

Levittown Council of PTA  
General Membership Meeting

January 13, 2011

Minutes

Call to Order 7:34 by Esta Lachow

Pledge, Attendance

Esta Lachow began by passing on information: Nancy Gersten, a lifetime member of PTA, her husband has been battling a form a lymphoma and anyone can send her a card.

President's report- Welcome and Happy New Year. Welcome to Mr. Pappas and Mr. Powers. Thank you to Lee Road for hosting this evening, Northside hosting next month. Legislative Conference is March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Summer Leadership in Utica is July 29-31. Membership-final payment is due to State by 3/31, this is your final number that will count, although PTA membership can be taken all year. Abbey Lane 8<sup>th</sup> annual PTA Auction is ¾ @ Domenicos. See Full Report Attached

1<sup>st</sup> VP- Cindy Mulz- Happy New Year - all folders were given out

2<sup>nd</sup> VP- Happy New Year. Thank you for help with Adopt-a Family, thank you for donations to Wisdom Lane Food pantry, holidays are over so stock is low and still needs help. Drop off at all schools Monday-Friday or at 40 Meander Lane and 276 Gardiners Avenue 24/7. If you are cleaning out toys, check with elementary schools and see if they can use for rainy day recess. Any gifts you got for the holidays and don't want, food pantry will take some, Abbey Lane for auction of DHS for Sweeps. Biggest thing to ask is take extra time to get involved, teach the kids today what it takes to be involved.

Recording Secretary- Minutes not presented or approved, moved to next meeting.

Corresponding Secretary- Get well sent to Lynn Petrofsky, Marlene from Salk/MacArthur, Mike Pappas and Ali Harrs. Condolence card sent to Pat Asortato, Thank you card from Pat Asortato and Lynn Petrofsky and Letter from Nassau Region PTA Director, Dr. Sirois and Jean Marie Wink.

Treasurer's Report- See Attached. Books audited by Margaret Costa and they were found to be in order.

Superintendent's Report- A-There was a question asked if teachers can send letters to parents requesting students bring in supplies. Told principals not to have teacher send out these letters, the district should supply the supplies. Tell Principal if this is happening.

B-There was a question about coaches and fundraising. Students do not have to fundraise to be on team and play. Policies are in place for this.

C-At the last board meeting there were claims of bullying. The claims are not true and there were other reasons they were made. District has many programs for bullying.

D-Snow: Wantagh Ave & Southern State still a problem and have made calls. Northside: Path is not wide on the street; we do not plow streets or bridges. Numbers given for local offices: TOH Public Safety-538-1900, TOH Highway Dept.-489-5000, Nassau County Dept. Public Works-571-9600, Nassau County snow removal-571-6900, Town Councilman (Gary Hudes)- 489-5000, County Legislator (Dennis Dunn)-571-6215.

Pat Genco made a motion to start a letter writing campaign for snow removal of Wantagh Ave and Southern State by MacArthur and Lee Road and by Northside at Pelican and Skimmer. Motion second by Lisa Curran. Discussion-Margaret Costa stated Health & Safety committee is also writing letters and she will send their format to Esta to keep letters consistent. Vote on motion, all in favor.

E-Lobbying is going to be tough this year, lots of tax caps, which is quite irresponsible. Tax caps are deadly to school districts with no commercial property, especially since retirement and benefits are increased and just those can cause 7% tax increase. If no cost caps, which state controls, hurts school districts.

F-PTA recognition is on 2/9, invitations will follow.

Jill Rovenger stated that this morning in front of DHS only a little spot was cleared for the kids in front of the school between the street and sidewalk. Pat Genco had Point of Interest - Division Avenue is a snow emergency street. There are so many cars on the street; the street does not get properly plowed.

Arts in Education- No Report

Audit- heard report previously in meeting

Council Budget- meeting here 1/19 at 11:30 and 1/31 at 7:30. Could use attendance from units at the meetings, don't have reps from all units and really need to get moving.

Elementary Curriculum- No meeting last month, next meeting is 1/18

Health, Safety, and Environment- Got final approval for pre-prom workshop, thanks to all that helped. 3 dates in March: 1 for MacArthur, 1 for Division and 1 here at LMEC. Spoke about snow removal problems previously in meeting. Next meeting is 1/19 @ 10.

Legislation- Jill passed on info about convention at last meeting.

Procedures- Check the website for changes. The manual has been updated.

Secondary Curriculum- Next meeting is 1/20 @ 10

Nominating Committee- Meeting will take place week of 2/17; Sue will call each representative to set up the time. Names were read and are attached.

Reflections- No report, it is completed.

Scholarship Dinner Dance- Invitations will be going out soon.

District Budget – No Report

Dollars for Scholars – Next meeting is 1/31 @ 7, meetings last about 45 minutes, if your unit does not have a representative, please send someone. Thinking of ideas for fundraising. Need younger families to join and help.

Enrichment – Report Attached.

Food Service- See Attached. Esta mentioned interviews for the position for assistant to Linda Hass have been completed. May or may not be able to go off civil service list, we will get an update.

