

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting
November 17, 2011
Minutes

Call to Order 7:35

President's report- Esta filled in for Cindy. Report attached.

1st VP - Information from Convention for Presidents. PTA By-Laws are done on-line now. Adopt a family envelope being passed around if interested. Thanks to all for the donations for the food pantry.

2nd VP - Council directory was sent out to units –anticipates some changes.

Recording Secretary - Minutes approved from October 2011 meeting.

Corresponding Secretary – Congratulations card was sent to Michelle Gartleman for her new baby. We received thank you cards from the Mazza Family & Dr. Grossane.

Treasurer's Report- See report attached.

October monthly audit was conducted tonight by Eileen Petrullo & all was in found in order.

Historian - No Report.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Grossane reported that Newsday reported on the DAHS Wizards fundraising event & Newsday will appear at the Levittown Food Pantry housed at Wisdom Lane Middle School to help make the community & the public aware.

We are one of 9 districts on LI selected for the AP Honor College Board distinction – which is a very prestigious achievement. It shows not only that we have many courses at the AP level, but that we score very well. We are one of only 300 districts nationwide to be part of this distinction.

Superintendent conference day featured the Common Core curriculum changes. Expectations of students will increase. Right now the focus will be on the Math & English language arts for the elementary level & on the secondary level. The work load will be more challenging than in years past to ready the child for any given path they choose later in life. There will be a general shift from an all Literature based curriculum on the elementary level to one that shares about 50/50 with non-fiction and factual materials. By the time it hits the high schools, it will be more 70% factual & 30% literary split. There will be significant staff development & training to prepare for the requirements for the writing & research in all content areas on the secondary level. The changes will come next school year & the following year.

APPR – evaluations of principals & teachers, everyone will get a score. In conversations with the teachers' union & administrative association trying to select a process for determining what supervision should be. Teachers will be told what they can expect to be an effective teacher. The state is putting out a system that will rate teachers as ineffective, developing, effective & highly effective. The scoring will be a total of 100% with components made up of 40% based on students performance, 20% based on the students assessment, 20% based on local measures of assessment. The other 60% will be observing the teachers not just once but several times throughout. The state however is setting up the assessment so that everyone will be "effective" teachers, which is a really good thing. It means the teachers are doing exactly what they are supposed to be doing. It's virtually impossible to be rated "highly effective" as a teacher.

Dr. Grossane warns that what appears in the media does not always portray accurately what is happening in the district.

Buses are 99.7% on time, added more routes and changed some around to move more quickly. We had a consultant in for 3 days – looking in to make our routing more effective.

Dr. Grossane asked the IT dept. to do a survey on how many Smartboards there are in the elementary & secondary levels. Discussions were held with representatives from Nassau BOCES. The equipment will be purchased through Nassau BOCES in which we get some of the money back. The board has approved for Sept. to have a Smartboard in every classroom in the district.

Research & planning for the DAHS cafeteria. Appropriate funding was found for it. No Bond issue is necessary. Updates in all cafeterias will be in a 5 year plan.

Piloting the NWEA testing. Definitely in grades 4 & 5, possibly in grades 6 & 7. It is a computerized test that shows growth of the student.

Refresh students on "stranger danger". Nothing happened but just a reminder.

Committee Reports

Arts in Education- Gardiners had a successful program to kick off Get a voice. *East Broadway had an anti-bullying program – Hip Pickles. *Lee Road is having 2 events for character education. All presidents please email their A& E chair information.

Audit- No Report.

Council Budget- Pete Calabrese is the chair. Passing around a sign-up sheet for Presidents to advise who their unit representative is for this committee. This committee wants to get started soon.

Elementary Curriculum- See attached report.

Health, Safety, and Environment- Margaret Costa is chairperson. She is in the process contacting the Asst. Supt. to schedule a meeting.

Legislation - See report attached.

Procedures - No report.

Secondary Curriculum - See report attached.

GC Tech - No report.

Special Committees

Nominating - Esta is chairperson. Each unit President is usually on the committee with the Co-President as an alternate.

Reflections - Drop off is Wednesday Nov. 30 & Thursday Dec 1st from 6pm to 8:30 pm @ Brookside School in N. Merrick. Pick up is Tuesday Dec 14th @ same location. The student entry form is required for every submission. New this year is a consent forms which are required for every student's face that is recognizable in a submission. These forms are all on-line. DAHS entry from last year is on this year's convention calendar.

Scholarship Dinner Dance - See report attached.

Liaisons

Capital Project/Bond Watcher: No Report

Dollars for Scholars - The next meeting is this coming Monday 11/21. A lot of new faces are attending our meetings & new fundraising ideas are coming up. By next council meeting, information about community mailings will be given.

Food Service- See report attached.

SEPTA- See report attached.

Teachers Center - No report.

Transportation - Chairperson needed.

