

POB JFK HIGH SCHOOL PTA
Minutes for January 23, 2018 Meeting

Debbie Baer, President of the POB JFK HS PTA welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year. She hoped all had a very happy New Year. She requested all attendees to review the December minutes that were on the tables and to sign the attendance book that was going around. The Share folder was also being passed around.

Thank You:

- Mr. Murray and our administrators for joining us tonight
- Hilary Starr and Karina Merseburg for Membership;
- Jenn Federmann for our daily announcements
- Anna Nizzari for tonight's hospitality
- Maureen Cooke for our website

A request for two volunteers was made in order to do a quick audit of the books and records during the meeting. The two volunteers were Cynthia Mertz and Natalie Drebsky.

Principal's Report: Mr. Murray discussed the following:

- 1) **Testing days schedule** will go into effect for full period exams. At the request of several parents the tests given on certain days were changed to the following:

Odd Days	Even Days
Social Studies	English
Math	Science
World Language	Business
Health	Art
Physical Education	Music
	Technology
	Family and Consumer Science

- 2) **Changes to Scheduling Process** – received feedback from BAC, PTA meeting, Curriculum committee, Survey and emails. Revisions were made to the original presentation. **Letter will be sent home shortly to all parents providing detailed information about the department testing days and the changes to the scheduling process.**
- 3) Question raised and looking for feedback: What are parents' thoughts of moving Parent Teacher conferences earlier, later or stay as is, in order to make an informed decision to stay or drop a class?
- 4) **Alternate Education** – this is for the student population of the school that is not successful either due to anxiety issues, school phobia, family problems, etc. Students in this program are typically not special education students. Had a program many years ago but model was discontinued because during budget season couldn't enroll enough students in the program to substantiate the cost. With the ability for students to self-select, students couldn't be "forced" to go into the program.
Administration is looking to bring in the "Twilight Program" model. This program is through BOCES and is geared to the needs of the students in the school district. Our students need help for "social-emotional" situations. The program provides all subjects unlike old program which was mainly English and Social Studies. At this time 42 students have been identified consisting of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Thought is to add identified 9th grade students as well.
- 5) **Mid-Terms and Waiting Outside** – approximately 1100 students showed up for midterms on the first day and checking phones, backpacks etc. caused a back-up getting into the school and being on time for the tests. The school needs to follow NYS Education department guidelines to maintain its status as a testing center so the need to check everything was necessary. Based on the events on the first day – lessons were learned and on the second day 1250 students arrived for exams but were let into the school creating a labyrinth in the gym. This allowed all students to enter the school and not wait online outside. If a student arrived with no cell phone or backpack they were allowed to go directly to their testing room. As a result everyone was in place and ready to take their tests on time.

Vote on December minutes-Minutes were approved, motion was made by Cynthia Mertz and a second was made by Jen Biren.

Treasurers Report: 1) Operating Account balance is \$12,262.26 and 2) College Awards Account balance is \$9,028.05

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The bylaws were approved by NYS PTA. As was expected, the number for a quorum was increased to 24. The President will update the unit's Procedures to reflect the approved bylaws, which removes the position of Historian and include the new position of Procedural VP.

The HS PTA Executive board met with the Board of Education (BOE) on January 10th. The HS PTA Executive Board requested the following: 1) that Social Studies Honors classes be restored; 2) that the grades of students who retake the Regents in the summer or January be incorporated into the student's GPA – currently it isn't; 3) to consider not incorporating the regents' grade into the gpas of

those special education students who take a different pathway to earn a diploma and 4) that there be consistency within subjects: for example if tests consist of 60% of the grade in one teacher's Regents Chemistry class, then they should be counted the same in all Regents Chemistry classes. The HS PTA Executive Board was asked to provide information on which specific courses this was happening in. The President requested that if you are aware of where this is happening, please let her know so that she can respond to the BOE. The HS PTA Executive Board also requested that the portal be closed for no more than 48 hours. This past November it was closed from Monday through Thursday at 3pm. Dr. Lewis told them that the Roslyn school district does not close the portal at all – they have eliminated Progress Reports - however their teachers must post to the portal within days of grading. This is something our district is looking into.

