

Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High
PTSA General Meeting
Wednesday, September 21th, 2010
everychild one voice

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

Liz Rockowitz- President

Liz Rockowitz welcomed parents and thanked them for attending the first meeting of the year. Liz introduced the new executive board and went over the agenda. Liz announced that Dr. Welker needed to leave and would speak first.

Minutes – Milly Delgado

Minutes of the May 2010 meeting were presented for approval. Motion was presented by Sharon Gayoso and second by Nancy Henschel to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Principal's Report

Dr. Welker thanked the PTSA for their hard work the previous year and for their continued work on behalf of children.

Dr. Welker explained the challenges faced by the School District because the class size amendment had to be implemented at class level., meaning maximum of 25 students in core courses. Last year teacher's averages had to be total of 125 but now each class has to be fewer than 25. The school is trying to level all core courses and, when needed, will use Florida Virtual School Education. Dr. Welker explained that the state funds the school based on 300 minutes a day but our days are 350 minutes .The school can allocate one period of the day to Florida Virtual to reduce enrollment. The deadline for compliance is Oct 15. Dr. Welker explained that virtual courses are taken at the school during the day. Number of classes a student can take online is 2-3.

The following are some of the question asked by parents or teachers present at the meeting:

Question: What was the number of students in gifted/advance courses impacted by these changes/ why are the student changed?

Question: Students from other countries who by default are placed in lower performing classes where the student doesn't belong. How can that situation be addressed? Teachers have been made aware to look for these students and use interim assessments to identify and move students to the correct level.

Question: Schedule problems; where to look for help? Changes were done earlier but as of August changes were not possible until school started. The school is functioning with 37 fewer employees. There are 5 counselors for the whole school.

Question: Could students choose virtual classes directly? Yes.

Question: Should every child be asked what they prefer (in class or virtual) and let them decide? No, it will be chaotic because the school doesn't have enough personnel to help.

Question: It was suggested to inform parents about the advantage and flexibility of virtual school.

Question: A person was assigned to coordinate student services. Her name is Doret Cambridge. Dr. Welker recommended to call the school to schedule appointments

Milly Delgado and Joanne Labaton suggested that parents contact the legislation and become more active on legislative issues. Joanne announced the opportunity to listen to Miami-Dade County Legislative meeting next Tuesday, in Dade County Auditorium at 6:30 pm.

Treasurer's Report – Jean Smoler

Jean mentioned that the proposed 2010-2011 budget will be presented at the next meeting for approval. After answering questions a motion was presented by Sharon Gayoso and second by Nancy Henshel to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

Reports from the Board

Membership – Allison Mars and Anny Vainstein

Allison and Any reported that, as of today, we have 530 members. Teachers/Staff: 97/ 400 students/parents.

Practice SAT/ACT test Nov 13 8:30 am in cafeteria. Students can sign up during the week.

Senior scholarships were explained. 22 scholarships were given last year.

Liz explained that last year funds raised by PTSA were used as follows:

- 17K for teacher grants
- 10 students trip to Tallahassee was paid for to participate in the Rally to Tally Event
- 12 students Grad
- 22 senior scholarships to purchase computers
- 4k for the school to continue the use of Turnitin.com
- Teacher recognition for perfect attendance

Liz thanked both for their hard work.

Fundraising – Ruth Vernick

Ruth explained that she is working with Yael. Events coming on:

Macy - Shop for a Cause – Oct 16

Shop for Krop – Nov 9

Silent Auction – April 28th

Princeton Review – Sharon

Sharon contacted Mr. Braneck, author of “The Best 373 Colleges,” who will come to the school on October 6th. Parents need to register to attend. She encouraged parents to attend and spread the word.

Free SAT/ is different from the PSAT.

Liz mentioned useful websites to parents such as:

Fastweb.com

FACTS.org

Collegeboard.com

Student Activity Director – Michelle Russell

Ms. Russell explained how chaotic the situation in the office has been but she wanted parents to understand the pressure the administration is under because the school has to meet the class sizes. Ms. Russell announced the following events coming up:

- Mandatory Senior Parent night – Tuesday, Sept 28, one in November, and one in December. All rules and expectations will be presented to parents at the meetings. All at 6:30 pm. Parents need to attend 2/3 meetings.
- Homecoming – this week, pep rally, club fair next week. Goal is to have attendance go up at homecoming events.
- SGA – working in keeping the school clean, etc.
- Website – she is responsible to update the site.
- Weekly calendar is her responsibility

Suggestions –Have teacher's wish list online

Questions: student athlete cannot do clubs. If they cannot attend the meetings, could they still be part of the clubs? Ms. Russell is working to find service for clubs to do at school.

CAP Advisor – Mr. Roddy

Mr. Roddy describes what he does helping students get into college. He requested parents' email if they wish to receive his valuable information.

Mr. Roddy makes appt with students or parents after school but not during the day; normally even after 5pm. The school's statistics are as follows:

51 % 4-yr college

45% CC

96% to college

College Forum – Mr. Roddy developed a forum for students or parents to post questions. He will present the forum to all cap advisors in Miami-Dade County. Scholarship information will be made available through the college forum.

College Visits Schedule – Mr. Roddy encourages students to attend and take advantage of having so many good schools visiting and making presentations.

College Fair – October 13th Very good colleges will be attending. So far 95 colleges are already registered. Other schools will be invited as well.

Advocacy – Joanne Labaton

On Sept. 28 there is a legislative meeting organized by Dade County PTSA. Joanne explained about the information that will be provided encouraging parents to continue fighting since our taxes go to Tallahassee and only a small portion comes back to our county. Joanne also mentioned Capwiz.com for parents to receive legislation notifications related to children's issues.

New Business

Tom Lander – History teacher, board director of UTD. Mr. Lander explained Amendment 8 in the ballot were Yes means to adjust the class size to anything the legislation proposes. The state will directly control the numbers in the classroom. Voting No will keep the original mandate in place.

Virtual Schools – Mr. Lander's opinion is that they are bad. He mentioned that a new mandate by the County is that every 9th graders needs to take at least one virtual class. He encouraged parents to contact Dr. Karp and our legislators.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm
Respectfully submitted by

Milly Delgado, Secretary