M.A.S.T. P.T.S.A., Inc.
June 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 7:09 P.M. Adam and Diane Hubeny, PTSA Co-Presidents, called the meeting to order. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Adam noted that the May 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes had been posted to the school web site approximately two weeks prior for membership review. A motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded with unanimous acceptance voted.

Executive Committee Reports followed.

Treasurer's Report- Toni Dona provided details of the Financial Report. Income for the Month of May 2009 included ticket sales from the Super Raffle, and clothing sales at the Freshman Orientation. Dispersals included clothing purchases, purchase of canvas bags for faculty use in transport of materials, expenses associated with the Teacher's luncheon, Sunshine and Hospitality costs, Rude Awakening donation, Purchase of Freshmen T-shirts awarded to the incoming class of 2013, mailing costs, and a donation made from our student assistance fund.

Toni noted that June expenses will include the PTSA Scholarship Awards, Family Picnic Catering Costs, and Graduation and other year end activities. A motion to approve the Report was made and seconded. A unanimous vote to accept followed.

Adam expressed his sincere thanks both personally as well as on behalf of the entire PTSA to Toni for her work as Treasurer. He noted Toni has been an indispensable ally in any effort to improve and assist in PTSA activities. A hearty applause from the audience ensued.

Vice President's Report- Incoming Vice Presidents Jill Henry, Stanley and Sakeena McGregory were all present. There was nothing to report at this time.

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

Corresponding Secretary- Deb Konczynski read thank you's received from several members of the school community. Mr. Meyers formally expressed his appreciation for the Teacher's Luncheon. Mrs. Loughrey thanked the PTSA for the Floral Gift presented to her on Nurse's Day, and Connee Moss wrote a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who had assisted her in preparing for, and working at, the Family Picnic.

PTSA Scholarship Recipient Nick Dona expressed his appreciation for the award received at the Senior Brunch, as well as the efforts of the PTSA on behalf of all students during his four years at MAST. Adam noted he had been told there were a number of Thank yous received from other Scholarship recipients but, unfortunately, they were locked in the school offices. He mentioned they will be acknowledged at the first PTSA meeting next school year.

Adam expressed his thanks to Deb for all her work - the Gift Auction in addition to other PTSA Activities- during her daughter's years at MAST. The audience voiced their agreement with a round of applause.

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

Committee Reports:

Driver's Ed- Connee Moss noted a successful conclusion of the course this year.

Gift Auction- Iris Marketta noted the revised solicitation letter was in the works and near completion. Roseanne Brandl was unable to attend.

Super Raffle- Phil Peluso reported that proceeds for the supper raffle were better than expected, especially in this down economy and with the weather conditions on the day of the picnic. The PTSA is very thankful for a very generous donation to the Super Raffle/Scholarship programs of $500 by the Linnell family. Net revenues were $11,441.00. Phil's hard work was noted by Adam and the attending membership.

Directory- Mr. Keith Dwight reported that estimates for printing of the Membership Directories had been obtained. Pricing was linked to the number of units printed, e.g., 300 units @$640.00 or 400 units @ $715.. It was noted that this was a lower price than last year. Final costs can't be predicted until total pages are known. Tom Davidson was acknowledged for this assistance in preparing Keith to take over this process for next school year. Tom's work over the years in compiling and distributing the directory was acknowledged, and the audience voiced their appreciation in applause.

Family Picnic- Connee Moss reported that despite the weather the picnic had been a terrific event. She was a little disappointed in the number of incoming freshman present, and suggested we highlight the 'freshman welcome' and meet your 'buddy' aspect of the picnic in future mailings.

Connee will be 'graduating' this year and her work on the Family Picnic and Driver's Ed programs was acknowledged by the Executive Committee and the attending membership with loud applause.

Hospitality- Joanne Sufficool was unable to attend. Angela LaSala reported all was well with plans for the Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon. Adam recognized Angela for the tremendous efforts she has made in behalf of the PTSA during her time here at MAST, and he expressed the membership's appreciation as she, too, 'graduates' along with her daughter.

Membership- Dwight Hakim noted that 163 families signed up this year for a 63% participation rate. He felt the multi-year discount membership program was effective and suggested we continue to offer and promote it, especially to sophomore families.

