

HIGH SCHOOL PTA AGENDA
December 20, 2017

Welcome to our meeting. Please take a minute to review the November minutes that are on the tables. Please sign the 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
- Hilary Starr and Karina Merseburg for Membership;
- Jenn Federmann for our daily announcements
- Anna Nizzari for tonight's hospitality
- Maureen Cooke for our website
- Frann Rappaport and Maria Gustafson and all who helped them for our amazing Parents Night Out

We need two volunteers to do a quick audit of our books during tonight's meeting. Marina-volunteered.

Principal's Report: Happy Holidays- I am going to pass around a survey for feedback on a couple of the proposals that we have here at the HS. I meet with the HS cabinet, student groups, BAC and administration to develop the best model of the proposals.

Mr. Murray: **The Testing Days Model:** Superintendent getting complaints about multiple tests on one day especially just before a vacation or long weekend or at the end of the marking period. A charge was given to HS and MS to develop a model for testing, MS came up with their own model and immediately implemented it.

In the HS we asked the leadership from the teaching staff and we developed a model. We would be piloting it for the second semester. The kids are not too happy about it. Concern by students with science given one day and then the second half given two days later with new material in the middle. This model means the science teacher cannot give a double period test they have to reduce the number of questions or length of the test. We tried to come up with a student friendly model. With each model there are negatives. Please provide feedback and I will take the feedback back to Dr. Lewis. This is a pilot and can be tweaked.

Parent: Many students have opinions are their opinions being considered, are teachers in lab classes given any leeway in how they give exams.

Mr. Murray: I met with officers from executive board from each grade and presented to BAC and Site Based and with students. I am working with the students to advocate for themselves. The model can be changed.

Parent: How would it work if a student is absent?

Mr. Murray: The student will take the exam when they get back from their absence.

Mr. Murray: **The scheduling proposal:** HS Cabinet includes Department Heads, Chair people AP's and Principals. We noticed students needing a break, exhausted. We thought that with the 9 period day they would take lunch for the rest/break. However, many are not and are feeling pressure to fill the 9th period with classes. We understand not every child wants to have the lunch period. We created a self select out of lunch, an opt out of lunch. Once the school year starts we propose a 10 sessions window, they must decide if they are going to stay in that class. Within that 10-day window they can drop with no problem. After the 10 days it is proposed that the student receive a DCF (drop course failure) and a 60. We could give WP (withdraw pass) or WF (withdraw fail) it could be longer than 10 days it could be 25 days. This is for the students who opt out of lunch and take an elective and then drop the elective for lunch.

Scheduling must be completed by March 1st for staffing.

Parent: Concerns for 8th grade over scheduling not knowing what the work is really like.

Mr. Murray: Many students have said that it is a mistake to allow 9th graders to opt out of the lunch. But our proposal does give them the self select option.

Parent: Concern with 10 days the electives could be an AP class and they may have 1 grade and they are waiting for the next test, 10 days is not enough. Some schools have academic fairs where teachers on all levels not just the department chair share information.

Mr. Murray: We try to identify what the courses are about. Here- Every discipline given a day, yesterday Art, today was the business department.

Incoming freshmen we get better turnout from parents we have a night meeting and all the chairs talk about their subject area and parents shared that they do not feel this is very helpful and it is often overwhelming.

Parent Comment: The transcript is the students resume, when building resume for a job you are less inclined to put a job you had for a few months and not worked out, why would we put the course that didn't work out. The students are making schedules- sometimes they are making choices in January before midterms. Until the student is living the schedule in the Fall not until mid October when you have a better picture whether this is the right fit, on paper it may look good but until it is their life its so hard to give them a clue of what it is like. DSF is a harsh thing on the transcript and the 60 is burdensome.

We would have conferences prior to drop date.

Mr. Murray- Changing or dropping courses- After March when schedule is set, we try to accommodate the request before school starts for any changes. The proposal is 10 class meetings with no penalty, this doesn't happen now, it is very rare to give a DSF and a 60.

Parent-How big of a problem is this? How many students looking for changes? Any analysis specific to a subject?

Mr. Murray-As of 11/9: 198 down-tracked, 79 up-tracked, 118 dropped an elective course for lunch. 60 courses running with less than 15 students in the course.

780 changes not 780 students- in order to down-track they had to make several changes.

Parent-Guidance and chairs need to do something different so students and parents know what they are getting into. Maybe there are issues with a particular teacher or curriculum, and the need to level the class if there is a section with 29 and a section with 15 the student is being forced into the low enrolled class which might cause multiple schedule changes.

Mr. Murray: Level Changes- now they have the full marking period to make changes. This year was 11/9 the grades will not follow. There is a loophole if they up-track after the 1st marking period they can keep their grades so they earned a 95 in regular that goes with them to benefit them. We moved the level change from 5 weeks to a full marking period and that seems is too long. We want to go back to the 5 weeks, that is our proposal. There is no 60 because they are not dropping but just level change. If you have to have a level change and it requires dropping an elective there is no penalty (DSF 60%).

