Levittown Council of PTA

General Membership Meeting

February 17, 2011

Minutes

Call to Order 7:30

Pledge, Attendance

President's report- See Attached

1st VP- No Report

2nd VP- See Attached

Recording Secretary- Minutes approved from November 2010 and January 2011

Corresponding Secretary- Get well card sent to Diane Shapiro

Treasurer's Report- See Attached. Angela List made a motion to use from miscellaneous \$150 for Get A Voice Jamboree. Motion was seconded, no discussion and motion passed.

Historian- No Report

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Sirois went over dates of budget meeting. March 16 the CAC and PTA Budget Committees are supposed to meet, but we are working on extending that date. The agenda will be gone through at each meeting until all items are gone through. He spoke at great length regarding the state budget cuts and how it will affect not only our school district, but most school districts, as well as the tax cap which is scheduled to be implemented for the 21012/2013 school year. He spoke about the mandates increases for Health Insurance, the NYS Employee Retirement system and Teachers retirement system. And about the increasing the tax levy and expenditures, along with optional cuts to our budget, as well as implementing full day Kindergarten with it's monetary benefits.

Arts in Education-See Attached

Audit- Monthly Audit and Mid-year Audit were both done and everything was found to be in order.

Council Budget- Met approx. 4 times, so far have gotten answers to questions from Ron Kister, Darlene Rhatigan and Mark Schissler, not from Mike Hahn or Linda Haas. Feb 28th is next meeting

Elementary Curriculum- No Report

Health, Safety, and Environment- Committee met with Gary Hudes. He explained the process of snow clean up. 1st stage is the make roads passable for emergency vehicles, 2nd is so a car can drive down the center of the street and 3rd is back to the original state. Please allow 24 hours after the storm, if you see a problem, send Gary Hudes and email. List of hot spots with pictures was given to Gary.

Pre Prom workshops letter is going out soon. They are on 3/10, 3/21 and 3/29. Been carrying in the budget \$100 for AIDS Awareness, working with Todd to use it.

Legislation-See Attached

Procedures- No Report

Secondary Curriculum- Asked membership Do we go to numerical grading policy? 10-Yes, 20-No, 1-abstention. Questions regarding the numerical grading policy: What would the point be in having a numerical grading policy if it didn't get included in the average? What is weight of the grade? What about a student with a medical reason not to participate, how does that affect participation portion of the grade? What about Special Ed students, like those who have a problem understanding direction, need 1 on 1 support or those with ADHD? See Attached

Nominating Committee - Slate for 2011 -2012 School year presented: Pres - Cindy Mulz; 1st VP - Patricia Genco; 2nd VP - Dawn Nocella; Rec. Sec. - Eileen Petrullo; Treasurer - Angela List; Corr. Sec. - Mary Rickard; Historian - S. Haas. No nominations from the floor. Corresponding Secretary, Angela List, casts all in favor vote on behalf of the unit.

Scholarship Dinner Dance- Debe Howe presented pricing for flowers. Petite 2 is 9.50/3.50, Lou's is 10.00/5.00, Phils is 10.00/3.50 and Carol is 10.00/3.00. Motion made by Diane McPartland to use Petite 2 florist for flowers for Honorary Life Dinner Dance. Motion Second. Discussion took place, 1 opposed, motion passed. Only received pins from East Broadway, Lee Road and SEPTA. All units have received invitations and working on getting people to attend.

AIS - See Attached

Capital Project/Bond Watcher - No Report

District Budget - No Report

Dollars for Scholars – Next meeting is 3/1 here at LMEC. Need building Reps. Only have for Lee Road, Salk/MacArthur, Abbey and Division. Several members have been around for a while, need new men and women from younger families. Since began in 2001 handed out 112 scholarships at \$1000 each. A fundraiser was sent to all elementary schools.