Scholarship- Dr. Joel Ross had asked to be excused from the meeting. Adam reported in his absence.

Scholarships had been awarded at the Senior Bunch and Adam noted a very nice surprise was unveiled at that time. The PTSA had switched financial accounts to Investor Savings Bank a few months back in anticipation of the change of officers in the PTSA Treasurer position. Ms. Joanne DeCarlo, at the Investor's Deal NJ location had informed Toni Dona and Barbara Ilaria at that time of an Investor's Foundation program which awarded funds via a Grant program to selected institutions. Toni followed up with a letter and applied for the Grant on behalf of the PTSA Scholarship program. The Grant was awarded and an additional $5000.00 for scholarships was received on a one time basis. The Executive Committee met shortly thereafter to determine how best to handle these added funds. It was decided that since the Scholarship applications and format had already been opened for applicants, that the PTSA would allot an additional $1000 from the discretionary fund so that 'runner up' awards could be made to 2nd place finishers in each of the subject categories. As a result, six first place finishers received a $1500.00 scholarship, six 2nd place finishers received $1000.00, and two leadership recognitions for $500.00 each (winners determined by Dr. C.) were awarded at the luncheon. The existence of the 'second place' scholarships had been kept a secret up to that point, and the presentations by two representatives from Investors Savings Bank were well received. There were a total of 14 Scholarship recipients from a pool of 31 applicants in the senior class.

A thank you letter has been sent to the Investors Savings Bank Foundation by the PTSA.

Spaghetti Dinner- Patrice Jaskiewicz was unable to attend. Adam reported possible dates for the dinner next year were September 25, 2009 or October 2, 2009. The date will be finalized shortly.

SAT/PSAT- Marianne Morse mentioned that she was hoping to schedule both a PSAT and SAT prep course for the next school year at times that will prepare students for the more popular test dates (PSAT-Fall; SAT-January test date). Late scheduling this year resulted in a lower enrollment than necessary for the SAT course offering. The changes in the Princeton Review Staff that precipitated the delay are not expected to be an issue next school year.

A summer session test prep offering conducted by a group of Ivy League or top tier college students was also noted; information is being forwarded to the guidance staff for distribution.

Graduation -Mary Ann Kilduff said all is set for the June 19th event at 4:00 PM.

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

Monmouth Mall Points- This program has been extended through October 2009. Hand

in receipts at the Mall Customer Service desk.

Note: Committee chairs will need to be voted on and approved by the Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 school year after the close of the 'official' 2008-2009 school year for the PTSA. Most chair positions are accounted for at this point, but interested parties should contact the PTSA co-presidents.

Old Business- A few off-site PTSA meeting sessions had been proposed as a convenience to parents living further distances from MAST. Two off site meetings are being planned for next year. Helene Hagen will be requesting meeting rooms at the Monmouth County Library in Shrewsbury after dates are determined.

New Business- 'Loaner' laptops for student use had been purchased by the PTSA some time back. The batteries for the laptops are no longer holding a charge. A request to purchase new batteries had been declined by the MCVSD, so Ms. Hoffman had contacted the PTSA and requested we consider purchasing the items. A unanimous vote to approve followed. A discussion of how to direct funds of PTSA purchases for school use to best serve maintenance issues ensued, with a number of options contemplated.

A request by students for the PTSA to purchase an additional or replacement microwave for student use was bought up by Helene Hagen. The microwave purchased earlier this year was working, but reheat times had increased noticeably causing lines to form at lunch. This is likely due to the heavy use the unit receives. A second microwave, possibly a commercial grade unit, will be investigated by Adam.

Adam noted that Master Sergeant Streibel would be leaving MAST for another position at the end of the school year. He expressed the PTSA's best wishes for continued success to the Sergeant, who had been a welcome presence at many of the PTSA meetings these past two years, and whose concern for the students was always evident. He will be missed.

The PTSA wanted to acknowledge the generosity of the Bettancourt family following the draw of their winning ticket for the Super Raffle. They chose to donate the funds back to the PTSA fur use in funding PTSA sponsored programs benefiting MAST students.

The Executive committee will be meeting several times over the summer to plan for next year's events. Adam will be in touch with members in the near future for scheduling purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.