Parent: Is it possible to understand the up-tracking and down-tracking by subject and grade to give an indication for more education on the courses. How much of the problem is caused by the early recommendations?

Mr. Murray: We do 4 weeks of department chair and guidance meetings to explain their courses and verify what the courses are every year.

Parent: In theory 25 days is enough but sometimes children stick it out and they rise to the challenge but for others they might need more time. Some parents shared positive experience with scheduling, is there flexibility for students with IEPs or 504's?

Mr. Murray: Yes of course there is flexibility for special education children.

Parent: Is March 1st the deadline for changes?

Mr. Murray: There is flexibility after March 1st but the problem is when changes are made after the first day of school, I won't say that 3/1 is meaningless, but there are opportunities for change for example a student visits a college and learns that a specific class will be helpful or they take a summer class and decide to pursue a different interest they can make changes if there is room and its possible

Vote on November minutes- Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$12,587 in the operating account

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our bylaws expire in January. Our Executive Board has approved the new bylaws to be submitted to NYS. There is a copy on the tables for your review. Eileen Dershowitz will review the changes to the bylaws. Membership voted to approve bylaws.

Nominating Committee: the HS PTA Board elected Frann Rappaport as the Board alternate. We need to elect an alternate from general membership. Donna Stanziani is placing her name on the ballot. Donna is elected as the alternate

The district announced that NYSED has just released the Rating day information for 2018-19 School year. The last day of school will be June 26th. The 2018-19 calendar will be submitted to the Board of Education for approval at the January 8th 2018 meeting. Please note that the June 26th date is a Wednesday. NYSED has decided to go from using # hours/day calculation to 900 hours/year to get full state aid, which means that we can go back to ½ day parent/teacher conferences next year.

The Board of Regents has made a decision to create an alternate diploma pathway for students. It still has to be formally adopted, but students will no longer have to pass Regents as long as they pass the class. It then gets appealed to the Superintendent, who will then make a determination.

The Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 10th at the High School. We are doing this in conjunction with Syosset and Jericho. Legislators will be invited to speak about topics related to Education.

Committee Reports

Arts-In-Education - Cindy Mertz no report ; Athletic Committee-Paula Barsky- no report

Booster Club - Frann Rappaport no report; Building Advisory Committee-Aliza Greenberg- Mr. Murray covered

Community Awareness-Stephanie Kaplan – Chamber of Commerce creating a women’s initiative: The Professional Order of Business Women,1/18 is the 1st meeting. TOB running a food drive at all 3 town ice rinks to support Island Harvest. X-mas Family day at the JCC for all ages \$5

Curriculum-Karen Greiss- met on Monday discussion on scheduling changes and discussed new course proposals only a few because we’ve had a lot over the past couple of years. A new art class and music class if the lab is up and running, Special Ed- a non regent’s geometry class, a 9th grade health and a yoga fusion, Tweaks to current courses in research: foundations of research course ½ credit and it will not be weighted as a regular class rather than honors. Independent research and practice and advanced research both honors weighted. Ms. Scully and Ms. Seaton presented about the writing for college and the opportunities for writing research papers.

Founders Day – Frann Rappaport- Stephanie Nelkins and Ms. Deluca and Ms. Baker are our Founders recipients.

Health-Hilary Starr- elementary school counselor and drug and alcohol counselor. Jessica discussed the fly sense- it’s a monitor like a smoke detector will read the air in the bathrooms and when it senses vaping it will send a signal to an administrator the location. A physical altercation can be sensed as well (creates heat changes) and they will have decoys. Expanding lessons on Vaping at the middle school. Changes in the district that will effect the HS they are Moving health to 5th and 7th and concerns that there is a big jump to 10th grade. One model is 9th or 10th and 11th or 12th, concern about 11th or 12th needs to be college readiness and maybe some electives to address mindfulness. Revamping health curriculum at the 12th grade and 10th grade- in 10th grade classes health teachers referring to children by # at this point in the year they are not learning the student’s names.

Mapob-Michelle Keis- NYSMA forms due starting 1/8 ; Mattlin Liaison - Lisa Hindi- nothing major

Nutrition-Lisa Hindi no meeting; POBMS Liaison-Stephanie Kaplan nothing new

Parents Night Out- Frann Rappaport A big success, we made about \$2700 for college awards. Thank you Maria and Missy for wrapping the baskets and Mike O’Conner for the chocolate fountain and Linda Gould for soliciting. We have Modell’s discounts they were in the goody bags too.

Septa Liaison-Paula Barsky great night out 1/16 meeting with former parents whose children are in the Point an independent living facility

Site Based-Lisa Hindi Mr. Murray covered it.; Technology-Sharon Becker no report; Title IX-Susan Stromberg

Transportation/ Security -Pamela Abramowitz- New security cameras, finished lock down drills with the police observing and fly sense is in the budget for next year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 23rd. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.