

Longfellow PTA Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 8, 2007

Attendance

Wilma Bowers, Vincent Lynch, Lisa Robertson, Jamie Korelitz, Gail Bigio, Rajni Goel, Mary Bullen, Meena Krishman, Ann Nguyen, Catherine Slotkoff, Laura Harris, Rene Galdo, Jihui Kim, Sheri Berman

Wilma Bower, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on October 11, 2007 were not available for review therefore they would be approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma Bowers overviewed the financial status as reported to her by Allan Kim.

Guest Speaker

Ms. Michelle Turow provided an overview of current trends in the teenage drug usage within Fairfax County. Drugs and substances being abused by teenagers are widely varied in both form and cost. There are many items found in most households that are actually being abused and used in inappropriate ways by youth. Such use could result in irreparable damage and or dire consequences. Ms. Turow showed us examples of some of the household items including inhalants, coidedren and white out. Parents were also urged to pay attention to modes of delivery, for example, Skittles bags are used to 'exchange/transfer' drugs (masking them as candy). Ms. Turow was also able to give some rather graphic explanations of the nature of the 'highs' that kids would experience from the various drugs. Ms. Turow indicated that there is a lot of 'blog' chatter about where the parties are going to be and what kinds of things are going to be available at parties and where it's possible to get 'abusive substances'. The schools are combating the problem through education taking place in the Family Life Education classes. Some parents noted that their child's experience in FLE seemed to have a positive impact on warning against the dangers of drugs. Mr. Lynch indicated that he was not aware of drug sales/transfers occurring within the school but that he was aware of instances taking place off of school grounds.

After School Program Funding – Allocation of "Mini-Grants"

Wilma Bower stated that some concern had been expressed that last year the funds went to just a few activities, i.e., band, and it was unclear that the funding was available for all types of school-sponsored clubs. Following discussion at the last meeting, a subcommittee was created to determine fair allocation of 'after school program' funds. Lisa Robertson presented a description of the process used to solicit 'requests for mini-grants' from the various teachers and after school groups interested in seeking PTA funds. She also overviewed the process used by the subcommittee to review the applications and propose an equitable distribution of PTA funds. In conclusion, the PTA

funds were distributed across all groups that had submitted qualified requests for funding and covered by the following activities:

- Hip Hop Step
- Robotics
- Poetry Café
- Special Ed. – Library
- Science Olympiad
- Lego League
- Earth Day
- Chess Club
- A Positive Behavior
- 1<sup>st</sup> Generation College trips

#### Principal's Report

- Mr. Lynch invited interested parents to attend a presentation by the FCPS construction team regarding progress/developments on Longfellow's renovation plans. The meeting would be held on November 12 and December 12. Mr. Lynch noted the renovation budget slated for Longfellow was the largest for any FCPS middle school to date and that he is generally pleased with the developments in the renovation planning. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in February 2009.
- Mr. Lynch reminded parents that there would be a 2-hour early dismissal for the Thanksgiving holiday and he also reminded parents of Longfellow's policy regarding 'unexcused absences' over holiday periods.

#### Calendar of Events

The date for International Night was set for the first Friday night in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.