



# Miami Palmetto Senior High School - Palmetto Touchdown Club

## Parent Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 2010

John Kowallis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He then explained that Coach Coffey was not feeling well so he would go first in the meeting.

### Coach Coffey

Coach Coffey started the meeting and thanked the parents for attending the meeting. He explained that the booster club has provided equipment, meals, and many other items to the team and coaching staff. He thanked Ms. Bayer for last year's volunteer efforts. He told the parents that the Spirit Packs were a big hit with the team. He gave a recap of the season and discussed the games.

He reviewed the Columbus game and explained that the team played against themselves at the end. He told the parents that he would be giving the team Friday off. The team plays next Wednesday at Harris field this is a change of date. He said that last night the JV played well against South Dade and in the end ran into the same situation as varsity team did with Columbus. He hopes that next Tuesday the outcome will be different.

Today the team met with their liaison to review what is required for Division 1 and Division 2 colleges. He spoke about the kids that started college and the phone calls he has received. Coach explained that there was a theft in the locker room and his phone along with several other phones were stolen so he has missed some players' phone calls.

He said today was the first day regarding discipline towards progress reports and his expectations is all "1" in efforts and "A's or B's" in conduct and academic grades as well. Coach said that the discipline would be the same consistent and persistent across the board with Varsity and JV as the season. Coach said that as the JV season ends they will review JV for moving up.

Coach opened up the floor for questions and answers:

**Q. With school budgets as awful as they have been would he be open to parent volunteers?**

*A. No. School does not allow the team to have volunteers. Each sport is allotted a number of coaching supplement assistant positions and since Palmetto plays all sports it limits the number of coaches allocated to football.*

**Q. The JV team looked disorganized at the beginning of their last game. Where the other team came out and looked like a team in unison, the JV team just stood around. Does the JV team have any calisthenics or warm up exercises that are done to warm up before the game starts similar to the other teams played?**

*A. Coach said he was not there at the beginning of the game and will ask Coach Jesse but his philosophy is different they just need to move around.*



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**Q. Coach you mentioned progress reports and the importance of consistency and discipline with the students. If the students are not performing in school or misbehaving in conduct will they still be allowed to start?**

A. Yes. Progress report will not limit participation; case by case issue. The only reason a student would not start is if they receive indoor or outdoor suspension. We have already had multiple boys with indoor/outdoor suspension which has prevented them from starting a game.

**Q. If parents cannot afford to send their son to attend a college visit will that limit the student's ability to get a scholarship?**

A. Not necessarily the coach will sit down with the parents individually and address those issues separate to this meeting.

**Comment: Parent complimented player #9, Wendell, for helping him find his son after the game.**

### **Mike Cullen – Getting Around the Panther Website**

[www.Miamipalmettofootball.com](http://www.Miamipalmettofootball.com)

Mike told the parents that if they had not recently been to the website to please go on-line and see the new tabs added with recruiting information. He has also add a tab for cheerleading information. We now have a generic email [panthertouchdownclub@gmail.com](mailto:panthertouchdownclub@gmail.com). Parents can either email a board member with questions or send a message to the PTC gmail address. There is a historical tab on the website with pictures taken by Dave Parker.

CVS was at the JV game last night taking pictures. Mike will be looking into having them available for all our games. CVS will give the booster club 20% of the picture price purchased the game day.

### **Diana Montenegro - Panther Program Update**

Diana explained that the team pictures were just received and we would be working with the same printer as last year to produce a fall football program. We did receive a limited number of parent advertisements and it will end up costing to print the program.

### **Eric Weiss - Review of PTC Expenses**

We currently have \$8,000 in the bank. However, this amount will be adjusted by future expenditures \$4,500 which does not include the end of year banquet. The biggest expenditure is the pre-game meals and printing the program. The PTC funds all the pre-game meals for the team which is a large expense in addition to athletic department requests. Eric asked if there were any questions regarding the finance and budget of the PTC.

### **Finance Discussion:**

A discussion developed around fundraising. There is a frustration among the parents at the meeting that a few parents subsidize the rest of the team. Question was asked why there were only 18 parents at the meeting. Where are the parents of the boys that are starting each game and why are they not participating?



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Question was asked if there was any fundraising being done. Diana Montenegro explained that the program was intended to be the fundraiser this year. The board made a decision to not ask for membership dues because of the difficult economy instead we asked parents to buy an ad in the program. Unfortunately we have received a very poor response.

Parent protested that even last year only 20% of the students paid the annual dues for the PTC and it's the same every year; only a handful of the parents pay the bill for the rest of the team.

Parent asked why there are no helmets for the JV players. Parent asked why if they live in Pinecrest and pay the highest taxes why there is no equipment. Parents are frustrated that they have to buy pads and equipment for their son's and school does not have enough equipment for all the players just for some. Who decides who gets equipment? Is the decision made by the Coaches?

Lynne Showers explained that they did raise \$154 in the last JV game fund raising with concessions.

Parents asked why there was not more fundraising. They wanted to know about having a garage sale at the school to raise funds. There is a lengthy approval process with all public schools for any fund raising activities. Parents suggested having individual and/or family garage sales and donating the money to the PTC.

Parent asked about raffles. Raffles are considered gambling by Dade County public schools and not allowed.

John explained that there were other fund raising activities being considered.

### **Dr. Meiklejohn – The Recruiting Doctor**

Dr. Meiklejohn introduced his background in sports and education. He explained that the parents are the son's best recruiting coordinator. You need to have a plan for your son. He will show you how to effectively promote your son to colleges. He explained that less than 1% of graduating seniors will get Division 1 full scholarships.

He explained that students will not get a scholarship without a high quality highlight film. The recruiting process has changed recently. He focuses on the recruiting process and helping the parents find their niche. He is now finishing a book which is a parent's guide to college football recruiting. He has developed a recruiting plan for the parents. He thanked the parents for allowing him to attend the meeting and asked that we consider a full 45 minutes to 1 hour program to fully understand the recruitment process for colleges.

### **Lynne Showers - Update on Pre-Game Meals and Donations**

Lynne explained that both Sir Pizza/State Farm insurance agency donated the first meal of the season. Pre-game meals are very expensive because we are feeding 80 athletes, coaches and trainers. She has found that Big Cheese gives us the most amount of food for the best price. She worked out a deal for the remaining part of the season with Big Cheese that if we buy 2 meals and we will get one free. We need more donations of deserts for all the meals. Parents can bring them to the school on game day at 2 p.m. or they can drop them off at Lynne's house in the morning.



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She explained that the oranges, bananas and Gatorade are provided by the PTC through parent donation and purchases. She thanked Javier Palavecino for getting Publix to donate the paper plates and utensils used for the pre-game meals. She is also looking for volunteers on game days to help serve the athletes.

John closed the meeting thanking the parents for their continued support and asked them to bring other parents to the next PTC meeting.