

Lakota West PTSO Minutes August 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President, Thom Branning. Those in attendance were Janice Branning, Thom Branning, Terri Fischer, Sue Guttag, Pam Guynes, Richard Hamilton, Lynne Hoover, Kimberly Hunter, Kate Miller, Patti Marx, Marlene Munday, Rose Sarawgi, Tim Shaffer, and Bonnie Stremming. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Secretary - The May Minutes were approved by Terri Fischer and seconded by Patti Marx.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report for August is attached. Sue said that she did not have a current cash balance as of today because her computer had crashed. However she reported that the balance as of today is not much different than that of June 30th. Sue will try to get the books to the Auditor before school starts. Sue presented a preliminary budget and discussed some of the changes. Last year's goal was to spend \$10,000 more than we took in so that some of the reserves could be decreased. The reserves were only drawn down by \$3000. Bank charges were not as high because of account changes, Memorials were underspent, Professional Services were underspent because the auditor was not able to check the books quarterly due to being busy with tax season, and Student Directory was over budget because the directory was copied by an outside company this year. Sue asked that any proposed changes to the budget be given to her before the September meeting, so that the budget can be finalized and voted on at that meeting.

President's Report – Thom Branning is trying to get the website updated. Mr. Hamilton suggested that he email Todd Hummer. He would also like to use the website/email as a parent communication tool by possibly adding a monthly PTSO newsletter, advertise PTSO events. Thom said that he hoped to have more information at the September meeting. Mr. Shaffer said that he has updated the email distribution list to include the incoming sophomores. It was mentioned that Daily Announcements used to be on the website, but are no longer being put on there. Mr. Hamilton said he would check on this.

Principal's Report – Dick Hamilton reported that West has twelve new staff members so far and that there may be a few more. Kim McGuire, one of the assistant principals, left and they are hoping to fill that position. He also reported that the school received several new computers with bond money, but that the software for them had to be purchased. So far there are about 2100 students registered for the school year and 100 of the seniors have registered for zero period. Sophomore orientation will be Aug 15 & 16th and that the teacher's 1st day is Aug 21st. Open House is scheduled for Sept 6th at 7 pm. Mr. Hamilton will have 5 tables set-up for PTSO use during Orientation and Open House nights. The construction update is that digging should begin in September or October. It was noted that construction costs are skyrocketing because of increased fuel costs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts & Craft Show – Kate Miller reported that this will be Patti Lopiccolo's last year and it will be a big challenge to find someone to fill her position. The committee is also looking for volunteers to fill two chairmen positions (concessions & volunteers). Liberty Township has changed the zoning laws and that signs are no longer allowed anywhere in Liberty Township. She said that the PTSO Budget for Arts & Crafts Show may need to be increased some to allow for additional advertising. Kate is looking into the cost of placing ads in the Cincinnati Enquirer. \$2200 was spent last year placing ads in the Pulse Journal. She also said some advertisement is free, such as in the Community Calendar section of the Pulse Journal and the Public Information Channel. Kate also reported that the fees for Crafter's space have been increased this year. Kate will talk with Dianne and have updated numbers for the budget to Sue before the September meeting.

After Prom Committee – Marlene Munday reported that the Prom will be May 5th this year and that changing the time of the prom from 8 pm – 12 midnight is still being considered. The prom will be at the Cintas Center. Oak Hills used the Cintas Center last year and they were very pleased. The After Prom Wrap-Up meeting went very well. Marlene said that it will be her and Gigi's last year also and that they are going to the Freshman Building to try and recruit volunteers to shadow them this year. The After Prom Committee will be doing both the Train Show and Tri-County Evening of Giving again this year to help raise funds.

Staff Appreciation - Lynne Hoover and Bonnie Stremming asked Mr. Hamilton what date would be the best date for the Teacher's Breakfast. Mr. Hamilton said that Sept. 22nd, at 8 am would be a good time. The breakfast will be served on Main Street, as was done last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

A question was asked about the status of the sign. Patti Marx said that PTSO has decided to hold off purchasing until it can decide how it will best fit into the remodeling.

NEW BUSINESS:

Thom asked how the directory information was obtained and then printed. It was explained a staff member takes the information and converts it from an excel file to a listing format and then gives it to the Directory Chairman. The Directory Chairman then has to be sure to remove the names of students who have designated that they do not want to be listed in the directory. Last year the directory was copied outside of the building partly because Vanessa did not have a lot of time to publish the directory once she became chairman. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of publishing the directory outside of school vs inside of school. It was felt that the directory could be published much cheaper if it were done inside the school. If the directory is to be done inside the school, the PTSO would need to purchase a binding machine. Sue Guttag made a motion for Vanessa Nicely or her designee be authorized to purchase a heavy duty binding machine for the use of the PTSO and the school and that she be able to spend up to \$500 for the binding machine and the supplies. Patti Marx seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14, 2006.

Respectfully submitted: Pam Guynes, Secretary