Enrichment - See Attached

Food Service-See Attached

GC Tech – Skills Competition was combined with the Open House. Students are meeting with guidance counselors getting classes together for next year-if interested in program they should call to set up a tour or sit in a class. March is Regional competition against LI Tech Schools at SUNY Farmingdale, 1-day conference. April in Syracuse against all NY schools is a 3-day conference.

LEADD — LEADD with Talent. Dr. Sirois is Grand Marshal, Division is Andrea Gonzalez, MacArthur is Zach Shapiro. Wear Red, no T-shirts sold this year. No Poster/Essay Contest. Need Volunteers to hand out buttons and coupons from 10-1:30. Kiwanis Breakfast in morning. Northside is doing a comedy show and Gardiners a skit on bullying.

Council Scholarship – Applications are at High School Guidance office. Deadline is 4/15-need 1 volunteer from each school.

Sr. Citizen Prom – Friday 5/13 @LMEC from 6-9:30 for those 60 +, will need volunteers at next meeting. Theme: Wild, Wild West. Menu: Tumbleweed Salad, Chuck Wagon Chicken, Beef Stew, Rodeo Carrots & Apples, Cowboy Beans and Huckleberry Pie. Culinary students prepare food. MS/HS Honor Society volunteers

SEPTA- See Attached

Teacher Center - See Attached

Transportation - See Attached

Wellness – Next meeting is in March. There is a Wellness Seminar at Adelphi University on 4/13-see Nassau Region PTA Website for flyer.

New Business – Diane McPartland spoke about Reflections and a contestant on American Idol from Merrick who started out as a Reflections Winner at his Middle School. He won at his school level, Nassau Region level, State Level and then was forwarded on by NYS. During his interview he spoke about how Reflections gave him the confidence to keep going with his talent.

Pat Genco – wanted to add to committee reports for snow closing. Did ask that President bring back to your PTA meetings and let the parents know that when they change their phone number (home or cell), the connect-ed messages only go to the youngest child on the list. Please be sure to update your phone numbers for all students in the district.

Dates to Remember: 3/24 – GC Tech Community Recognitions Dinner, 3/26-Nassau Region PTA Legislation Brunch, 3/27 LEADD Walk & LEADD Fair, starts with Kiwanis Breakfast, 3/31 Council Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Adjourned 9:26pm - Minutes prepared by Angela List

Presidents Report February 17, 2011

I welcome each of you to our meeting tonight, and extend our welcome to members of our Board of Education who are here tonight. Please join me in offering thanks to Northside for hosting tonight's meeting. Salk/MacArthur, you are scheduled for the March meeting. I would also like to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to former Board of Education member and longtime PTA member Diane Shapiro.

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.

Time passes so quickly, it's hard to believe this school year is more than half over. I encourage you not to become complacent and quietly cruise thru the remainder of the year. There is so much left to be done, with the School District Budget remaining a major focus. I have placed in our "Share" binder the February issue of the NYS PTA's Legislative Briefs. It speaks about Governor Cuomo's executive budget proposal addressing the challenges it offers to our school districts. I have also placed a brief email message from the Governor that I received today. It addresses the issues of school districts using reserves and unspent federal funds, freezing wages, having employees contribute to the health care and cutting salaries of administrators. I am not presenting these facts to you for debate. I'm not even sharing my personal opinionson these issues. I only present it because I believe as parents and members of this community; we need to educate ourselves on the facts as they are from all sides of this financial catastrophe.

At last night's Board of Education meeting, which happened to be the 1st scheduled Budget Planning Session, figures and projections were discussed by both the Superintendent and the Board. Both appeared to agree that although there is so much uncertainty ahead, it appears that with careful planning and

management, we can financially look ahead 2 years. Many of the Long Island Districts can't see that far with some barely seeing the end of this year.

The Board and Administrative staff have expressed their desire to implement Full day kindergarten beginning this September. This is certainly an area that we have discussed for many; many years....but decisions have to be made as to what this program will look like when implemented.

