelli, Mary Klyap, Priya Kannan

**Call to Order/ Introductions** – Joanna called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and wished all women in attendance a Happy International Women’s Day.

**SGA report** – Eric reported that SGA had their first Mustang meeting, and teachers and students had an opportunity to meet virtually outside of formal classroom instruction. This was well received by the students who attended. SGA plans to meet with both SMOB (student member of the Board of Education) candidates on a Google Meet later this month to discuss their ideas for supporting HCPSS students.

#### **Principal’s Report**

Mrs. Goldeisen gave an extensive report on school happenings. She thanked the PTSA for treats they provided for the staff upon their return to school.

Students from group E, who are now in school 5 days a week, are getting breakfast and lunch everyday and things are going well.

After extensive planning, she just found out today that she is unable to give in-person school tours to new students. She has received aggressive emails from new parents, complaining about their students not knowing their way around the school. Senior students and National Honor Society students will be in neon shirts to help new students in the first 10 minutes of the school day on all of the first in-person start days for the various grades and hybrid groups of MRHS students.

She noted that parents have been persistent about wanting their children to be in school after signing up for virtual classes. She asked parents to be patient and emphasized that the administrative staff are doing their best to accommodate the students. She does not have the power to change students’ choice of instruction from virtual to in-person at this point.

She gave a timeline for HCPSS schools reopening. Governor Hogan wanted students back in school March 1st. Some teachers are still very scared, and some have been granted ADA until two weeks after vaccination. Some teachers have been denied, and they are not happy. Desks have been placed in the common area, so administration can monitor some classes, as there is a great need for classroom monitors and substitute teachers.

She explained “Work to Rule” that the union is asking teachers to follow. She is working hard to cover the classrooms and having difficulty getting substitute teachers. The school has lots of substitute teachers right now. She explained that there may be a need to catch students up next year because of the potential for lower quality of instruction due to extensive use of substitute teachers.

The next community forum was supposed to be held on April the 19<sup>th</sup>, but because of the Work to Rule, Mrs. Goldeisen will not have the support of the staff or teachers to host this after school event. The Executive Committee and Mrs. Goldeisen will discuss the possibility of cancelling the forum.

Also, some club meetings are not occurring because of Work to Rule.

**President’s Report** – Joanna attended a meeting of all high school PSTAs in the county to share after prom plans and brainstorm ways to honor this year’s seniors. She mentioned that Theresa Yodzis and Francine Bennett, who also attended, would share details as part of the After Prom committee report.

The NAMI Howard County presentation for Active Minds needs to be rescheduled, as it was cancelled because one of the presenters fell ill.

Sharon has kindly volunteered to lead the nominating committee to get volunteers for next year.

#### **Financial Report**

Nalini reported that the bank beginning balance on 02/01/2021 was \$38,766.70, and the ending balance on 02/28/2021 was \$39,613.13. The total receipt was \$767.66 from the Horizon Foundation, the Answer Class, and Amazon Smile. Total disbursement was \$750.00 which was an administrative expense for Membership Toolkit.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

The bylaws have been updated, and the membership voted unanimously to approve the updated bylaws. They will be sent to Maryland PTA for approval.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Membership** – no new report

**Grocery Rewards** – no new report

**Fundraising** – Leigh McIntyre sold 103 senior banners last year. The price this year will be \$36 dollars per banner and \$20 for FARM students.

The order form will be online exclusively. There was a discussion on where the banners would be hung. Would the banners be hung outside, inside and/or picked up? The PTSA considered the liability for damage to the banners if they were hung outside. The stadium is open at all hours and accessible to everyone.

Parents are not allowed in the building to see the banners. Mrs. Goldeisen suggested having a pick-up day for the banners when students could have a photo opportunity to take pictures at school with their banners.

The PSTA will offer pick-up of banners and also the option of having the banners hung outside the school around the stadium.. We have four volunteers (Leigh McIntyre, Jen O’Shea, Theresa Yodzis, and Yu Chen) to help on the day seniors are slated to pick up their senior banners.

Lola Onabiyi volunteered to coordinate senior banners next year.

**After Prom Committee** – All high school PTSAs got together to talk about plans for senior prom. Potential ideas for celebrating included using the football fields to set up a grand party and drive-in movies with food trucks.

MRHS PTSA is holding on purchasing prizes, pending finalized plans for senior celebrations from HCPSS. Vicky Cutroneo, a Board of Education member who was present at the meeting, followed up stating the Board’s commitment to ensuring that seniors are celebrated. The county is considering COVID testing for all students prior to these events. We are still awaiting decisions from the county.

Francine mentioned that other high schools are purchasing yard signs for seniors, but MRHS PTSA has decided not to purchase yard signs, as there will be an in-person graduation this year.

**Hospitality** – nothing to report

**Liaisons** – Yu Chen was present and expressed a willingness to help with the school in any way.

**Website** – The website is being maintained by Sharon and Francine. They are looking for more parent volunteers to help with the website. Membership and Website committees should discuss whether we will continue to use Membership Toolkit after the current contract period ends.

**Facebook/Communications Report** – Francine continues to do weekly communications.

**HCDrugFree** – Jen Shea reported that the next drug take-back day is April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. HC Drugfree is doing a student film fest showcasing how to help students remain drug free. They are not hosting an official senior week this year.

Senior Week at Ocean City will be June 19<sup>th</sup>, with no official guidance from the police.

**Horizon Foundation** – The first Mindfulness in Motion class is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, time to be determined, for the whole MRHS community. Heather Thamer will be the instructor, and her maximum capacity is 100 participants. She is charging \$50.00 per session. We will host this monthly, March to June.

We are unable to apply for the larger \$100,000 Cigna grant for peer training of students to help others with mental health problems this year because of the application deadline, but we will consider applying next year.

**Student Directory** – nothing to report

**Senior Scholarships** – Amy Grutzik sent an update. We have just 8 applicants so far, but we expect more students to apply as we increase promotion and approach the deadline.

**PTACHC Report** – Ruchira reported that PTACHC discussed the hybrid hours and longer hours of instruction. Vaccine supplies are still limited, but school staff are encouraged to get vaccinated. Cameras have been authorized on the school buses for extra safety.

**Volunteer Coordination** – Leesa has sent out a request for volunteers to all committee members.

#### **General Discussion/Closing**

PBIS has been meeting with Ms. Goldeisen, and the staff and are looking forward to working with students and staff to help provide additional mental help support.

Joanna adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Next meeting will be on April 19th, 2021, via Zoom.