



October 5, 2016

Salk MacArthur PTSA General Membership Meeting

Called to Order by PTSA President Margaret Costa at 7:35pm

Pledge

Welcome to all attendees. Announced we have student liaisons in each building and going forward they will be attending our PTSA meeting and reporting on activities in the two buildings.

Established Quorum

Mr. Zampaglione's Principal report for Salk Middle School

- September 30th, RISE awards were distributed
- Picture Day is scheduled for October 7th. Students will go during Social Studies classes. Children will receive a sheet with their PIN #. Will also receive a Connect-Ed when pictures are available.
- First Dance will be Halloween Dance. Dates and times are as follows: 6th Grade Dance is October 25th at 6:30pm. 7th & 8th Grade Dance October 27th at 6:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door.
- Skate – A- Thon was held on September 29th
- Early Bird starts Thursday October 6th at 7:15am in the gym with Mr. Aiello- open gym
- Winter 1 starts November 2nd with Girls Volleyball and Boys Basketball. Flag football starts November 2nd after school.
- Clubs are up and running. Clubs are listed on the white board outside the main office. The club fair is currently open to 6th grade students who are new to Salk. Will look into whether 7th & 8th graders should attend future club fairs also.
- A committee is being formed regarding the athletic forms and will research and see if they should be revised and available online.

Mr. Sheehan's Principal report for Mac Arthur High School

- Homecoming parade and game was a huge success. MacArthur beat Sewanhaka HS in overtime 26-20
- Congratulations to our honorary Grand Marshall Dublin Brook and our newly crowned Homecoming King Bobby Lewis and Queen Caitlin Elia.
- Two additional College mini-fairs have been conducted since our last meeting.
- The district had a successful "Financial Aid Night" presentation at D.A.H.S. on 09/22/16
- A tablet training session was conducted on 09/28/16 for all 9th grade students
- Senior class picture was taken on September 28th, where all students sat in turf bleachers, for yearbook photo
- October 6th, is MacArthur's "Back to School" night. The warning bell will ring at 7pm. We are following a "Day 2" schedule.

- In preparation for the upcoming ACT exam on 10/22/16, the district is conducting the Catalysts ACT Bootcamp, which is a two day test prep seminar for 11th & 12th grade students. This boot camp will take place from 9am to 1pm on 10/8/16 & 10/9/16.
- PSAT will be administered to all 10th & 11th graders n Saturday 10/15/16. It is a wonderful opportunity for all 10th grade students to get a real feel experience of the recently re-structured SAT, and for 11th graders, College Board will dissect the results and determine which students are the National Merit semi-finalists and commended students.
- Congratulations to 4 MacArthur seniors for being named National Merit Scholarship Commended students. Out of 1.6 million students that took the PSAT exam nationwide, all four of these students finished in the top 50,000 of all test takers. Congratulations go to: Casey Butcher, Carissa Giuliano, Jake Iannacone and James May.
- Congratulations also go to MacArthur student Christopher Civil for earning Eagle Scout status. Chris raised a substantial amount of money to purchase a bench and table for Salk in honor of Lorenzo Fernandez. Congratulations to Mr. Zampaglione who Chris chose to give the coveted mentor pin to at the big ceremony.
- In September, a 50th reunion presentation and tour was conducted to roughly 40 members of the Class of 1966. We thanked the alumni that attended for their very generous donation of \$1,000 to our scholarship fund.
- October is breast cancer awareness month and on 10/13/16 we will have our annual "Dig Pick" volleyball game starting at 6:30pm. On 10/14/16 we will have our "Pink Out" Varsity football game against Elmont HS. Kickoff is 7pm and all money raised goes to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Cancer research.
- MacArthur marching band will be competing in the Newsday marching Band Festival on 10/20/16 at Mitchell Field.
- LEADD week walk and carnival will take place on Sunday 10/30/16 at LMEC. The walk is set to begin at 10am
- MAC's Got Talent is scheduled to take place 10/27/16

Presidents Report

- Discussion on Transportation. 9 runs were subbed out to "We Transport" from Baumman.
- The District is holding a Parents University night on 11/09/16. Details are available on the District website.
- Minutes from September meeting reviewed and approved as written. Approval of May 2016 Leslie Cassidy requested to accept the September minutes and Eileen Petruzzo seconded the motion.

Membership Report

- Helen Travers reported we have 386 paid Salk / Mac Arthur PTSA members so far. The breakdown was as follows: 41 staff; 82 students, and 263 parents. Dues for adults are \$10 and \$5 for students

Committees

- We are in need of a Transportation, Reflections and Elementary Curriculum chairpersons. Please contact Jeannette Stevens or Margaret Costa.