The traffic situation at Salk and MacArthur is certainly another area of concern. Car accidents continue to occur. People continue to be hit, although thankfully nothing life threatening. The idea of altering school start times is another issue under consideration and brings with it various questions and concerns. These are only 2 of the many challenges facing our district right now. I can't stress enough how very important it is for each of us to express our thoughts on these issues.

We have been asked again this year, to provide drinks and snacks for the District wide "Get A Voice Jamboree" on March 2nd. This is an anti-bullying program open to 4th and 5th graders. Last year we were able to get the items donated from Chartwells, our Food Service vendor. As of now, they are unable to donate the items but will provide them at cost. During the Treasurers Report this evening, I will be asking for a motion to authorize \$150.00 for this expense, which will cover the anticipated expense.

As we discussed at our last meeting, PTA has been working with Dr. Sirois and his staff, Mr. Pappas and the Health and Safety committee in addressing snow and ice concerns affecting our district and its children. Over 50 problem areas were identified and in addition to phone calls; Dr. Sirois sent letters to County Executive Ed Mangano and Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray. I would like to extend my thanks to those of you who called or emailed me (and sent pictures) with the various locations.

The Nassau Region Winter Conference originally scheduled for January 27th, at Clark High School in East Meadow, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd. 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. 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 about our Council Sponsored workshop for this year. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th beginning at 9am in the small board room. The topics to be covered are: running a meeting, nominations and the role of Council and your unit. Pre-registration is a must to assure that we have enough informational packets, chairs and certainly bagels!!! I encourage the unit Presidents, 1st Vice Presidents or anyone who has expressed an interest in moving into the Presidency for the upcoming year, to attend. Please RSVP directly to me by February 28th.

Just a few reminders are left:

The NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference is scheduled in Albany for March 19^{th} and 20^{th} . Our Council Legislation Chair Jill Stevens will be representing us.

The NYS PTA Lobby Day Advocacy Partners Lobby Day, also in Albany is scheduled for March 20th-21st.

Membership payments with unit official membership counts are due to NYS PTA by March 31^{st} .

National PTA asks that you check out the website: DontFretTheSweat.com It is designed to provide advice to parents to help their tweens build confidence and navigate thru those sweat inducing moments.

Levittown Council of PTAs 2nd VP Report for February Submitted by: Patricia Genco on 2/17/11

On Friday February 11th, 2011 I attended the Snow Emergency School Closing Plan Meeting in the place of Esta Lachow as she was unable to attend.

The meeting started at 3Pm at LMEC. Representatives from all areas of Administration were present. Buildings and Grounds, Transportation, GC Tech, IT, Pupil Services, Building Principals, PTA.

Each department had a checklist of what went well, what needs to be revised and improved upon. From busses, snow removal, AM Kindergarten, scheduling of early arriving personal, connect Ed messaging, notification via television and radio, to early arriving students and class schedule changes were all discussed.

IT will look into separate connect Ed messaging going out to teachers. D. Rattigan will look into an emergency radio station this would be helpful for times that eclectic may be lost to notify those that have no electric. Transportion will look into the scheduling of early arrival personnel as will all other departments. Building and Grounds will look into possible pre designated areas for personnel that arrive early to park while the rest of the grounds are being plowed.

In all, the delayed opening went well, with minimal confusion or problems. The next meeting will have a procedure to be implemented for next year.

Levittown Council of PTAs Treasurer Report 01/01/11 ~ 01/31/11

General Fund

Opening Balance:	\$9549.52
Nassau Region PTA Winter Conference 2 members (CH#1048)	-\$20.00
Closing Balance:	\$9529.52

Scholarship Fund

Opening Balance: \$7212.72

No activity on this account

Closing Balance: \$7212.72

Arts in Education:

The following are versous schedules events.

March: Dare to Move – for middle school students promotes positive decisions.

