M.A.S.T. P.T.S.A., Inc.
February 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 7:14 P.M. Adam Hubeny, PTSA Co-President, called the meeting to order. Seventeen members were present. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Adam noted that the October 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes had been posted to the school web site approximately two weeks after that meeting for membership review. A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded with unanimous acceptance voted. Executive Committee members present in addition to Adam were Jill Henry and Stanley McGregory, Co-Vice Presidents, Barbara Ilaria, Treasurer, and Helene Hagen, Recording Secretary. Diane Hubeny, Co-President, Sakeena McGregory, Co-Vice President, and Anne Davidson, Corresponding Secretary, were unable to attend.

Executive Committee Reports followed.

Treasurer's Report- Barbara Ilaria provided details of the Financial Report. Checking account balance as of January 31, 2010 was $25,464.94 and Money Market balance was $55, 483.17 for a total balance of $80,948.11 in available funds. Adam raised the point that the checking account balance was at a level where some of the funds therein might earn better interest in another account. Barbara suggested that she will check on what the historical expenses for the balance of the school year have been and provide data on how much money might need to be on hand. The next big fund raiser is expected to be the Super Raffle. Last year's initial report of revenues for the Super Raffle were $11,441.00. Adam mentioned that the revenue will likely be slightly lower this year now that the requirements for dispersal amounts are within prescribed guidelines.
Barbara noted that the license for a legal game of chance raffle was being renewed. She has also filed paperwork for the Investors' Savings Bank Scholarship grant recently. It is unknown whether the Bank will provide the grant at this time.

Vice President's Report- Vice Presidents Jill Henry, and Stanley McGregory had nothing to report at this time. One footnote was that the possibility of more off site meetings for the PTSA are in the plans for next year. Jill Henry had looked into room availability at Brookdale Community College but found they impose a rental fee of $550.00 for this. She spoke with Dr. C. who contacted Principal Dan Simon at High Technology H.S. on the Brookdale campus. Mr. Simon has authorized the use of their multi purpose meeting room for our next meeting on April 19, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.
Jill also raised the issue of whether a February meeting should be on our schedule in the future. Dwight Hakim responded with several key issues that need to be addressed at that time of year. The February meeting date will continue to be scheduled in the future, despite concerns about low attendance and weather problems.

Recording Secretary- Helene Hagen had nothing to report at this time.

Corresponding Secretary- Adam reported on on behalf of Ms. Davidson. Several thank you cards have been received from faculty members to the PTSA. He is forwarding to the Corresponding Secretary for our files.

Faculty Report- Ms Hoffman was unable to attend. Dr. Christopher was not present, so no report was filed.

Committee Reports:

Clothing-Dot Lucyk reported that there had been some activity over the Holiday period with gift sales. She believes she has sufficient inventory for the April orientation for incoming freshman, but may need to order more inventory at that time.
Driver's Ed- Pam Donegan was not present. Adam reported on the 30 hour program being offered through Coast Driving School for a cost of $140.00 after school beginning in the end of February. A suggestion was made that future offerings might be preceded by a search for an accredited school to administer the permit test so that students do not have to go to the DMV to take the test. Local school districts sometimes offer this.
Jill Henry mentioned that Coast Driving School also offers a home study version of the course that students who would be unable to attend the classroom training program might be interested in. Contact Coast Driving School directly with any inquiries as this is separate from the offering at MAST.

Super Raffle- Phil Peluso reported that the application for the gambling license was going to be filed the following day with Middletown Township. Phil's hard work was noted by Adam and the attending membership. A successful fundraiser is again hoped for.

Directory/Membership - Mr. Keith Dwight was unable to attend. Dwight Hakim noted the membership rolls currently stand at 175 member families and 101 non member families. Dwight reported he and Keith had spoken about the overlap between these committees (65% according to Dwight). A suggestion to combine the committees and responsibilities was discussed for next year pending further input from Keith Dwight.
Dwight noted that it would make sense to resolve this prior to the solicitation letter to accepted students for the class of 2014 going out in March. By-Laws would need to be reviewed to see if there are any parliamentary issues that need to be taken into consideration.
A proposal to link the purchase of a Directory to the Membership fees was made and discussed. Families that join the MAST PTSA Inc. under either a three or four year enrollment would receive the year one Directory gratis upon payment. All other members would be eligible to purchase the Directories at a discounted rate of $5.00. Non-members would be offered the directory at $10.00 each.
The proposal was seconded and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Family Picnic- no report

Hospitality- no report

Scholarship- Dr. Joel Ross reported that guidelines and information for the 2010 Scholarship program had been posted to the MAST website and encouraged Senior parents and students to take note. Questions will be posted on Monday April 5, 2010 with a deadline for submission by close of the school day on Friday, May 14, 2010.

