

HIGH SCHOOL PTA MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
7:30pm

WELCOME :Welcome back to a new school year. Debbie welcomed our incoming 9th grade families to the high school and also welcomed back our returning families. The attendance book and Share folder were passed around.

Debbie introduced the Executive Board.

THANK YOU: to Mr. Murray, Ms. Lynn and our administrators for joining us tonight; Debbie Edelstein and Marina Bournias for Membership; Karen Greiss and Sharon Becker and all who volunteered on the Freshman Welcome committee; -Ivy Chasan, Anna Nizzari and Julie Kessler for helping with membership and water on Senior Guidance Night; Maria Gustafson, Anna Nizzari and all who volunteered on the Back to School Staff Breakfast committee; Audit Committee: Ronnie Leo, Lori Frucht and Debbie Edelstein; Andrea Goldman and Julie Kessler for helping with membership and college awards on Back to School night; Anna Nizzari for tonight's hospitality

VOTES: Vote of Confidence: Motion Passes; Vote for Expenditures up to \$100: Motion Passes; Minutes from June Meeting: Minutes accepted

Vote on Budget: We added the district event (taking place on 1/13) - since this is the first time this event is being held, we're not sure how much, if any, money will be raised so we put in a nominal amount of \$50; based on expenditures last year, we decreased the Freshman Welcome from \$800 to \$700 and increased the Sophomore and Junior Events to \$700 from \$600; Current Balances: Awards account \$5154.44, Operating account \$7284.72.

Question about spending \$900 on teacher's breakfast and we are only budgeting \$700 per grade. Can we have a conversation about how we are spending the money per grade as well as for the teachers?

Discussion: It has never been an issue, we have always planned a breakfast, in the other schools we have staff lunches. If we keep the staff breakfast as is, should we plan more equitable for the grades.

Concern that so much is raised for scholarship and not for all the grades. In response: People know they are giving money for scholarship.

Discussion on budget. Income for the college awards accounts: Cap and gown specifically for scholarship, dental dollars specifically for scholarship.

Income from Parents night out, flower sale and founder's day is in question.

Motion that funds from flower sales be used for scholarship. All in favor of keeping flower sales in scholarship awards. Motion passed.

Founder's day- traditionally the scholarship committees from schools and septa collect the baskets. Motion to allocate \$ from Founder's Day ticket \$1.50 to college awards. Motion Passed.

Motion to leave the Founder's Day raffles in scholarship. Motion passed.

Motion to leave the money from Parents night out in scholarship- Motion is amended to split the money earned from Parents night out between general and scholarship accounts. Motion did not pass.

Vote on the budget as a whole, Budget is accepted.

Mr. Murray's report: Welcome Back. Thank you all for joining us. He introduced Ms. Schack who replaced Ms. Lasher. Mr. Farrelly and Mr. Haruthunian are returning. Opening was somewhat smooth with staff and students. We had a lot of technology issues that we are working out. Hopefully things are getting better. Mr. Farrelly built a great master schedule, serves the needs of our students in light of the 9 period day. We have been flexible to their needs. 3-minute passing time: there was a lot of confusion as to whether students will make it on time. Reports from staff are that kids are getting to class as to the best of their ability. It is going well - not getting too many complaints from students or staff. Freshman Friday: no one heard anything because nothing happened, the Thursday welcome from PTA was really helpful. The seniors had their thing in the parking lot, which went well. Freshman elections are coming shortly. Homecoming is coming up. We are still looking for faculty advisor for Sing. We just found a faculty advisor for National Honor Society, the Freshman and Junior classes this past Friday.

Prescriptive remedial and 10th period remedial schedules are now up on the website. All meeting times are up on the website and were e-blasted out to parents. The room assignments for 10th period remedial were sent home today. Prescriptive remedial allows students to get support from a teacher during an off period, it might not be their teacher. Information is on the HS website. It is listed by subject like Algebra 2.

The Grading committee had a meeting last week. Their purpose is to discuss the impact of the common core regent exams. The committee is comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators and they will make a recommendation to Bd. of Ed in Nov.

Parent Question: Two teachers on Back to School Night said they will not be finishing the curriculum (math and science); this is concerning. Can we schedule more review sessions to address this?

Mr. Murray read Ms. Lynn's report: College kick off- Senior Night workshop and Operation Apply-13% of seniors took advantage. Coming up 9/29: Financial Aid night; the FAFSA is available Oct 1. SAT and subject tests are here this weekend; PSAT is on 10/15, registration is taking place now - the deadline is 10/7 and requires a \$15 check to guidance. 10/6 is the 9th grade Guidance Night. At 6:30 that evening there will be a presentation by Method Prep. Registration for pre ACT which begins 10/17.

Audit Committee report – Lori Frucht reported. There was 1 check that was miscoded, it was corrected and everything is in order.

Vote on Unit Goal – Review the Grade weighting policy. Another goal was added: Can we revisit the passing time, and to add more time to the contract to get 4-minute passing time. Motion Passed.

Announcements: The teacher's contract was approved at the September 19th BOE meeting. Highlights of the contract:

2 additional days are added to the calendar: it will be a 183-day calendar; 1 is an instructional day and 1 is a staff development day; Election Day will be a November Conference Day. There will be no classes for K-12.

September 1st start, if needed, for staff, which should preserve the February break

Extra Help: Elementary 1 day – Tuesday/Thursday; Middle Schools – 1 additional day – Monday/Tuesday/Thursday; High School – 9 period day – prescriptive remedial during the day

Increases each year

No American Education Week Visitation

Retirement Incentive: Notification by October 1, 2016 (14 are needed to add a 4th year onto contract), by February 1st thereafter.

Administrators, Building & Grounds, Nurses and Aides are still being negotiated.

Committee Reports:

Site Based – Eileen Dershowitz reported: the students reported feeling rushed with the 3-minute passing time and losing the announcements. Suggestion: to announce during break and scroll in the lobby. The announcements are now being scrolled in the lobby. Mr. Murray suggested a fundraiser for junior class to sell the paints for cars for senior day the first Friday the students return to school. Junior Class hosting a Kan Jam tournament. Teachers are aware that kids are hustling to get to class, they are going to be tolerant. Freshman elections were postponed to encourage more interest. Increase in library staffing to allow students in the library after school, until sports starts.

Cultural Arts- Cindy Mertz reported: Mr. Rogers new district administrator.

Membership- Debbie Edelstein reported: 647 members recorded; we collected an additional 150 members at Back to School night that have not been entered yet. Email should be coming regularly now.

Parents Night Out – Maria Gustafson reported: is scheduled for 12/8 at Venere, a restaurant in Westbury, from 7-10pm.

Curriculum- Karen Greiss reported: we discussed the agenda for the year. Mr. Murray gave a report to the Board of Ed. outlining the academic results for the year. His presentation can be found on the district website. It includes percentage of students attending 2 and 4 year colleges, the AP results and regent exam results. The new Math was introduced and shared the SUPA results. The next meeting 10/31.

At the September 19th Board of Ed meeting, the Board announced that they are taking a collection in memory of Judy Jacobs. Debbie Bernstein, President of the Board, said they would have a box designated for those that want to contribute in the main office of each building. We are also collecting contributions tonight. Please see Debbie after the meeting if you'd like to contribute. All donations will go to Variety Child Learning Center, a very important part of Judy's life. The Board will also name something in the district after Judy Jacobs.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Monday, October 17th