

General Smallwood Middle School PTO
Minutes
December 11, 2006

The General Smallwood Middle School PTO met Monday, December 11, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. 11 members signed in.

In the absence of the president and vice-president, the meeting was called to order by Alison Bode, Secretary/Treasurer. She also read the minutes from the previous meeting, and they were approved as read.

Veronica Coates thanked parents for volunteering to work at the book fair. Each student at General Smallwood Middle School received a coupon good for one book up to \$5 from the PTO. Books were stamped with "Compliments of the General Smallwood PTO."

Mrs. Baker, Principal, reported that the school newsletter is now available on line.

Mrs. Harris, Guidance Counselor, reported on upcoming presentations for 8th graders regarding the programs and application process for North Point High School. She also mentioned other programs being offered to students through the Guidance Department.

Ms. Salvia, Teacher, reported that the National Junior Honor Society had recently inducted 29 new members for a total of 63 members. The NJHS will be conducting several community service projects in the upcoming weeks.

Ms. Cardano, Teacher, gave an overview of the Read 180 program at General Smallwood, and thanked the PTO for the book fair coupons which were used as a part of her teaching process.

On the topic of fundraising, Dawn Kessler volunteered to spearhead a spring fundraiser. Mrs. asked the PTO to put our plans on hold until the school plans its next fundraiser, so as not to compete for funds. No action was taken.

Regarding teacher wish lists, Dawn Kessler reported that she had spent approximately \$56 purchasing pencils, tissues, and dictionaries to fulfill teacher wish list requests. Paula Wiegand had received a request to purchase a 2nd microwave oven for the teachers lounge and at last report had arranged to purchase that item at a discount from WalMart.

Some teachers had also requested volunteers. Mrs. Waite requested 2 volunteers, and Ms. Cardano was also in need of parent volunteers. There was also some discussion of coordinating a volunteer night, when parents could come in to complete projects needed by teachers. No action was taken. Mrs. Baker mentioned that in order to utilize our school as a true full community school, volunteers might be needed to help organize classes and/or activities for parents.

Alison Bode reported that the Charles County Public Schools Communications and Publications Department has recently completed a survey of the communication preferences and needs of parents in Charles County and will be working with the Communication Advisory Committee to implement new communication strategies, including better use of the internet and possibly televising board of education meetings.

Mrs. Baker answered questions from a parent and there was some discussion regarding teacher response to parent e-mails.

Following a motion by Veronica Coates and numerous seconds, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Alison Hancock Bode
Secretary/Treasurer