

**TUCKAHOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2010**

**OPENING**

PTA President, Karen Phillips, called the PTA Board meeting to order at 7:05pm. Approximately 14 people were in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the December 7, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

A. **TREASURER'S REPORT – Ashley Hinkle**

The treasurer reviewed the financial reports as of today's date and offered the following notations: Contributions: An additional contribution of \$500 came in from the Old Westham Civic Association. Fundraisers: Barnes & Noble net profit was \$1,902 which was above budget, Holiday Kids Corner had a net income of \$2,474. Spirit Wear remains in the red. Square One Art came in above budget. Sally Foster continues to get additional income from internet sales. Income: Is in good position regarding annual goal. Expenses: All expenses well below budget number to date.

B. **PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT – Suzie Hendricks**

(i) A Nominating Committee Proposal for the 2010-2011 School Year was presented with the following individuals recommended to serve on the nominating committee:

Julie Black, Chair  
Colleen Messick, Board Member representative  
Shelly Shiflett, Board Member representative  
Melissa Sanne, Non Board Member representative  
Nicole Unice, Non Board Member representative

The nominating committee will nominate eligible persons to serve in the following positions of the Executive Committee: President-Elect, Vice-President (Treasurer-Elect), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

The proposal was approved.

(ii) Suzie attended the Henrico County Council meeting in January and offered the following report:

*Henrico County school superintendent Patrick Russo presented his 2010-11 budget proposal to the School Board this afternoon, and it includes eliminating 118 positions, raising the pupil-teacher ratio and delaying bus and textbook replacement to close a \$16 million shortfall.*

*Russo's \$419 million proposal is about \$4.3 million less than the current \$424 million budget.*

*School officials also will present details to the board on how they will make \$5 million in cuts from the current budget year. The \$16 million shortfall is a combination of a revenue shortfall and an increase in expenditures.*

*Cutting 118 positions, which will come through attrition, would save about \$7.4 million.*

*Russo proposes raising the pupil-teacher ratio formula by .75. Currently, the pupil-teacher ratio is 19.9 for elementary, 20.9 for middle and 21.4 for high schools.*

*"We've been very conscious about maintaining our class size," said Kevin Smith, assistant superintendent of finance, "but with the deficit this year, the options were very limited as to not even looking at this as a possibility." Other cuts include: delaying bus and textbook replacement -- \$2.8 million •reducing operating supplies -- \$2.7 million •reducing stipends and substitute pay -- \$759,000 •reducing funding for staff development -- \$631,000.*

**Now:**

*Henrico County faces a \$16.5 million budget shortfall in the current fiscal year, including \$5 million for the school system's budget.*

*The deficit is the result of reduced state aid and local revenue, county officials said, adding that the deficit is not expected to affect county services.*

*"It is not a major hit," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett.*

*Henrico has seen a reduction of \$15.3 million in state aid and projects a drop of \$13.2 million in local revenue in the current budget, Finance Director John A. Vithoulkas said yesterday. The local revenue reductions are mostly linked to losses in the real property tax collections. The assessed value of real estate in Henrico has declined by 8 percent this year.*

*The county also has seen a \$6 million increase in revenue from interest earnings and bond refunding savings and another \$6 million in revenue increases from delinquent real property taxes and other local revenues.*

*The county is addressing the \$16.5 million gap through cuts of \$5.5 million in the general government budget and \$5 million for the school system. The county will also use \$6 million in savings from the Virginia Retirement System.*

*This is the first time since 1993 that Henrico has had to reduce its budget.*

*Vithoulkas said the county has made cuts in the general government budget by continuing a hiring freeze involving more than 200 vacant positions, reducing vehicle use and fuel costs, and continuing energy-efficiency programs that have helped reduce electricity costs.*

*"We have been working in identifying savings in the current budget since September," Vithoulkas said. "We don't believe there will be any service interruption. There are no staff implications."*

*School officials are expected to discuss this year's \$5 million shortfall during tonight's regular meeting.*

*"We will absorb the shortfall in the current budget," schools spokesman Mychael Dickerson said, declining to provide details about where the money will come from until tonight's meeting.*

*"There aren't going to be any cuts to programs or jobs," he said. The school system is already projecting a \$16 million budget shortfall for fiscal 2011.*

*Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Patricia S. O'Bannon said the county anticipated this shortfall as county finance officials reviewed revenue losses and state funding cuts.*

*"It is always difficult because we know more is coming," she said. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know more state cuts are coming. But we are prepared."*

*An amendment to balance the 2010 budget will be introduced at the Feb. 9 Board of Supervisors meeting, and a public hearing on the amendment will be held Feb.*

C. **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Mary Neary**

We celebrated Counselor's Week and presented Mrs. Ramsey with a gift card and have been active with other TES families through illnesses, etc.

D. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Karen Phillips**

- 1) **Upcoming events:** Motivational speaker, Chris Skinner, will speak on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Tucker High School. Science Fair is February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. TES day at Cheeburger Cheeburger is March 4<sup>th</sup>. Spring Clean-up day is Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. PTA transition meeting will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm with a social following.
- 2) **Announcements:** PTA mailboxes need to be checked and cleaned out on a regular basis. PTA paper order is being placed at the end of the week so let her know of needs, color choices, etc. TES PTA and SCA are talking about doing something for Haiti --- the Community Service group is working on ideas for item collection vs. fundraising. Totally Tuckahoe News was profiled in Henrico County's School Days newspaper. TES received award for PTA membership -- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 5. Volunteer of the Year is coming up --- be thinking about nominations --- based on exemplary contribution to the PTA.

E. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Muriel Brinkley**

- 1) TES received Governor's Award for Educations Excellence – 3rd year in a row.
- 2) Safety Audit - On Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Henrico County will conduct TES' 3-year safety audit.
- 3) Update on iPod program – Marcie Walsh has use 6 iPods K-3 regularly with K -3 grade students. 2 iPods are in use with 4<sup>th</sup> grade (a total of 11 students are currently using the program). iPods are used with site word recognition and fluency. Mrs. Gill (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) is using 5 ipods --- getting used to them so that she can then train the other 2<sup>nd</sup> graders teachers. (Note: In December 2009, Project I-Read and gave the TES PTA credit for funding the project.
- 4) STOP: Minutes distributed. Crossing guard in the works.
- 5) Gifted Identification Process – stays the same this year but will change in the future. No decisions made yet but recommendations are being made.
- 6) Middle School Laptops – No changes to the program for the 2010-2011 school year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Nominating Committee – (Reported by Julie Black)**

Committee is meeting on Wednesday (2/17/10) to discuss possible candidates for the Executive Committee positions that are open for the 2010-2011 school year. They plan to talk to potential candidates and hope to have a list of candidates to present in the next week or so.

### **Reflections (Reported by Karen Phillips)**

Three TES students have won awards at the Henrico County judging level for the 2009-2010 Reflections program. They are:

Alex Aker, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Music Composition  
Maddie Mertsch, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Music Composition  
Polly Sommers, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Dance Choreography.

These students will receive awards at the Henrico County Reflections awards ceremony and reception on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Deep Run High School. The awards to be given that night are an Award of Merit, an Award of Excellence, and an Outstanding Interpretation of the Theme award. If any of these three students wins an award for Outstanding Interpretation of the Theme (Beauty is...), they will move on to the Richmond District level of judging. All students whose entries were judged at the County level are invited to attend the ceremony, and all of their entries will be on display that night. After the March 9<sup>th</sup> ceremony, the names of the above three students and the awards they have won will be on the morning announcements, in Signals, and on the PTA website.

### **Science Fair - (Reported by Nancy Volante)**

A total of 160 projects have been entered. Display tables will be in the hallways throughout the entire building (library and cafeteria too). All students and parents are encouraged to attend and get involved. In addition to student projects, various vendors will be there as well. There will be drawings for prizes. All grades levels have students participating. Volunteers are still needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

New Landscaping to Front Lawn (Melody Snésil) – PTA Landscaping funds will be used to add 5 new cherry trees (Autumnalis Cherries) to align the front walkway from the front door down to the parking lot --- these will bloom in the Spring and Fall.

Construction/Addition Update (Suzie Hendricks) - The HCPS budget crisis will not impact construction budget because stimulus funds are being used to fund that project.

Spirit Wear (Nancy Volante) - Spirit wear items are now visible on the website.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Page Booth  
TES PTA Recording Secretary