Chip Bryant - No Smoking: Lungs at Work - scheduled during LEADD week

April: Barbara Garriel Read and Sing Out Loud program for the 1st and second graders

May: Hoyt Farms for the 4th graders -

Native Americans and The Butterfly Man for the 3rd graders

All of the above programs were booked through the BOCES Arts in Education website. Evals have been completed for the programs held.

Franklin Institute travelling science shows - Flight! - this was held in Nov. Jambo productions - assembly and workshops - held in January Power of One(anti-bullying show) - held early February

Legestation Report Jeon Jell Stevens

Tomorrow the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a number of funding cuts. Cancer research is potentially on the chopping block! If you're interested in contacting your senator/representative in an attempt to stop the cuts, it only takes a minute. Just click on the link below, enter your zip code where it says "Take Action Now," and fill in the required fields. The message is already provided for you.

-Dave

http://capwiz.com/pancan/utr/2/?a=27323501&i=107112437&c=

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Below is a sample of what the link looks like



The Newly Re-introduced Bill Needs YOUR Senators' Support!



TAKE ACTION NOW!	Enter Your Zip Code:	Go!

We're excited to announce that the Senate version of the *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act* (S. 362) has been re-introduced by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)!

During the last Congressional session, the senate-version of the bill gained an impressive 29 co-sponsors in only seven months (the bill was introduced in May 2010). It was through the incredible activity of advocates, like you, that we were able to be so successful in the last Congressional session – and we need your help again!

Please write to your two (2) U.S. Senators and tell them why it is so important that they co-sponsor this groundbreaking legislation. We encourage you to personalize your message to increase its impact by including your personal story in the space provided on the following page. And remember: we need as many people as possible to join us in this important and urgent effort. Please forward the link to your friends and family (www.pancan.org/TakeAction) and spread the word on Facebook and Twitter!

Have any questions? Contact us at advocacy@pancan.org or 202-742-6699.

Urgent Action Alerts!

- On Thursday, February 17, the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a number of funding cuts! Cancer research is potentially on the chopping block!
 - Click here to tell your Representative to OPPOSE any cuts to life-saving cancer research!
- 2. The Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act has been re-introduced in the 112th Congress! This is a game-changing bill that would require the National Cancer Institute to develop a long-term comprehensive strategic plan to combat the disease. Click on the buttons below to write to your two (2) Senators and U.S. Representative (1) and ask them to cosponsor this critical legislation!



Click on the two links above and fill out the information. The letter is already composed.

Secondary Curriculum We've had I meetings since the last council meeting In January we spece about ALS and the mid-term schedule at the HS. District is re-working the Larman for the final schedule Derbinet w/principals -Parents & new Students to the district friend it to be somewhat confusing Question had come up about when students take a Regents excem-going to Looke course Delec Cortalion and See y can make a noto rest to classes that end in a legents AIS- Clay students @ DIV. should have rec'd courted letters by Jan 20th mter There are a range of Services we providesmall group Enstruction extra period of Math Gen Ed teacher watching student & monitoring Progress Monitoring can be a part of ALS Spoke @ great length about the students who receive AIS because they rec'd a for 2 on State tests and this is Luquied by State Proguess Reports - In March are changing from Standard dup down toxes of comments Effort is good, excellent, etc- to

Grade Range.

Meeting this Moining-

Spoke about SAF Score Choice-Policy is we've always sent all scores to the colleges, as opposed to just best score.

Surveyed 20 School distincts and well as College Board - they suggest school sodist distinct not to sent scores - too much liab t a disadvantage to students -

With SAT Score Choice the student can said Decres, lach time take the test, \$50 to 4 Schools for free + then cost \$9.512 to send to each add't Schools. The Score

Phys Ed Numerical Grading Policy.

Elem. Students receive grades for Phys Ed, but Secondary has only pass/fail

Hr. Snyder formed a committee w/ Some of the phys. ed teachers and came up w/a Ruberiu- Not punitive of athletic abily is not there.

