

**HIGH SCHOOL PTA MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016**  
**7:30pm**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to our meeting. Please take a minute to review the minutes that are on the tables. Please sign attendance book that is going around. The Share folder is also being passed around.

**THANK YOU:**

- to Mr. Murray and our administrators for joining us tonight
- Debbie Edelstein and Marina Bournias for Membership
- Maureen Cooke for sending out our daily announcements
- Andrea Goldman and Julie Kessler for helping with membership, college awards and water at Parent/Teacher conferences
- Anna Nizzari for tonight's hospitality

**Mr. Murray:**

- \* Parent/Teacher conferences; Portal for first night was slow; Ms Schack oversaw
- \* World Language honor society induction held
- \* Grade 10 Informational Guidance Night held
- \* POB Family Night
- \* Talent Show
- \* DECA Kickball Tournament held
- \* Quarter 1 ended last week
- \* Boys Volleyball team were Nassau County Champs
- \* Dracula play upcoming this week

Questions/Concerns from parents:

1. Marking period ending in a short calendar week in addition to Family Night in same week made for test and homework scheduling issues. Potential to change that for coming years?
2. Portal is closed for a long period of time (5 school days). Portal also has been closed during Freshman Guidance meetings. Is it possible to close for fewer?

**Vote on Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes: Cindy Mertz; Second: Eileen Dershowitz. No discussion. All in favor. Minutes accepted.

**Treasurer Report:** Balance in the operating account \$12,249.12; Balance in the College Awards Account \$6,960.44

Vote on Nominating Committee members – Board members on nominating committee include: Maria Gustafson, Susan Stromberg, Debbie Edelstein, and Donna Stanziani as alternate. Need to elect 2 members plus an alternate from our general meeting to serve on the Nominating Committee. Paula Barsky nominated. Email will be sent out soliciting other nominees. Vote will take place at December PTA meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Climate Survey was sent by email to everyone in the district. Please take a moment to complete it. The results will be shared at a December BOE meeting.
- At the November 7, 2016 Board of Education meeting a motion to rename Parkway Elementary The Judy Jacobs Parkway Elementary school was discussed . The Board will receive comments from the community at the next scheduled meeting (November 21st) before

making a decision or you can email your comments to them at: [BoardofEd@pobschools.org](mailto:BoardofEd@pobschools.org) . We've included this information in our daily announcements too.

- The hard copy of this year's district calendar that you received at home in the mail doesn't designate April 10<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup> as snow days – they aren't shaded in. The calendar is correct on the district website.

**Parents on Grading Committee Report:** Paula Barsky: Meetings held to arrive at recommendations for November 21 BOE meeting. Each constituency will be presenting to BOE. Survey sent out to HS PTA members as those are the emails the Grading Committee has access to and want to receive feedback from parents as the Parent members represent them. Any comments can still be emailed to grading committee gmail.

**Reflections:** Debbie Baer for Judy Brenner, Chair: This was my first year as chair and I learned a lot, most importantly, we have to start a whole lot earlier in order to get a decent number of entries. Ms. Schack and the PTA have been amazing in helping to advertise it within the school, but thus far, we only have 1 definite entry within the "literature" category.

- Deadline for entries: November 18<sup>th</sup>. Going forward, I would like to try to speak directly to the teachers or possibly engage some of the students directly in spreading the word

**Membership Committee:** 934 parent members; 45 staff members

**Transportation – Pamela Abramowitz:** from 11/3 meeting

High School Arrival Times: The busses should be arriving at least 10 minutes prior to the first bell.

Security guards will report if any bus is later than 7:20. Sometimes they are 1-2 minutes late due to weather conditions.

Communication: Biggest topic of concern that was discussed was communication. In case of an emergency situation with the busses – it was decided the best way to get in touch with parents /guardians is by school messenger and use both emailing and texting. In order to make sure you have the accurate and correct contact information – you need to go on the parent portal. To get to emergency contacts on the portal – go to demographics and non-household contacts. You can update and remove the names on here if you need to. If there is an emergency – each contact you list will be notified.

Any transportation concerns: -\_Please contact the transportation office at 434-3074

Seat Belts: In grades K-12 wearing seat belts is not a law. Transportation people have a meeting to discuss this matter and will bring back information in January.

Security for 2017: High School front door is now locked. All visitors to all the schools in the district must have same policy in all the buildings. (i.e. Showing drivers license).

NYS – there is reduced number of fire drills and increased number of lockdown drills. 8 fire drills and 4 lockdown drills throughout the school year.

Next meeting is January 5th

**Curriculum:** meeting 10/31

**AP Capstone:** Seminar teaching evidenced based skills and argumentative writing. Next year roll out Research segment of AP Capstone. Mr. Yagaloff and Mr. Horun teach after much summer training. 12/1 there will be a Group task assigned and later in year an individual task assigned. Power, Intelligence, and Ethics are a few of the themes examined this year.

**Dupont Competition:** discontinued. Grade 9 will still learn same skills as has been taught for Dupont Challenge. District is looking at other research classes. Intel also renamed by Regeneron.

**New Course Proposals:** considered for this year. SUPA calculus and other SUPA classes; careers in Engineering; Sports Management; Office skills; Introduction to Business; Terrorism; Drivers Education Summer sessions; and others. All will be presented to BOE at 11/21 meeting and then need vote of approval for budget.

Guidance: Will hold an Elective Awareness Day

Next meeting is 12/12

**Athletics:**

Homecoming: Need to be planned earlier; interested in getting more community involvement; have food and raffle booths; look at budget to measure feasibility

Middle School: teams were added this year to boys' soccer; length of tryouts are at the discretion of the coaches and can be anywhere between 3-5 days; bus schedules for travel are being reviewed.

Winter sports are beginning.

Communication: Seeking ways to better communicate cancellation of practices and games.

**MAPOB**

Thursday, 11/17 at 7:30 will be meeting at MMS to introduce Music program:

Q & A and FAQ needed to be distributed to students and parents about NYSSMA

Outside school music programs and ensembles available

Mock NYSSMA demonstration

Musical performances.

**Nutrition:**

First meeting will be December with Health Advisory Board.

**Murder Mystery District Event:** 1/13/17 at the Woodbury Country Club; all units will benefit from the proceeds; ad sales for journal ongoing.

**Our next PTA meeting will be on Thursday, December 15th. Happy Thanksgiving.**

Motion to adjourn: Paula Barsky. Second: Cindy Mertz. No discussion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.