GC Tech – Report Attached

RTI – Report Attached

SEPTA- Ginny mentioned the State has changed IEP format and on 2/2 Dr. Sturrs and Kim Sharoff will explain the IEP format.

Wellness – No Report

New Business

Mike Pappas wished everyone Happy and Healthy New Year. This evening he brought the snow problem to the attention of Dennis Dunn and he will see it is taken care of.

Thanks to Lisa Curran, Angela List and Pat Genco for the great job they have done with Food Service. He is hearing Linda is doing a good job and Sergio is doing a fantastic job. He bought a house here in Levittown, shows he is committed. Board has entered into an agreement with MSG Network and they have agreed to give 2 \$1000 scholarships to each school.

Angela List stated Northside is having a blood drive on 2/8 from 3:30-9 all are encouraged to donate.

Adjourned 8:15- Minutes submitted by Angela List

## **Presidents Report January 13, 2011**

I welcome each of you to our meeting tonight, wish you all a very Happy & Healthy New Year and extend our welcome to members of our Board of Education who are here tonight. Please join me in offering thanks to Lee Road for hosting tonight's meeting. Northside, you are scheduled for the February meeting.

Just a few reminders: If you wish to speak, you must speak into one of the microphones or you will not be recognized. Please be respectful to comments expressed by your peers. There is a handout available on parliamentary procedures if you are interested.

I would like to take a moment and offer my personal thanks to the many of you who became involved in the District wide Adopt a Family program and I'd like to share some facts too. Many of our PTA members participated either alone, in conjunction with family or friends or as a PTA unit. The response was overwhelming. I was asked by a few folks, "how many kids asked for crazy things....like video game systems". My answer was quite simple....yes, one child in fact did ask for a game system. Just one child. I did note that more children asked for coats, shoes and blankets this year than last year. Of that I am certain.....and to me, that reflects what is happening right here around us. But on a positive note, we provided gifts for 163 individuals and certainly made their holiday season brighter. I felt very honored to be involved in this program and to be working alongside so many of you. On behalf of myself and this Council, I extend my thanks to Gina Interdonato for spearheading this program.

Things have been fairly quiet these past few weeks, but now the committees start up again and it's back to business as we work on the second half of the school year. Over the course of the next few months, the Board of Education, Central Office Administration, Council Budget Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee on the Budget begin a very timely, tedious yet important process. It is imperative that we as parents, as PTA members and as tax paying

citizens provide these groups with our thoughts, likes and dislikes. They can do their jobs alone without our involvement but they shouldn't have to. If you still have room for another New Year's Resolution...please make it that you will attend Board and committee meetings and speak up.

Speaking of committees, I have been approached by some of our Chairs to ask, and even beg for membership. I know the lack of volunteer involvement isn't unique to PTA, so many other volunteer service organizations are faced with the same problem. Parents are working longer hours and faced with more financial difficulties. It's often difficult to justify paying a babysitter when you're going to your "volunteer" job. I don't know what the best answer is but I do believe that if these committees cease to function, the children of this district will pay the price. We need to become creative with getting the information and then passing it along to our members.

I have asked the units to become more proactive with their use of the district web site. Perhaps an electronic newsletter or even update "blurbs" to your members. I'd like to throw out another suggestion....perhaps units can consider "sharing" committee members. By that I mean, if Abbey has a representative to attend transportation meetings, perhaps that rep would be willing to put their report in writing and pass it along to Summit. True, the rep may not be at Summits monthly PTA meeting, but at least the membership would have knowledge of what was occurring at the meetings. I ask that you think about this idea and give it a try.

January 27<sup>th</sup>, at Clark High School in East Meadow, is the Nassau Region Winter Conference. There are 9 different workshops being offered and while I encourage you to send members to all of them, I'd like to talk about 2 of them. The first is a Treasury workshop, and while it deals with insurance and risk management issues; it also refers to your fundraisers and procedures. It's a good workshop for Treasurers, Presidents and even future Treasurers and Presidents.

The second workshop deals with Nominations and Elections. This is the place to learn how to run a nominating committee meeting as well as how to run an election. Over the past few years I have been asked questions about both

processes.....both which should be done fair and impartial. Membership should be looking at Officers and members to determine who could represent the unit fairly. Along with this, we should also be looking that the member you choose actually wants the position, and is able to do the job. Someone who clearly states they can't balance a checkbook may not be your first choice as Treasurer. As unit Presidents you cannot be on the nominating committee but it is your role to run the election meeting. Please assure that at least one member of your unit's nominating committee attend this workshop.

And while I'm speaking about workshops, I'd like to update you as to where we stand with a Council Sponsored workshop for this year. Cindy and I have been having discussion on this topic and based on feedback that I received from some of you; we are considering a program that deals with running a unit meeting....to include the agenda, responsibilities, a little parliamentary procedure and a host of other issues. Our target date is March or April with hopes that perhaps some folks that may be considering the Presidency, may join in.

Again, I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New year.