Of Surounding districts bellnow Merrick is only other district that has P/F grading

Some Surrounding Schools Include the grade is alreage.

There is a DRAFT - Phys Ed Policy/Contract that goes into depth re: Attendance Policy un Prepared, behow it, locker Room Procedures - Medical exemption Policy, Grading -

The Kubein is broken down into 4 Sections So it will be consistent across the board and Through the district

1 - Participation When Prepared begin a/40 pts 2 - Preparation begin w/40 pts 3 - Sports Character/Safety Awareness w/10 pts 4 - Content Knowledge w/10 pts.

gam- Consistently- frequently Occasi anally.

Jen refuses

Phones, i pods + lock up belinging removed, Norman phones, i pods + lock up belinging - Every class-Unprep 1 Class-Unprep 2 class-300 + beglio as

3. Atitude, leadership, Show respect to Classmaks + teachers, personal + Class noom Safety.
- Demon. high level - demon Some level
- Demon good level - demon little if any

4. Student is able to unterstand game rules, team strategies, + personal welvess concepts -Computersible, Good, - General- Little /NO It is broken down juto 4 categories, Outstanding Commendable, Schopfactory, Unsatisfactory- 30 each Student is starting det@ 100 for their gr



Spoke @ length re: change in all phone policy-& hoping Policy will make teachers + Students hard same policy.

New Polary gives sermission to use show during mon-instructional time.

States afferse + where show is going when taken orway

Polisy-4716 - State once Board approves-

Students will be getting tests backas Well as tast answer short so they can use it as a study guids.

Music Charis @ ms/Hs working on guidelines to be presented so students areale on samplevel when they leeve 5th and 8th Benchmark assessments@5th & 8th grade

Seria seculiarist seculiarist

His Wildersteep.

Submitted by Angelons

Levittown Council of PTAs Nominating Committee Report

The Council Nominating Committee met on February 1, 2011. Below is the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the Slate of officers of the Levittown Council of PTA's for the 2011/2012 school year.

President: Cindy Mulz

1st Vice President: Patricia Genco

2nd Vice President: Dawn Nocella
Recording Secretary: Eileen Petrullo

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Rickard

Treasurer: Angela List Historian: Scott Haas

Respectfully Submitted:
Susan Pou;
Jen Osonitch:
Ali Harrs:
Michelle Gartelman:
Danielle Calderon:
Margaret Costa: Margaret Carlos
Kristen Goldman: Kusten Boldman
Mary Rickard: May Rull
Patricia Genco: Fallula Genco
Ginny Civil: Colons CAA

Attended: Elementary and Secondary on 2/11/11

Prepared by: Sysan Por

I attended both meetings held to address the Districts AIS policy and procedures. With State cut scores that were raised last year, AIS scheduling has become more difficult since more of our students are requiring the service. I do have concerns of the true effectiveness of these services, how they are administered, and monitored. I am personally convinced that we are going through the motions, meeting State mandates, however, I question the true validity and gain that the students are receiving.

N

I fear that we have saturated the school day. We go through the motions, paperwork is prepared, but I do not believe it is effective. How can it be? There is more tracking and mandates than teaching time.

I Am Soney I was hnable to be here to Answer Any Questions regarding AIS OR RTI You that matter, which are both provided to Students AS intervention Services. The next RTI meeting is scheduled you March 3rd AT IPM.

This evening, I am next door in the Panther proms affending the Son's Football awards you Division Ave. If anyone has guestions, please feel free to Journal them to Esta, who in turn, will forward them forme, on feel free to Care me @ 131-3979 if you prefer.

Enrichment Report---February 2011

-The Enrichment Program will be taking recommendations for students who may qualify for enrollment for the coming year. Some of the characteristics of a Gifted and Talented child may include, but are not limited to: the ability to reason well, learn rapidly, exhibit creativity, demonstrate excellent problem solving skills, show keen observation and display adept math skills. There is a link for parents on the district website to learn more about Enrichment and the Gifted and Talented Program. You will find information that may be beneficial to encourage your understanding of the gifted child and how to motivate him to promote his higher level thinking skills.