Dr. Lewis announced at a BOE meeting that the Beechwood Country Pointe community that is under construction is currently zoned for Old Bethpage. She is looking to reassign it to Parkway. She said Parkway will safely hold the 18-28 students they are anticipating. These students would still go to MMS. She will provide data about this, and have a formal resolution at a Board of Education meeting in February.

Starting in the 2018/2019 school year the incoming 5th grade self-contained class that is normally located in POBMS will be moving to MMS. Those self-contained classes that started in POBMS will stay until they are graduated out.

The approved 2018-19 and 2019-20 calendars are in the Share folder. The PCT agreed to bring teachers in on August 30th, so they will start school on 9/4 vs 9/5. There is now a full week break in February of next year.

Committee Reports

Arts-In-Ed – Cindy Mertz – trying to do a program for Social Studies class but finding it difficult to schedule something as teachers do not want to give up curriculum teaching time.

Athletic Committee-Paula Barsky- The athletic department has started to use the remind app to notify those that sign up of cancelled practices, games and other items. Mr. Braico sent out an email to all parents with instructions on how to sign up.

Booster Club – Frann Rappaport – contest is running for students to design a t-shirt for Booster Club with a scholarship going to the winners.

Building Advisory Committee-Aliza Greenberg – No report

Community Awareness-Stephanie Kaplan – Relay for Life kickoff meeting was scheduled for January 25 at the Main Event in Plainview starting at 7:30pm

Curriculum-Karen Greiss – the curriculum committee met two times during January. One meeting was an additional meeting that was added to discuss the scheduling process proposal. The other was held on January 22. The following items were discussed:

- 1) Feedback on Parent Academy – respectable turnout and good feedback from those that attended. Next Parent Academy will focus on Suicide Prevention
- 2) Request for Feedback on Community Service Requirement at the HS- currently 10 hours of community service is required to be done along with the 12th grade health class. Committee members offered thoughts on changing requirement. Mention was made that Relay for Life is offering community service to students.
- 3) Grading by Course – trying to unify grading %'s by subject. The number of exams given by a teacher is at their discretion.
- 4) Technology discussion – district is using Model School's program. District is also going to use Go Guardian to monitor student computer usage on chromebooks – alerting administrators if "certain" sites or topics are looked up
- 5) Next meeting is March 19th and the committee is looking for topics to discuss

Health-Hilary Starr – No meeting

Mapob-Michelle Keis – **NYSMMA forms are due soon. Associations meetings will be changing and more focus will be put on fundraising and giving scholarships to students.**

Mattlin Liaison – Lisa Hindi – Snowball dance on February 9th, Laser tag hosted by Drama Cadets, Steven Dodge was brought in to discuss drug usage.

Nutrition-Lisa Hindi – menu changing white flour versus wheat flour. Lunchrooms in each school should have a whiteboard listing the food being served today and tomorrow. Many of the items are mixed (ex. Meat and cheese) if student doesn't want the combination, he/she can ask the lunch ladies to remove an item on the sandwich.

POBMS Liaison-Stephanie Kaplan – letter was sent out to parents about Bar Mitzvah t-shirts and give aways, Mary Poppins will be performed by the Drama Cadets on February 1, 2, and 3. Plans are being made for the 8th grade Boston Trip.

Septa Liaison-Paula Barsky – getting ready for Family night scheduled for Thursday, February 8. It will be Wingo night and everyone is welcome to attend.

Site Based-Lisa Hindi – January meeting was cancelled

Technology-Sharon Becker – No meeting

Title IX-Susan Stromberg – No update

Transportation-Pamela Abramowitz – Snowed so meeting was cancelled

The next meeting is on Monday, February 12th. Meeting Adjourned.