SAT/PSAT- Marianne Morse mentioned that she was hoping to get a sense of interest and timing from the sophomore class in advance and plan a program next year for the test dates most anticipated to be of interest. A lower enrollment than necessary for the significantly discounted SAT course offering here at MAST was experienced this year. The Princeton Review Staff accommodated those who had enrolled at other locations but were not able to offer as significant a discount for the course at those locations.

Graduation -no report

Sunshine- Barbara Ilaria had nothing to report at this time.

Note: Committee chairs will need to be voted on and approved by the Executive Committee for the 2010-2011 school year after the close of the 'official' 2009-2010 school year for the PTSA. Interested parties should contact the PTSA co-presidents.

Standing Committee Reports:
By-Laws- Nothing to report.

Rude Awakening- Ed Plaskon provided details on the drunk driving education event now s**cheduled for April 22, 2010** here at MAST from 9 AM to 1:40 PM for an expected 860 students. The PTSA will again host a breakfast for students who will not be having their usual lunch period due to the altered schedule. **Volunteers** to assist at the breakfast and to donate food and beverage items **will be needed**. Volunteers to assist the Middletown Police Department are also needed. Training for these volunteers will be provided on April 17, 2010 at the Middletown Rail Station Lot 2, and here at MAST on the day of the event (4/22) one hour before the start at 8:00 AM. It was noted that a chaperone ratio of 1:10 parent/students was needed. Ed is drafting an Email in this regard and will provide to Adam . Adam will forward the email to the membership from the PTSA. Details of the Volunteer Breakfast will also need to be addressed.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair- Helene Hagen reported that a total of $957.76 (receipts of $614.30 based on 15% of total day MAST sale revenues, coupled with $343.46 in gift wrap monies) were deposited to the PTSA account. A special thanks went out to the individual store team leaders, Ed Failla, Sheryl Dwyer and Jeanne Quinn.

Old Business-

Student/Teacher Assistance Application- Adam was sadly disappointed that his email with the information had not resulted in any responses. He will send out another email and also follow up with Dr. Christopher.
Helene Hagen mentioned that perhaps the PTSA should establish an Enrichment Liason position to seek out information on activities or speakers that might enhance the academic experience of our students or assist our faculty. The role of the Liason would be to seek out information and provide it to potentially interested parties like faculty or student organizations to see if the offerings would be of interest to them in fulfillment of our mission statement. Adam felt the faculty or students need to show initiative in planning such activities, and that the PTSA would then be there to support them when and if they do. A position might be discussed for next year.
Jill Henry mentioned that she would like to see students in the freshmen technology classes get a chance to see the Morris Museum exhibition featuring the Murtogh D. Guinness collection of mechanical musical instruments and automata. Largely dating to the 19th century, these objects employ many design elements covered in the freshman Tech curriculum in an entertaining, informative and interactive display. Others voiced concern about the cost of busing for such a trip.

Adam mentioned that it was likely too late for this year, but he would like to entertain other ways to financially assist students- such as funding the junior trip to the Cloisters or paying for caps and gowns- in addition to the PTSA's payment of ¾ of the price of the Senior Brunch for the graduating class

members. Further discussion with Cr. Christopher about some of these proposals will be undertaken.

Monmouth Mall Points- Adam reported that we had fallen slightly short of the number of points needed for a digital video camera, but that **a Canon Digital Camera and memory cards** had been purchased and given to Mrs. Hoffman f**or use in the media center**.

Ed Plaskon proposed a purchase of a video camera up to a value of $325.00 be voted on. Adam mentioned that while he supported the concept, he would like to check with Mrs. Hoffman to see that it would be a welcome addition to the media center resources. **A motion to approve up to $325.00 to be spent for the purchase of a digital video camera if desired was made and seconded and approved unanimously.**

New Business-

Musical Instrument Purchase- Ed and Shawn Villalobos suggested the PTSA might consider purchase of musical instruments on an incremental basis, with no expenditure exceeding $400-500 per annum, to be housed for student use at MAST. Adam had taken this idea to Dr. Christopher who said that if such purchases were made the school would provide insurance and storage for the purchases. Mr. & Mrs. Villalobos had noted that there were a number of students with musical abilities and interest who lug in instruments for use at different events. They felt having instruments on site would be both beneficial and inspirational for the students. There was a consensus of support among the membership but a request to first ask for donations of instruments prior to purchases was made and seconded by several parents who noted they had unused instruments at home. Adam is to follow up with an email asking for donations. Ed Villalobos will prioritize a list of desirable instruments and the subject will be revisited at the next PTSA meeting on April 19, 2010 at High Technology HS on the Brookdale Campus in Lincroft NJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.