# Levittown Council of PTAs

## Treasurer Report

12/01/10 ~ 12/31/10

### General Fund

Opening Balance: \$9549.52

No activity on this account

Closing Balance: \$9549.52

### Scholarship Fund

Opening Balance: \$7212.72

No activity on this account

Closing Balance: \$7212.72

Town of Hempstead, Public Safety 538-1900

Town of Hempstead, Highway Dept. 489-5000

Nassau County Dept. of Public Works 571-9600

Nassau County – Snow Removal 571-6900

*Town*  
Councilman Gary Hudes 489-5000

*County*  
Legislator Dennis Dunne 571-6215

**Subject:** Tonights meeting

**From:** Susan Pou <lousuepou@msn.com>

**Date:** Thu, 13 Jan 2011 14:03:30 -0500

**To:** Esta Lachow <e13ral@optonline.net>

Hi there, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

I won't be able to make the meeting tonight. Louis just called, hes coming home from school tonight and he has to go over some items for school that need to be in by tomorrow. Sorry, family must come first as you agree. I have two reports for tonight:

2/17 Nominating committee will be meeting the week before the next council meeting. (cant find my calender, what date is that?) I will call to shedual that meeting the week before so that we can present in February. If any of the people listed have a problem with any evening dates that week, have them email me at [lousuepou@msn.com](mailto:lousuepou@msn.com), or call me at 731 3979. Here is the list I have that was circulated at the last council meeting.

Abbey	Jen Osonitsch
Division	Ali Harrs
E Broadway	Michelle missing home and cell #
Gardiners	Danielle Calderon
Lee Rd	Margaret Costa
Mac/Salk	Cindy Mulz
SEPTA	Ginny Civil
Summit	Mary Missing home and cell#
Wisdom	Pat Genco
Northside	Kristen Goldman

#### RTI Steering Committee

Sept 2010- training of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers in AIMSWEB

Oct 2010 Universal screening took place

Nov 2010 Data warehouse training 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers, in addition to progress monitoring support for personnel

Dec 2010- Meeting was held for steering committee

January meeting - the committee will begin to look at introducing math into our RTI plan. E Broadway is already piloting the math program provided through AIMSWEB. All committee members have been asked to bring forth any research they have in January regarding math, as we did when first introducing the reading portion of RTI. It is my opinion that although there is individuality to each building, the district is continuing to make all efforts of maintaining higher standards and approaches with regards to RTI and has moved into a much more uniform template in addressing the who, what, when, how and why of early intervention.

Susan Pou  
37 Hollow Lane  
Levittown, NY, 11756  
631 834 0034 cell  
516 731 3979 phone/fax



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Food Service Liaison Report

The February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled and is in the process of being rescheduled. The committee is looking into refrigerated vending machines available from Answer Vending Machine, which would sell items like baby carrots, salsa and chips, etc. For the most part the school cafeterias are running smoothly. The tables in the various cafeterias are not all being cleaned using the protocol that went out from Mike Hahn's office.

Presidents, please let me know if you are receiving food service committee reports at your monthly PTA meetings.

Submitted by:



Lisa Curran

Food Service Liaison

Council Meeting January 13, 2011

GC Tech:

On Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30, we will have an "Open House" which is open to everyone. We encourage parents and students to come visit our classrooms. You will have the opportunity to speak with the teachers about our program curriculum, see our classroom environment, and view our labs, shops and equipment.

Also, on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:00, our students will compete in our GC Tech Skills Competition. Again, it is open to everyone. Come with your friends, neighbors, and children to view our students as they demonstrate their skills. The contests will be held in the gym.

Hope to see you there.

Senior Citizen Prom

No Report

SEPTA's general meeting will be held on January 24 @ 7:30 p.m. @ LMEC in the large boardroom. Also, attorney, Andrew Cohen, will be discussing guardianship, power of attorney; all different roles we may need to play as a family member with special needs becomes an adult.

Also, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 p.m. @ LMEC in the large boardroom. Dr. Amy and Kim Shavoff will be hosting a presentation to discuss the new IEP format.

## SEPTA/Gifted report

11/11/11

- The SEPTA meeting was held on November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Sturz reported that the Special Education Dept. is seeking the new position of "Transitional Coordinator" to be filled to help our Special Education students transition when they leave high school. He also wants to focus on a "goal" and that the "goal" be listed first on students IEP's so to help them have a "goal to shooting for".
- In the Bylews - the position of Historian was moved from ~~Historian~~ Executive Committee to Executive Board
- The PTA is pushing for the return of the "Local Diploma" for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and younger who now only have the option of achieving a Regents Diploma or IEP Diploma.
- On November 30<sup>th</sup>, ~~the~~ gifted & Talented held their "Meet the Teacher Night". Mrs. Grubb & Mrs. Burns showed ~~the~~ our parents all the wonderful work the children have done and spoke about the upcoming curriculum. There were many hand-outs. ~~that I will pass around.~~
- The next SEPTA/Gifted ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> will be on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM @ Memorial. Mr. Andrew Cohen Esq. will speak on Guardianships.