

POBJFKHS PTA MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2011

President's Report: Margo Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:38. Welcome to Ms. Lynn, Mr. Dallara, Ms. Lasher, Mr. Donarumma and Mr. Jacobson. Thank you to Noreen Naftol for hospitality. Welcome to Sam Goldberg from Queens College, observing the meeting. Share folders & attendance sheets were passed. Minutes approved. Our Executive Board met with the Board of Education in December. Topics discussed included parent portal/staff usage, wellness policy & the future of the high school re: course selection & staffing. Our district is currently circulating an ant-bullying policy. Comments are due to Jonathan Mosenson or Art Jonas by February 22nd. Please be aware that the Superintendent will be writing regulations which will be more specific than the policy (& will include consequences for violations of the policy). These too will be circulated. Introduction of Dr. Judith Chen, Chair of Art Department – The Art Department would like to form a “Friends of the Arts” group with parents. Volunteer support is needed for occasional special exhibits (ie: hospitality, docents) & for fundraising for scholarship to be given to student pursuing arts education. Anyone interested, please contact Dr. Chen. Introduction of Lynn Blumenthal of Relay for Life – June 11, 2011. Kickoff meeting February 10, 7:00 at POB Library. One change this year is that, in addition to \$20 registration fee, people will need to raise an additional \$30 to get a T-shirt, in order to raise more money for cancer research. Our next meeting will be March 2nd. We will be choosing the Nominating committee.

Principal's Report: Very proud to have an Intel finalist – Jonathan Goldman. Planning for next year has begun. 8th graders have visited the school & begun their course planning. Guidance counselors will be going to English classes to speak to 9th – 11th graders during March. Students will be provided with a list of all course options available to them, as well as a list of courses they have been recommended for. They can request an individual meeting with their counselor. A copy of the course selection form will be mailed home. The recommendation report will be available on parent portal under “Reports.” Suggestions were made that it would be better to mail the recommendations home than have them distributed in classrooms. Hope to have programming finished by the beginning of April, with the rest of April open for counseling meetings. Verification sheets would then be sent home & May 1 would be deadline for program changes, with one AP using the rest of May to build the master schedule. By June 24, teachers should know their schedules for 2011-2012. Changes to the planning process were made in order to free up the AP in charge of scheduling for other administrative tasks during the summer & to give teachers more planning time for their upcoming courses. Mr. Murray & Laurie Lynn have proposed course changes based on observation & consultation with other districts. These changes have been discussed with the curriculum committee & proposed to the BOE, but nothing has been decided yet. Proposals are as follows: In Math, everyone should complete Algebra in one year, starting next year. For 2012-13, common core standards with real world applications, leading to all students taking 4 years of math. In Science, we are currently the only district offering an EMT course leading to certification, as well as the only district with college level Anatomy & Physiology courses. For 2011-12, Environmental Science would be modified to include LI Geology & “Health Related Fields,” involving internships at local hospitals would be developed.

“Genetics” would be introduced in 2012-13. In Social Studies, next year would see Global 9H modified to ease the transition from MS to HS & an additional section of Social Science Research would be added. The following year, 8th grade social science research & an interdisciplinary program combining Global 10H & English 10H would be introduced. In English, in 2011-12 “Journalism” & “The Play’s the Thing” would be dropped due to lack of interest, “Contemporary Literature” & a perhaps a verbal SAT prep course would be introduced & “Myths & Heroes” would be modified & renamed “Literature of the Supernatural.” In 2012-13, a college level English course, offered in conjunction with a local university, “Poetry,” “Sports Literature” & “Music as Literature” or “Films as Literature” would be added. In World Languages for 2011-12 a Regents sequence in ASL would be added, French 1R would be reinstated, Chinese would be offered at the secondary level & a Syracuse University program would replace the Adelphi program for Spanish & French 5H. In Music, “Music in Our Lives,” which would focus on elements & styles of music, would be introduced in 2011-12, & an electronic music course would be introduced in 2012-13. In Technology goals are to fully upgrade to HD, bring in LCD monitors for our entrance & bring the MS technology curriculum into alignment with the HS. Family & Consumer Science would like to revise “Food & Nutrition” into “Food, Nutrition & Wellness” & “Gourmet Foods” into “Food & Culture.” Business would like to add “International Business” in 2011-12 & “AP Accounting” & a Senior Experience Learning elective in 2012-13. Art would like to revise the Sculpture course to encompass ceramics & jewelry making. Physical Education would like use the pool more with kayaking, scuba & American Red Cross Lifesaving programs. Also would like to change the grading policy to numerical rather than pass/fail. Grading would be based on a rubric where effort, rather than ability, would be emphasized. Grades would appear on transcript, but not be included in GPAs.

Director of Guidance Report: 3278 college applications submitted (93% of class), 551 reported acceptances, with 26 seniors having already chosen their college. Since the last PTA meeting, 4 on site admissions programs have been held, resulting in \$171,000 of scholarship money being offered. On Feb. 2nd, District held an internet safety presentation, which was attended by under 80 parents. Hoping to post results of internet safety survey on website soon. Junior Night meeting will be March 22nd. Next year all transcripts will be submitted electronically. College Fair will be April 14th. Ms. Lynn has requested an additional guidance counselor at the HS from the BOE.

Membership Report: 782 members

Treasurer’s Report: \$19,244.15

College Awards: Money is coming in. Selling raffles for an I-Pad: One for \$10, three for \$25. Parents’ Night Out will be March 1 at Plainview Jewish Center, featuring vendors & a mentalist.

Committees:

BAC: Discussed parking situation.

Curriculum: Ellie Becker discussed the 12th grade collaborative program. Currently, resource room is available, but there are no collaborative classes in an effort to transition students to college. Suggestions from parents included having a more gradual transition by bringing in a collaborative teacher one or twice a week & surveying current college sophomores about their college transition experience. Art Jonas spoke about Parent Portal. Just under 65% of HS population participating. Just under 50% of district is on the portal. Next year's goal is to open portal to HS students, eventually leading to scheduling online. Topics brought up were concerns over excessive homework over Christmas break & different scheduling options.

Health: Participating in postcard campaign to end tobacco sales in pharmacies

Site-Based: Student rep discussed students' frustration over how the Wellness Policy is affecting fundraising. New clubs have been proposed for next year, but will be determined by the budget. Safety concerns have been raised about students walking on Kennedy Drive due to snow covered sidewalks. District will review delayed opening policy to see if we should change to 2 hour delays.

Transportation: Nadine Eihring has asked that the PTA place a link to Transportation on its website.

Founder's Day: Please come out on March 9th to honor Jane Pace & Tom Mattone.

Reflections: Raymond Kim was a Nassau County winner for instrumental music.

Technology: New District website is coming soon.

Mattlin: Will be holding "Little Doctors" Blood Drive on March 1st.

POBMS: Last week was "Spirit/Respect" Week. PTA is selling wooden roses for Valentine's Day. Drama Cadets are presenting "Seussical, The Musical" this Thursday-Saturday.

SEPTA: Next meeting will be March 15 at 9:30. Elaine Lerner will speak about ADHD.

MAPOB: We will be hosting the LISFA Festival. Volunteers needed.