

HS PTA Minutes November 27, 2017

Presidents report: Welcome to our meeting. Please take a minute to review the October 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.

Our books were audited at the end of the September meeting by Maria T. Limopoulos who noted that no issues were found.

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

Principals report- in our effort to address the Heroin- Opioid epidemic, we invited Upside Inc., 2 men in their 30's relatable to the kids, happily shared their stories, you can tell at the end of the program the kids were interested in the level of talking after the event. On Superintendents conference day there were workshops on the drug epidemic. Un-conference day we held technology sessions here at JFK and at POBMS about the drug problem. Harvey Milkman presented to staff and then to the community in the evening. Substance abuse counselor has been to all health classes and will go to all Spring Health classes. At the last County Principals meeting we discussed Vaping and one colleague mentioned a program named Digital fly. I am happy to say our district is looking into it. This will address the problem of Vaping in the restrooms, digital fly is a monitor for hallways, stairways and restrooms it senses the environment over a 2-week span and then it will sense if someone is Vaping or a fight that causes a temperature change in the environment and it will send signal to security. Another Possibility is to bringing in K-9 units on a random basis.

Many events have taken place since we last met: End of marking period, Fall play, guidance info night, engineering awareness night, pep rally and homecoming.

We have been exploring concerns about students having many exams on the same day. We looked at a model for HS and MS grades 7&8. The Middle School Principals have developed their own plan. At the HS we developed a model that I will share with the faculty and then with students and parents The model could include: assigned days by department or odd/ even days, math and science, or math days 1,3, or 5. This will be discussed with staff and then parents and students.

Parent question- Where is K-9 unit used and how? k-9 unit is used in Smithtown, parent concerns about some kids not using lockers, so lockers are empty and some could use for no good. This is just the beginning of the discussion, parent expressed concern that student should be allowed to waive having a locker.

Parent question-In the city they have gun amnesty no questions asked could we do something about turning in drugs no questions asked? I have not made a presentation to the Board. K-9 unit is used as a deterrent, they come every once in a while so they don't know when they will be here so it dissuades students from bringing anything.

Happy Birthday Mr. Murray.

Treasurer Balance is \$12093.73

Bylaws expire in January- volunteers- Eileen Dershowitz, Susan Stromberg

Nominating committee- 2 general members and 1 alternate from the general membership- Donna Lupia and Karen Gordan are the general members

District waiting to hear about regents rating day if they move the day we can include Diwali and Lunar New Year. We hope to hear soon.

Next year family night will be on Halloween.

Arts and Ed- planning for the spring

Athletics- talked about Homecoming trying to make it bigger and better, next year they will include the PTA's more and will contact PTA's at the end of the year. We discussed the teams one team did not have ice packs. We only have 1 trainer and she stays by HS, by the turf field. The Badminton team did fabulous this year, boys had a great time. Girls tennis was an anomaly this year, we do not expect this to be a problem

Founders Day chose Stephanie Nelkins the Founder's Day recipient from the HS

Booster Club- Fall awards last week,

Curriculum 12/18

Directory was distributed through announcements

Health- summer curriculum projects, health smart digital lessons research based. The new substance abuse counselor not part of health but working close with health teachers, she wants to hear from the students, next year health moving from 8th to 7th next year both 7 and 8 but than they are looking at moving it at the HS.

MAPOB- meeting tomorrow 11/28 at POBMS at 7:30

Mattlin-blood drive 12/18 at POBMS. Parent Academy not a great turn out but positive feedback, looking at changing language 12 weeks for all Spanish, French and Chinese and decide after 6th grade. 20 classes of keyboarding.

Nutrition- smoothies and breakfast every day. Green team looked into special recycling bins for bottles and where to donate the money. If your child has a duplicate pin number let Witsons know about it. An 8th grader asked about using a google doc survey to discuss the food. And can we add the menu to the chrome books? Kiosk style set up for food at the HS, we will have a design to look at for the next meeting

Community awareness- 12/13 menorah lighting. 12/3 tree lighting Good Shepard.

Parents Night Out - next Thursday, please let us know by 12/1 and everyone is getting a goody bag.

SEPTA- SEPTA night out was successful, planning February family night.

SITE Based- low attendance, Mr. Murray covered the topics in his report. Classes discussed selling apparel. Junior class planning junior and senior prom

Technology 11/28

Audit tonight by Cindy Mertz- 200 outstanding for dues, everything correlated.

Parent Questions:

Chrome Books-9th graders still getting paper hand outs- how do we move forward to integrate into the day to day.

Administrators are encouraging teachers to use chrome books, there is no requirement that teachers have to use them. It is a work in progress.

Not every grade has the chrome books the teachers might not know how to incorporate.

Testing-when we create a master schedule for testing it is based on the # of students in a time period and teachers have to proctor and grade and try to make the minimal amount of conflicts as possible.

Next meeting 12/20