Corresponding Secretary

- Nothing to report

Treasurer Report

- The September bank statement had not been received yet. Copies of the approved budget were available on the tables in the back of the little theater.

Secondary Curriculum Report

- Minutes from the meeting are attached at the back of the October General PTSA minutes.

By-Laws

- Renewal of By-Laws was presented by Leslie Cassidy. The changes that were proposed at the September General PTSA meeting were presented at this meeting for a vote. The following changes to the by-laws were presented and discussed:
 1. Change Quorum from 15 to 12
 2. Change the election month of executive board members from March to May.
 3. Change the naming of the VP structure. Currently listed in numerical order (for ex. 1st VP, 2nd VP). Request VP structure to be represented as VP-Job Title instead (for ex. VP-Membership and VP-Committees)
 4. Change required delegates from 7 to 4.
 5. The current executive board consists of the Salk/MacArthur PTSA officers; past President; Delegates. We would like to add the two school principals and student representatives to the board.

A lengthy discussion was held by attendees in regards to changes 1 & 4. The reasons given regarding the requested change in amount of people required for both items 1 & 4 relates to the systemic issue of not having enough parents able to attend meetings and workshops. By decreasing the amount of people needed for a quorum, it will allow the PTSA to be able to conduct business and achieve a quorum when votes are required during low turnouts at monthly PTSA meetings. The concerns voiced opposing the change, worried that a lower quorum count might discourage people from attending meetings and possible have an impact to how a smaller group of people could possibly have greater power in decision making. A vote was held after the discussion period and a quorum was reached approving all changes to the by-laws.

BJ's Membership drive

- There had been issues with how the form appeared on different computer operating systems, but the issue has been resolved. Elizabeth Lyons is our chairperson. Remember registering through the PTSA will be \$5 cheaper and you will get one more month on your membership compared to renewing directly in the store. Please note on form if your current membership is expiring soon.

Apparel

- MacArthur spirit wear is ending soon. Salk spirit wear will be on the website shortly.

Old Business/New Business

- Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Tara Carr, Recording Secretary

Combined meeting of Elementary & Secondary Curriculum

Sept 28, 2016

Mr. Winch

Susan Massoni, Wisdom

Beth Heller, EB

Margaret Costa, Salk

Diana Murphy, Lee Rd

Jenny DeMeo, Abbey

Marguerite Lieb, Lee Rd

Diane Drescher, Summit

Susan Silberger, Council

Introductions

Mr. Winch was a SS teacher in Levittown. moved to be Asst Superintendent of Instruction at Plainedge and has returned to Levittown as Asst Superintendent of Instruction.

New Programs

AP Capstone-taught by 2 teachers (SS & English) in place of 10th grade Honors English. It is optional. Similar to well regarded "International Baccalaureate" program, this is an AP Board Program and helps fulfill requirements of the special AP diploma. It is a two-year course with one-year seminar setting and the second year focusing on college-level research skills. Students apply for program and do not have to continue in second year. Staff is trained by AP Board.

NYC history class is up and running as an elective

National History Day-Year-long event where students pick a project based on the theme "Taking a Stand". They have option of presenting a paper, website or project board. The projects have very specific requirements and are presented at a curriculum fair. This is being initiated as a middle school club, beginning in Oct. It is open to all and is another research-based opportunity for students.

Envision 2.0- teacher training is required and district is trying to limit time teachers spend out of class. Parent concerns include young students having to rip out pages from the book and a lapse in what students are expected to know in Sept based on prior year teaching. On elementary level it is acceptable to write that student attempted hw but could not complete. Homework will be discussed more next month as district is reviewing hw policy.

ELA & Math State guidelines have been revised

6th Grade Computer Program-One Quarter, during study hall. Parent concern that these skills need to be continued more than 10 weeks

Foreign Language- district is discussing best way to implement in younger grades. Pros and cons of starting from grade 5 and going down or grade K and going up discussed. Parents are interested in considering Latin in younger grades.

Technology Committee of 9th and 10th grade teachers being formed to discuss best use of tablets. Widely varying experiences of students using or not using tablets.

Parent University

Last week presented College Essay Writing for parents. Teachers will be available before and after school for essay writing help for seniors. Next event is 11/9 with classes for parents taught by teachers, community, etc. Registration info coming next week. Babysitting is available. Parent request for workshops in study skills and understanding the effect of social media use on student's future employment.

Summer Reading

Discussion will continue regarding what books should be chosen for each grade.

Physical Education

Will be discussed at next secondary meeting.

Next meeting to be determined. Susan Silberger will email group.