

**George C. Marshall PTSA
Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015**

Attending: See Attachment A

Meeting: The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Marshall High School Employment and Transition Representative: Maureen Szente

The Employment and Transition Program (ETP) has been in existence for 20+ years. Maureen Szente acts as a resource to parents and students at Marshall. The primary purpose of the program is to provide students with special needs, the unique opportunity to receive career based training so they can successfully transition from high school to the community. Currently, training is offered in the classroom through career prep classes as well as in the community through work based programs.

Principal's Report:

- Based on first quarter report card results, we are experiencing the lowest percentage of D's and F's on record
- Touching Bases – the administration is deciding on whether to have Touching Bases on 3/28, which is the next scheduled school planning day. Touching Bases must now be held on a planning day.
- Sports – We are very proud of our students for achieving record accomplishments with four State Championships
- International Day was Thursday, 11/12. Thanks to all the students and parent volunteers for making it a huge success.
- Budget Committee report has been released with three recommendations that will impact Marshall:
 1. There is a proposal to reduce IB coordinator staffing to that of AP coordinators in AP schools which would significantly impact our ability to run the IB program as it is intended to be run.
 2. Increase class size by 1.0
 3. No longer able to double count Academy staff. As a result, we may lose 7 teachers next year.
- Cindy Blakeley, Director of Student Services, reported that new courses are being considered for next year:
 1. IB English for grades 11-12
 2. Computer Science
 3. Leadership
 4. IB Economics
- More information regarding the new courses will be available to parents in January.
- Freshman course kick-off will be slightly different next year. Students will be able to visit 3 classes.
- Parent Teacher Community – Cindy Blakeley stressed that parents should coordinate any parent-teacher communication (email, meeting, conference call) through the student's counselor.

Treasurer's Report:

- Maureen presented the financials ending October 2015
- We are tracking very closely to our budget

- Senior Ethics Day will be on 12/4
- Junior Focus Day will be on 4/28

President's Report:

- The October meeting minutes were approved
- Linda provided a membership update. We are very close to our membership goal. Linda is continuing to send invitations to join PTSA through the weekly PTSA email blast.
- Reflections Art – This program has been reintroduced. Four Marshall students entered in the competition. All entries have been submitted to the county with the assistance of Leigh Rivenbark. Winners will be announced at a later date.

Committee Reports:

Theatre Boosters (Becky Foster)

- Little Shop of Horror, a Black Box Production, will begin showing the first week in December
- Online reservations are available
- Would like to promote in as many places as possible
- *Remember to visit the PTSA Calendar at www.gcmptsa.org for major school events such as sports, music, theatre, college planning and more

Hospitality (Mary Krafft)

- The committee is planning quarterly events
- A teacher appreciation lunch was held on 11/19. The theme was "Grab and Go." Teachers and staff were given another opportunity to join the PTSA during the luncheon.
- The next Hospitality planning meeting will be in January 2016. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mary Krafft cmdrafft@yahoo.com

Newsletter (Jennifer Church)

- The Fall newsletter was distributed via the weekly PTSA email blast
- The PTSA board members and committees wish to recognize Jennifer Church, Aisha Kashif and those who contributed to the newsletter for a job well done!
- Four newsletters will be available during the year: October, January, April and June

Miscellaneous

- Chairman of Special Needs Committee reported a difficulty for parents of students with Intellectual Disabilities in getting kids out of class for appointments. Following the standard procedure, they would get a note from their parents and turn that in to the attendance office to get a permission slip to leave class. The student would then leave his class at the appointed time and go down to the lobby to meet his parent. This doesn't work for these students as they are often not capable of getting to the lobby independently or even remembering to leave class on time. Parents often have to wait quite a while to get their students out of class as often "runners" are not available to go to the student's class to get them down to the lobby. Mr. Litz said he would look for a solution.
- There is a shortage of calculators for students. Due to the high cost of the calculators, some families are unable to afford them. Ideas are welcomed on how we can provide a calculator to every student. We have a need for 50 calculators this year.

- Cindy Blakeley would like to hear from the PTSA and parents on the types of programming parents would be interested in. Examples include college planning, how to pay for college, Celebrate Calm, an Ombudsman program to receive feedback from parents on teachers or curriculums.
- One parent suggested that a type of Ombudsman committee be established for parents to feel comfortable to express concerns comfortably with the teaching staff at Marshall. It was noted that many parents feel reluctant to bring concerns about teachers directly to them for various reasons and that this would give them the chance to air concerns via a third party. This suggestion will be further researched and discussed more at future meetings.

The next PTSA meeting is 12/7/2015. We are planning something festive to celebrate the holidays.

George C. Marshall PTSA Meeting

November 9, 2015

	Name	Committee (If Applicable)	Email Address
1	Linda Baker	President	LuckyL8e@yahoo.com
2	Debbie Tosi	VP	debbietosi@yahoo.com
3	Barb Cressman	Orchestra	scressman6@verizon.net
4	PAUL HEUSINKVELD		PAULHEUS@HOTMAIL.COM
5	Marilu Plata		marilu.plata@verizon.net
6	Lucia Fan	Secretary	
7	Zhen Brayman		
8	MAUREEN QUATHROCKI	TREASURER	
9	Diana Taylor		Dianactaylor@yahoo.com
10	Julie Henden	Paul.	jheiden@koonz.com
11	Kelly Sund	Thoreau Liaison	ksund@stanfordalumni.org
12	Mary Krafft	Hospitality	cmkraffte@yahoo.com
13	Cindy Blakeley		
14	Jeff Litz		
15	YVONNE HEFFNER	SPECIAL ED com.	yvonne.heffner@fca.gov
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