

**RIVER HILL HIGH SCHOOL PTSA**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**April 16, 2007**

**Call to Order:** 7:10pm

**Attendees:** Mr. Ryan, Lorraine Seelaus, Sheila Bishoff, Bobbie Leon, Denise Lancaster, Karen Chase, Madonna Dougherty, Venu Iyengar, Valerie Gunter, Regina Thyberg, Elaine Trogdon Martz, Terry Ullman, Alberta Hall, Judy Maunz

**Recording Secretary:** March Meeting Minutes accepted as written.

**President:**

“Thank you” to everyone who helped with the Blue Ribbon ceremony. It was a very nice day and quite an extravaganza. Kathy Markley and Alberta Hall did a great job of coordinating.

Nominating Committee Update: slate must be available 10 days prior to General Assembly meeting. President position is still open.

Homewood School update: we will pick a day, outside of Staff Appreciation week, to take bagels/muffins to the Homewood school staff.

P3 coming along very well. Fundraising has come through so all the party plans can be executed. New businesses have donated – some very generously! P3 invitations have yielded a good response (about 2-3x more family responses than yago)... including from some businesses. ALIBI will play in the coffeehouse that night.

Suggestion for next year’s budgeting: consider giving some scholarships for a couple of SAT Prep classes. It has been happening all along but we may want to formalize communication on it.

**Principal:**

Starting with current 9<sup>th</sup> graders and incoming freshmen, Advisory will now move to a random grouping of students. The time (once/week) will be used to start to talk about developmental assets, including guidance and college prep. Reps will be elected in each advisory and report in to Student Government. They’ll report back to each class on leadership and school opportunities. This increases the leadership opportunities at school.

ITL’s have received their numbers for next year and are working on teacher/class placement. There are two Math openings and maybe some re-locations.

Working on Calendar Access in the hopes of getting access to the longer-term RHHS calendar, instead of just viewing only the next week. Hope to be able to see whatever is posted to the portal.

Teacherease/TeacherWeb use about 50/50 now. One will not be mandated, so parents will continue to see both. Staff will be stressing the need to use one or the other.

Field Trip Discussion Feedback: Oct., March and April have a huge number of field trips. What is a realistic number of trips for a student to go on? Should field trip teacher sign-off sheet policy be revamped? What is the expectation on make-up work if student opts not to go on trip? Discussions with staff continue.

Staff meeting/discussion about the VT incident today: Staff/guidance are prepared for any issues should they arise tomorrow. Staff also discussed how to deal with this type of crisis should it happen here. The cafeteria camera is working. Someone will be coming out to check the rear-of-building camera. Over the next few years, would

like to add up to 16 cameras to the system that is currently operational. Since Howard County has very open campuses, the County is addressing security. Signage and supervising processes for after hours and during the day are being reviewed and implemented.

Music Lab still in the works. Many students signed up. The Memorandum of Understanding from Parks and Rec. was due today to continue the process.

**Treasurer:** Report (attached) accepted as submitted.

April has been busy so far. Next month will have a better understanding of remaining balance to get a feel for any opportunities to fund teachers' wish lists.

### **Delegates:**

“Prepare for Success” program won a prestigious award for being so well organized and successful.

MOTION made to send a check for \$300.00 to PTAC for backpacks to support Prepare for Success program. All approved.

Nominating packets went out to each PTA for awards. Due 5/21/07.

Survey/DVDs on health/maintenance in classrooms going out to teachers. Survey results will be shared with Principals and a compilation will be given to Dr. Cousins.

SMS issue still alive and being discussed.

Lazarus Foundation, which refurbishes computers and gives them to needy students, wants PTAC-HC to partner with them. They will be back at the May PTAC meeting to discuss/review partnership.

Environmental issues – specifically the Turf Valley issue – was also discussed. PTAC asking for “comprehensive testing” of land originally designated a golf course.

Asbestos Management Plans are in every school. Over spring break two schools had asbestos maintenance done and conditions were supposed to be posted immediately but it didn't happen. 25% of schools have not met their plans.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Home-Teacher Relations (Ms. Hall):**

Reports received so far have shown the school meeting and/or surpassing SIT goals.

School and staff are getting excited about assessments and graduation.

American Gov't HSA scheduled for 5/25. Conflict with Seniors since it is Graduation Day.

Besides all the other items teachers and staff are on the lookout for, now there are flip flops that have a secret compartment that can hold alcohol.

**Boosters:** Congrats to Regina Thyberg, who will be the new President next year.

Sports Physicals will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Boosters paid for the RHHS swim caps for the county-wide swim meet this year.

Prices in concession stand going up.

**Parent Programs:**

Date needs to be set for renewal of School of Excellence certification.  
New Parent/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Expo set for Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> .

**SAT Prep:**

First summer class is proving difficult to set because of end of year timing and 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Next year committee will be setting up everything they usually do but they are working on additions to the program .... for students who haven't met 500 in Math or verbal and want to take SAT again ... and/or targeting PSAT high scorers for special classes to raise scores into merit ranges.

**SIT:**

AP course syllabus must be approved by College Board. At RHHS, 18 have been authorized to date.

Honor Council seems to be progressing very well. The Freshman and Sophomore classes are really buying in to it. There were 33 cases this year and no concerns were voiced.

239 Special Ed/IEP meetings have been held to date to handle problem solving and develop IEPs. The Newcomer Program has really impacted Spec. Ed! School has encountered a significant burden on Special Ed resources to handle this testing and teaching during the first year. Also, non-public school students also are serviced here (for IEP process).

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 7:15pm – Media Center**

**Submitted By: Karen Chase**