

Perry Hall Middle School PTSA

4300 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, MD 21236

October 6, 2011

Dear Perry Hall Middle School Parents, Teachers and Students,

As we indicated at the General Membership meeting on September 14, during the 2010-2011 school year, there was an allegation of misappropriation of funds by a previous PTSA board member that was being investigated by the appropriate authorities. That investigation has resulted in charges against Cyndi Drye, our former PTSA President and this case is expected to go to court this December.

When the theft came to light in May, our PTSA officers took immediate action and contacted police, our Baltimore County PTA Council and others to begin the investigation. An audit was conducted by the County Council PTA Treasurer and this was also turned over to police. The audit shows a total of \$6,883.89 between checks taken and deposit discrepancies from fundraisers. Of this amount, \$4,700.00 has been received as partial restitution. We are hopeful the balance will be paid back after the trial.

I want to reassure our community that while we can not control an individual's actions, we can only do our best to see things like this do not occur by making sure our officers and members who must receive money are trained in the proper ways to handle money. I can assure you all of the officers of this year's PTSA have been trained and financial procedures and processes are being followed and documented.

There are additional measures we at PHMS PTSA have put in place that are designed to prevent theft from occurring and remove people from that temptation. These include the placement of PTSA correspondence, membership envelopes and orders into a locked mail box in the office, having at least two PTSA members present anytime the mail box is opened, having at least two members present to handle, document and sign off for all cash or checks and taking deposits immediately to the bank.

Feelings of anger, mistrust and betrayal are normal in a situation like this but we must put those feelings into positive efforts for this school year. Our PTSA has a lot of good events and activities planned for the year and we look forward to a very successful year supporting our students and families so our children can continue to succeed in school.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you,

Tom Koogle
PHMS PTSA President
president@phmsptsa.org