

POBJFK PTA Meeting – October 12, 2010

President's Report: Meeting called to order by Jonathan at 7:37

Welcome everyone. If you haven't joined PTA yet, please do so. Thank you to Noreen for hospitality and Lisa M., Andrea & Linda G. for membership drive & e-mail list. Attendance list & share folder were circulated. Share folder has the new Wellness Policy, which has some changes to it. Next meeting will be October 16th. Founder's Day will also be meeting that evening. Welcome to Mr. Jacobson, our new PCT rep.

Minutes were approved.

Back to School Night was very successful, bringing in over 100 new PTA members, as well as donations to the scholarship fund. Thank you to our administrators for the scavenger hunt announcement.

District Athletic Committee: This committee will be helping to create a parent handbook & will be looking into uniformity of policies for athletic teams. There are already 2 reps from PTA Council, but need 1 rep each from the High School & both Middle Schools. Sign up sheets were passed for the High School rep. The first meeting will be Oct. 30th at 8:30, and they will try to hold all meetings early.

Principal's Report: We had 4 semifinalists for National Merit Scholarships, 1 National Achievement semifinalist & 12 commended scholars.

The last Safe Driver meeting was held. Guest speakers included Brian Assa's father and a police officer who spoke on regulations regarding teen drivers.

Working on getting all teachers to use Grade Book.

Mr. Donarummo has been working on ways to keep students safe & organized during 9th.

DECA Fashion Show this Friday night.

Ms. Lasher discussed Homecoming this Saturday. 12:45 start. All are welcome to judge the Banner Contest using forms that will be available that day. Theme is "Board Games." Parade lineup begins at 1:15. Parade will be 1:45 – 2:15 with Senior Roast to follow. Kickoff will be 2:30

Scavenger Hunt letter has gone out. Organized push to squelch it through public education.

The fall play, "Diary of Anne Frank" has added a Thursday afternoon performance to accommodate interest from locale Jewish Day schools in bringing to students to the show. Will now run Nov. 18th – 20th.

Director of Guidance Report: Guidance is very busy, as college applications are coming in rapidly. We've had 25 early decision applications. Several on-site admissions programs have been scheduled. 1 student was already accepted at the on-site Marymount Manhattan College program. We'll be hosting CW Post on Nov. 22nd & NYIT on Dec. 2nd. We will be having a presentation by the Director of SUNY Stony Brook Honors Program on Oct. 25th. Students will need to sign up for this in advance to be excused from class.

First SAT administration last Sat. went smoothly. Next Sat is the PSAT, with 277 juniors & 193 sophomores registered. This is a smaller group of juniors than last year & a larger group of sophomores.

Freshman orientation went well. First time a "Q & A" session was held for parents. Rethinking the structure of this program due to large number of parents who attended. Senior & Freshmen information nights were both well attended & successful. 8th & 10th grade Financial Aid Night will be Oct. 27th. 10th Grade Parent Night will be held on Nov. 9th, and will focus on Naviance & Family Connection.

Committee Reports:

Membership: 702 members so far. Please see Andrea to pick up your card. Contact her if you've joined but are not getting e-mails.

Treasurer: We have a little over \$1,700, but recently made a membership deposit.

Scholarships: Have collected \$1060 so far.

BOE: Sept. 27th was a workshop on the BOE goals for this year: Academic Standards, School Climate & District Finances. Oct. 4th included a review of BOE goals, presentations of the 4th & 8th grade Social Studies test results, Update on student population (HS has 1572), recognition of Jerry Ring for service on audit committee & amendments to Wellness Policy (no candy or soda will be sold on school grounds at any time, no sale of unhealthy snacks through 9th period).

BAC: Discussed function of committee (sharing of concerns, not decision making). Students are planning Homecoming. Ms Lasher met with club advisors to let them know that if Facebook is used, they must be involved, but that information should be shared in other ways as well. Scavenger Hunt was discussed, with the student present feeling it was a rite of passage & Ms. Lasher discussing new procedures to prevent funds from that event going back to Sr. Class funds.

Community Awareness: POB Friends of Library Sale, Oct. 15th – 17th, includes opportunity for community service hours for students who volunteer. Hazardous Waste collection, Oct. 16th in Massapequa. Pet Adoption Festival at Manetto Hill Animal Hospital, Oct. 17th. TOBAY Walk-A-Thon for cancer research in Plainview, Oct. 24th. Relay for Life will be June 11, 2011.

Curriculum: Meeting on Sept. 20th was first with teachers in attendance. Discussed agenda for year. Jeffrey Yagaloff discussed plan to have 11th grade AP students take regents in June due to change in format, as well as English Dept.'s desire to see more students at the mastery level. Other 11th graders will still take the regents in January.

Health: Discussed Wellness Policy amendments. All fundraisers should cross-reference "healthy guidelines" list with district approved list on website. Our school store is in compliance. (Members in attendance expressed concerns about the amendments negatively affecting clubs' abilities to raise funds.) Volunteers are needed for Relay for Life. Contact Aviva Sala. Discussed Pride Surveys. Denim Day was Oct. 8th. Next meeting will feature a speaker from Hadassah re: breast cancer.

Legislation: Dignity for All Students Act will take effect on July 1, 2012. Aimed at bias-based bullying, it is the first state law to extend protection to trans-gendered people. The law will enable schools to develop rules re: discriminatory harassment, establish staff learning guidelines & require that incidents of bias harassment be reported to the State Education Dept. Amy Pierno spoke on Tax Certiorari. The County is trying to pass the burden of refunding grieved taxes to the school district. There will be a meeting this coming Monday. Contact Judy Jacobs. Please remember that Nov. 2nd is Election Day.

Nutrition: No meeting

Site Based: Students asked for reinstatement of Sadie Hawkins Day Dance. This was denied. Discussed consequences of inappropriate off-campus behavior by students during school hours. Also discussed Scavenger Hunt.

Technology: No meeting

Title IX: No meeting

Transportation: No meeting.

Parents Night Out: If the event is held in the building we cannot serve alcohol. This was not an issue for the members present. Still looking into other venues. Originally scheduled for Nov. 4th, but date will be pushed back. Looking for raffle prizes. A suggestion was made to use the e-mail for donations.

Reflections: Deadline is Nov. 8th. Materials were distributed. All chairpeople are involved. Mr. Dellara has extra applications. Will be publicized on website & through announcements.

POBMS: Have finished candy/gift wrap sale & picture days. Selling pocketbook sized district calendars (\$3 or two for \$5).

SEPTA: On Oct. 21st Attorney Edward Nitkowitz will speak on how to obtain Special Education services for your child. Babysitting will be available if you make a reservation. SEPTA Night Out will be held at Minado, 7:00, Nov. 10th. Grand Prize will be an I-PAD.

MAPOB: Discussed fundraising. Next meeting, Nov. 11th, will feature a speaker on NYSSMA.

Booster Club: Meeting is tonight.

New Business: A parent had asked for an e-mail to be sent out re: a lost violin. Consensus was that if Mr. Murray put something along those lines in the announcements we would include it, but not send out a separate e-mail.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 Minutes submitted by Eileen Dershowitz.