

**Robinson Secondary PTSA
Executive Board Meeting
11/14/07**

The regular meeting of the Robinson Secondary PTSA Executive Board was held on 11/14/07 in the Media Center of the Robinson Secondary School. A quorum being present, President, Karen Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. A list of those in attendance is as follows: (See attachment I)

Karen Baxter, Kathy Kocik, Jeannie Lesko, Kathe Naughton, Sharon Brown, Paul Glenn, Kevin Bell, Ricka Hanson, Vicki Kagan, Toni Schwartzman, Pat Wirth, Kathy Weiner, Deborah Aceto-Milton, Debbie Kilpatrick, MARRISA TORRES, LeighAnne Baxter, Dan Meier.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the 10/10/07 Executive Board Meeting were distributed for review. Kevin Bell motioned to accept with changes. Paul Glenn seconded and the motion and the minutes were approved as presented with some minor typos corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Great Harvest Fundraiser raised \$2,910. Escript \$1,101 in income.

We cut a check to the school for academic letters for \$1,000. We also reimbursed the school for the printing of the RamGram \$ 1,304.

Kevin Bell moved to pass the financial report as presented,

President's report

Robinson won the "School of Excellence" award from the Virginia PTA for 2006 – 2007.

SOL Hearing: To be held at RHS to add Civil War and reconstruction to the 7th grade curriculum from the 6th grade. This adds 5 weeks to our curriculum. HS and MS teachers oppose this change. They cannot absorb this time consuming addition.

General Membership meeting: Trying to get a program up, to invite other schools, regarding dating abuse – violence. Drug and Alcohol abuse counselor Sam Wagner will be doing a short presentation at the same time.

The board voted on three proposed changes to PTSA bylaws to keep us in compliance with state bylaws. These are minor changes. These changes will go in the Ram Gram in December and the changes will be voted on at the General Membership meeting in January 2008. (See attachment II)

School Reports

Dan Meiers:

There are many short weeks during November. The 2nd annual Touching Bases was successful, 300 MS and 300 HS parents attended. The feedback forms had a lot of parent suggestions and they are in the process of going through them.

Veterans Day was in afternoon and was successful.

The toughest challenge at Robinson is that many of the employees get promoted and they are hard to replace if they are to be replaced well.

The Superintendent is revising the budget and cutting \$100 Million dollars from the budget next year and its anticipated there will be another \$100 Million cut in the following year.

Items to tentatively be cut are: construction thus making class sizes larger; the teachers COLA raises; and freshman sports. There have been suggestions to charge students for away games. The PTSA County wide may need to get involved to fight these changes. All departments in the central office have been told to cut 5% of their budgets. The cuts will be permanent. Another suggestion is to go back to a 6 period day and this would eliminate electives for some students.

Kevin Bell suggests that we communicate with the parents through the RamGram about the proposed cuts and their impact and ask them to take action.

Per Dan our HS classes are larger than they have ever been.

The Band Boosters and the Athletic Boosters who are strong parent organizations should be communicated with about these proposed changes and hopefully we can rally their support to oppose these changes.

These budget changes will be presented to the School Board in December.

General and Guidance

Vicki Kagan: One of the HS counselors, Karen Brett is out on short term disability. A long term sub has been hired to handle Karen's work load. Amy Beth Marta's position has been filled by Sherry Harlow who previously held a position as director of guidance at Key MS.

The guidance department is partnering with the community recreation center at Braddock Road. They are looking at joint programs for the students.

PSAT's were taken and Explorer (9th gr) . Recognition for merit semi-finalists – 27 RHS scholarships.

High School

Kathe Naughton – The annual Williamsburg field trip will be November 15th.

Legislative

Kevin Bell – He has been discussing (CIP) the fact that RHS did not been funded to complete its renovation, while other schools are jumping ahead of us to be renovated. This is in violation of school board policy.

For example, RHS gym locker rooms are in disrepair and in need of renovation

PTS proposed legislation passed about online education. Revising the grading scores, i.e. what constitutes an A. SLEEP is another topic but has been back tracked due to transportation.

11/29 at 2:30 there will be a legislative presentation with many state legislators present.

Funding

Kathy Weiner

The following funding requests were presented:

1. Staff/Teacher Development - \$150 reimbursement to Ms. Abby Maginn (ESOL) towards registration cost to attend the TSOL convention in NY, NY April 2nd – 5th. Kevin Bell moved to pass the resolution, the motion passed unanimous.
2. Special Project – Ms. Debra David (HS Spec. ED/English) requested \$993.60 to purchase Scholastic books and other high interest low level books for below grade level readers. The recommendation is to approve this request. Kevin Bell moved to pass this resolution. Vicki Kagan mentioned that this type of provision has been successful in the past. Dan mentioned that this is supplemental to the instructional money. Tobi seconded, and the motion passed unanimous.
3. Staff/Teacher Development – Ms Megan Garnett and Karen Baxter Request \$150 ea to underwrite the \$613 registration for each teacher to attend a 2 day workshop Kevin Bell and Paul Glen passed.
4. Recurring Programs: approval for line items already in the budget is not required therefore we passed on this discussion.

However we did discuss reimbursement to Carol Bartus who missed the early registration deadline for Odyssey of the Mind. The board voted to reimburse her for \$35 additional fee paid.

The School of Excellence Award

An Award was presented to Pat Wirth by Debbie Kilpatrick. The Virginia PTA convention was attended by Pat Wirth who represented RHS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Ricka Hanson, Recording Secretary

The minutes were:

_____ approved as submitted

_____ approved as corrected

Date: _____

