

Signature School PTSA Meeting Minutes May 19th, 2011

The last PTSA meeting of the school year was called to order at 6:05 pm. Those in attendance were Theresa Chavez, Laura Ward, Terry Ward, Lisa Watson, Rick Cory, Mary Shepard, David Huff, Debbie Stoddard, Nestor Benavides, Andrea Walker and Julie Erkill.

There were no minutes presented from the February 3rd, 2011 meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. As of May 18th, 2011, there was a balance of \$7,324.86 in the PTSA account. Several questions were raised including if there would be income over the summer from the Schnucks eScrips program, why the spirit wear expense was higher than revenue and what comprised the "other expense" category. The PTSA officers confirmed that there would be eScrips income over the summer, that the spirit wear expense was high due to remaining inventory and that the "other expense" category included the cleaning of the Science Center basement and the purchase of a PA system for the school. There were no further questions, Terry Ward motioned that the report be accepted and Laura Ward seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Committee reports were presented. Highlights included:

- Drive One 4UR School program raised \$3,980 from Ford and \$200 in donations.
- Freshman will receive slingbacks purchased by PTSA.
- The Signature School Speaker Series will focus on bringing one well known speaker for next year.
- Senior Week activities will include an honors ceremony and reception, and luncheon and gift of a framed senior class photo. There will not be a graduation reception.
- The PTSA paid for AP testing for all student of financial need (\$1,767) and covered one student's cap and gown expenses. The Newburgh Women's Club gave a grant of \$954 to the Scholar Shop.
- The attempt to receive funding from the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation was not successful this year but the PTSA will try again next year after working with the Westside Lowe's manager on improving the application.

Under New Business, Ms. Snyder requested that the PTSA consider funding the Spirit Award, a \$1,000 award given to a senior annually. A motion was made by Terry Ward that the PTSA fund the award for two years if no corporate sponsor comes forward. Rick Cory seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Over the past year, there have been concerns expressed by some parents in the political stance taken by the Indiana PTA body, particularly the negative stance on the creation of charter schools and funding for such schools. Theresa Chavez expressed her concerns regarding paying \$1,200 in dues to the PTSA and receiving little benefit in return. The question of whether there is a better structure or group, such as a PTO, to represent Signature parents and teachers was raised. Rick Cory, new President of the Area Council PTA, commented that the PTA organization does have a lobby group, provides education and training opportunities and has an organized local, state and national structure, all benefits not offered by a PTO structure.

To disassociate with the PTA, written notice must be given at least twenty days in advance and any funds at the time membership votes to disassociate, become the property of the PTA. There was concern expressed that Signature had not give the area PTSA a chance to address Signature's concerns.

Signature School PTSA Meeting Minutes

May 19th, 2011

It was suggested that Signature have representatives attend the area meetings to foster better communication with the area group and its leadership. Terry Ward will attend those meetings.

The importance of the PTSA in fundraising for Signature was addressed. All raffles at Signature must be held by the PTSA to comply with State gambling regulations. Before making a structural change, the details of how and if a new structure can hold raffles should be addressed. The PTSA officers and Rick Cory will develop a pros and cons of association with PTA which will be presented to the Signature PTSA membership at a June 30th meeting.

The slate of officers for the 2011/2012 school year was presented. It was:

- Theresa Chavez – President
- Laura Ward – Vice President
- Julie Erkilli – Treasurer
- Lisa Watson – Secretary

A motion was made by Terry Ward and seconded by Andrea Walker to approve the slate. The motion was approved. There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.