Application Due Date: Friday, May 6, 2011

-The Mentorship Program will begin this month featuring Mr. Bob Veech, an inventor, who works closely with the students teaching and motivating their love of learning. He has a very good rapport with the students and has worked with them for many years.

-March 24, 2011 <u>Conference For Kids</u> will be attended by our Gifted and Talented 6th graders. Hosted by New York Institute of Technology, the students are allowed to enroll in two of the many interesting classes offered, such as: robotics, hypnotism, drama, yoga, inventions, and underwater archeology, to name a few. There are 14 classes to choose from.

Submitted by: Maria Severance PTA Enrichment Chairperson

The Enrichment Program can be contacted directly at 520-8385 ext. 93

Levittown Council of PTAs General Meeting February 17, 2011

Food Service Liaison Report

At East Broadway, the number of kitchen employees does not match what is called for in the contract. This is an ongoing contract violation.

At Abbey, East Broadway and

Gardiners, the reps have been told they may not speak to the children unless the principals or their designees are present. This seems to contravene the charge that was given to us by the District and the Board.

At Salk the lines on chicken nugget day have exceeded 25 minutes. I have spoken to the Chartwells' rep about this, he felt it was impossible, but it was seen by the building principal and assistant principal.

Due to student requests that more substantial food be available to them during sports and after school activities, the Food Service Committee has recommended that Answer Vending add an additional refrigerated vending machine in each secondary school cafeteria that would serve string cheese, cut up fresh fruit, kettle corn, carrots and dip, apple slices and dip, etc. Pricing is being worked on with most items selling between \$1.00-\$2.00.

There still appears to be no uniformity in table cleaning throughout the district in regards to WHO is doing the cleaning and the cleaning materials used.

Submilled by:

Subject council report for scholarship

From: Jill <pandalvr@optonline.net>

Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 18:51:43 -0500

To: Esta <e13ral@optonline.net>

PTSA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The PTSA scholarship applications are at each high school guidance office. the deadline for submission is Friday April 15.

We will need 1 volunteers from each school (not a senior parent) to help decide the winners. Date to follow

Jill Rovenger Co-Chair

SETTA March 1st is Family Fan at 1:30 p.m. @ CMEC. We will hone someone demonstrating Korate + Yoga He will have some information ugarding What types of activities there is crailable for special needs children. We will have a general membership meeting on March 28 @ 730pm @ LMEC. We will be presenting the state for next year one Elarie Terre will be av sperter. The will be speaking about ADHD, A flir wellse gring ant.

Teacher Center

February Council Meeting February 17, 2011

At the last meeting of the Teacher Center Advisory Board we discussed the fact the Center is self-sufficient, there is no funding coming from the State. Questions were raised regarding contracts that are already in place such as Xerox machines and other office equipment, what their costs are? Do we have enough funds sustain those? John Caufield, Treasurer was not in attendance, there were no answers in his absence, we will find out at the next meeting.

Also, there is a new Business/Community Member, Sheldon Rosenbloom, since the appointment could not be made at the same meeting, it will be voted on via email.

Thank you.

Susan Giuliano

ansportation ransportation

nichelle gartelman <mamachelle@optonline.net> Mon, 14 Feb 2011 20:52:03 -0500 (EST)

Esta Lachow <e13ral@optonline.net>

I will be unavailable tomorrow due to a death of a dear friend from cancer. We are At transportation we discussed the possible staggering of buses as well as the congestion in the Salk circle. We spoke about areas of concern at East broadway. A new fence and gate has been installed at the transportaion office, shrubs are

Thank you again for attending our meeting on Friday, your advice is so appreciated .

Thank you Michelle