

Hampton Council of PTA/PTSAs
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.
Monica apologized for the last minute change in location.

Welcome & Intros: Introduce board again – and 2 new members: Jennifer Phillips as school board rep and Patrice Phillips for community relations – latest contact list is in paperwork with the folders.

The minutes from Sept. 30 were approved.
The agenda was approved, with an addition-New Business needs to be added after the Reflections report.

Treasurer's Report:
The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Approve new Hampton Council PTA bylaws.

There are quite a few changes to the by-laws. Renee explained the changes and asked if there were any questions. A member asked if the State PTA would also be raising their dues. They probably will but we don't know for sure.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the by-laws changes. It was approved to accept them. Monica announced that the following individuals were willing to serve on the Hampton Council PTA nominating committee: *Patrice Phillips, Rebecca Mahan & Karen Leckemby*. Monica asked if anyone else there was interested in serving and nobody volunteered. A motion was made, seconded and approved to elect these ladies as our nominating committee.

Our next meeting will be March 31st, where we will elect the new officers for the Hampton Council. The nominating committee has been asked to provide a recommended slate of officers by mid February. That will be e-mailed out to PTA presidents and included in our e-letters so that you are informed before the March 31st election. If you are interested in a position on the Hampton Council board next year, please see one of those ladies.

Also, please note that units should be forming nominating committees for next year's officers at their own schools.

Moton asked for help with their PTA elections and Monica will get with her separately.

President's Report (dates are listed at bottom of your agenda for reference)

- The PTA membership appreciation event at Arena Racing was Sunday and it went very well. We saw students there from quite a few schools and 8 students were chosen to wave the flag to start the races. Thanks to Karen Leckemby for organizing that event.
- Jan 19 deadline for registering for PTA day at the General Assembly on Jan 26. Our district legislative chair is setting up special appointments with legislators and if you let me know you're going, I can get you in on those. Let me know ASAP. Children can go.
- Jan 22 deadline for Hampton Education Foundation Grants
- Feb 1 deadline for middle & high school students to submit entries for VA PTA citizenship essay contest. Applications were e-mailed to those PTA presidents and are on-line on our web-site if you have a middle or high school student that would like to enter. Don't have to go through the school PTA.
- For those schools that have not done their audit for last year, we are hosting an Audit party on February 4th at 6 pm at the Main library. Members of our council board will be there to help you do your audit. Just bring your books and we'll help you navigate through the audit! If your school is one of these, there is an invitation in your paperwork. We require

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RSVPs for this because we would like to provide food and if there is no response, we will cancel.

- Vol of Year Applications due February 6th – info in handbook and on web-site-applications will change at state level to two or more reference letters.
- March 2nd is deadline for VA PTA college scholarships for students going into teaching careers so encourage any students that you know to apply.
- Dues update; March 1st is next due date for state & March 31 for us – final for awards. Mar. 1st is the last date for awards from state.
- Remind of next meeting, March 31st, 7pm at Eaton; and awards to apply for.
- Remind of banquets – date set for district: April 16; city banquet May 12.
- Howmet Corporation donated \$1,200 to our scholarship program! We plan to invite 2 Howmet reps to our banquet in May to thank them personally.
- Scholarship applications will be in High school guidance offices and available on our web-site by Feb 1st with an application deadline of March 31st. Goal is to give a \$1,000 to a High School senior at each of our 4 high schools. This relies on donations from your school PTAs. Thanks so much to those schools that have already sent in contributions! Thanks to those schools that have contributed to scholarship and Reflections! I know it's a tough year economically and fundraisers may not have been successful this year as in the past so your contributions are very much appreciated. We are still short of our goal, so if you are able to contribute we would really appreciate that. You can do that when you send in your March 31st dues.
- March 22nd there will be an event at the Boo Williams Sportsplex to highlight Hampton City Schools and encourage parents to get involved. I gave a talk to the basketball league there in November along with the Spratley PTA president, Mone Gilliam. We addressed a group of parents about how important it is to get involved with your student's education and gave some advice on how to do that. I really just introduced Mone and let her do all the talking. She really touched the hearts of some parents that just never knew how to get involved. We're hoping that by increasing awareness we can help. More information will be coming out about the March 22nd event. Bruce Davis and Carl Alexander both said that they would be interested in that.

Family Involvement Campaign

- Jan 20th, 6 pm at Eaton in library– Family Involvement brainstorming meeting; need a chair (budget reductions will hit hard & it will be helpful if teachers have that support at home so students come to school fed, well rested, good behavior,...) How can we help improve Family involvement in the schools or at least stressing the importance of school in the home & make it a priority?

Rights & Responsibilities Update

- Thanks to those that served on Rights & Responsibilities committee and attended those meetings: Trish Allen of Asbury, Jodi Andrews from Armstrong, Maria Augustus from Burbank, Claire Neubert from Syms & Kecoughtan, Debbie Varney of Tucker-Capps & Paulette McCarthy from Hampton High. Certificates were given at the meeting by the Director of Student Services and a few people didn't get theirs. I put those in the folder for that PTA, if you can please get it to that person. HCS policy committee is currently reviewing the footwear, attendance and cell phone policies. The PTA is urging middle schools to allow cell phones.
- I would like to thank all those that serve on committees. There have been a lot and it's very important that we take advantage of these opportunities to provide parent input. So, thanks

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to all of you who helped on the committees for the new school naming, attendance boundaries, community priority workshops (Feb 18), parent focus group this morning. If you're interested in being part of parent input groups in the future or have a special interest, please let me know so that I can keep you in mind when opportunities arise.

- Rights & Responsibilities committee: we had changes to the Handbook which included the footwear portion of dress code for elementary & High school students. Also, recommendations on attendance policy to clarify unexcused vs excused absences and changes to cell phone policy.

Local Unit PTAs status: dues, audit, budget, bylaws, contributions to reflections & scholarship

- Enclosed with the paperwork in the folders given to each school is a table showing where each PTA stands for different items. It shows where your PTA stands as far as officer listings, audits, budgets, bylaws, dues and if your PTA has contributed to scholarship and Reflections. Please refer to that table to see if your PTA owes anything. Contact me or the appropriate board person if you have questions.
- Make sure you filed Taxes. It was due either Nov 15 or Dec 15 and ALL schools had to file this year. If taxes are not filed this year you will be dropped from the non-profit list. Please also note that you need to send you filing receipt to the VA PTA. Info for that was in the January e-letter. There is a hard copy of the e-letter with the paperwork in the folders given to each school PTA.

Reflections update

- Reflections – Please remember to pick up your portfolios and remember to check that all your entries are there. There was a big increase in entries this year-196 entries with 88 winners. Thanks to everyone for their donations-there were a lot of donations this year. Please feel free to make more donations if you can! Remember that the ceremony is Feb 26, 7 pm, here at Jones.
- New Business: Alice Swan (Phoebus PTA president) asked about OMDR. They are having a problem with spam after sending out e-mails. Has anyone else had this problem? There was discussion about this issue. No one else had that issue. Monica will send an e-mail to state PTA to make them aware of problem and see if they have advice for Alice.

Review of Money Handbook: Monica explained embezzlement problem that happened in Hampton and stressed how these things can happen so that proper money handling is extremely important. She went through the handbook that the Hampton Council developed and fielded questions.

Dr. Russo: briefing plus Q&A on budget reductions. There were quite a lot of questions on this subject and comments to him on some of the proposed cuts. HCS budget will be cut by about \$12.5 million or 10% of current budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Marks
Recording Secretary