Wellness – See report attached.

New Business

Senior Citizen Prom – volunteers needed, it will be held on May 11.

Note Upcoming Events on the back of the agenda.

Adjourned 8:32pm -

Minutes prepared by Eileen Petrullo

President's Report for Council Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:30 pm

I would like to thank Lisa, Esta and Division for hosting tonight's meeting. Next month's meeting, which is in January, will be hosted by East Broadway.

Sorry I couldn't be with you tonight, I thank Esta for running tonight's meeting.

Please be reminded that our meeting tonight is being recorded, I ask that if you wish to speak that you speak into the microphone. Our minutes, once they are approved, will be on line. Please keep the web site updated and current with your unit information.

Thank you again to Patty Genco for another successful Pres/Superintendent Meeting. I also would like to thank Dr. Grossane for updating each unit with important district information.

I would like to send out congratulations to Michelle Gartelman, past president of East Broadway, on the birth of her son.

There are some important reminders I would like to go over with you.

- Continue to check the Nassau Region web-site for useful information www.nassaupta.org
- Check your unit bylaws too see if they need to be updated. They can be submitted on line. There is a link on the Nassau region web site.

- IRS time is here please file your taxes on time. Your unit will file a 990 EZ or 990 form. There is a link on the Nassau Region web site.
- Your first membership payment was due to NYS by October 31.
- Council dues is due. Please see Angela
- The Presidents/Principal Dinner is Nov. 21 6:00, @ Crest Hollow Country Club
- Please continue to support our Levittown food pantry. We will collect food at every council meeting, you may want to do the same at your meetings.

This year, PTA has again been invited to participate in the district wide Adopt a Family Program, that our Past Board President Gina Interdonato started in 2009. Esta will be chairing this for council. I will give you an overview of this very worthwhile program. It is a confidential program. The district social workers identify students and families in need. Each student or family is assigned a code. A form is completed regarding more specific information... clothing and shoe sizes for example. This is the information that is shared with the "adopter". The "adopter" decides what and how much to purchase some students wanted clothes others requested toys. I know financially, times are tough for many including ourselves, any contribution will be greatly appreciated, gift cards are welcome from \$5.00 and up. The Council Executive

Committee has agreed to adopt a family too. Thank you for participating in this program. If you would like to participate please contact Esta. We ask that all items be delivered to the District Clerk's office, here at LMEC by December . Although this is not a PTA project, it deals directly with our students with the goal of making their holiday season a bit more pleasant. This is another example of how we advocate and care for our students.

We look forward to continue to work with and support our Board of Education. Our goals are the same lets do what is best for our schools and our children.

Thank you everyone for all that you do for our children your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Please keep the lines of communication open.

I know together we will all work to do what is best for our schools and most importantly our children. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns.

The executive committee and myself wish you a Happy, Healthy and Joyous Holiday season.

Congratulations to our district for being placed on The College Board's Annual AP District Honor Roll for significant gains in advanced placement access and student performances.

11/17/11

Council - Corresponding Secretary Report

Sent:

Michelle ~~Abelton~~
Gartelman - Newbaby

Received: Mazza Family - Thank you
DR. GROSSME - Thank you
for BOE Recognition

- Mary Rickard

Levittown Council of PTAs Treasurer Report

OCTOBER 18, 2011 to NOVEMBER 17, 2011

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance: **\$8,898.66**

Expenses:

President/Principal Dinner	240.00
Supplies	27.78
BOE Recognition	99.91

Total Expenses: **\$367.69**

Income:

Council Dues	Abbey Lane	83.60
	Division Ave	124.40
	East Broadway	217.60
	Gardiners Ave	61.20
	Northside	136.40
	SEPTA	87.20
	Salk/MacArthur	239.60
	Wisdom Lane	81.60

Total Income: **\$1,031.60**

Closing Checkbook Balance: **\$9,562.57**

Scholarship Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance: **\$9,224.77**

Expenses:

Total Expenses: **\$0.00**

Income:

Total Income: **\$0.00**

Closing Checkbook Balance: **\$9,224.77**

Elementary Curriculum met on October 18. Debbie Rifkin showed a presentation on the Common Core Standards. This topic was introduced at the September meeting and discussed in more detail at the October meeting.

The new standards will be fully implemented starting September 2012. During the second half of this school year, students will begin to get some exposure to the Common Core Curriculum to better prepare them for September.

Basically with the new standards, students will be provided with a solid foundation and deeper understanding of the subject matter. They were developed to ensure that students are career and college ready when they finish high school.

For English, there are several different components: Reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. There will be a greater concentration on reading informational text and on writing opinions and argument based on evidence from the text.

Our next meeting will be on November 29th at 9:30 a.m. in the small boardroom at LMEC. The topic for the meeting will be Smartboards and a demonstration will be given.

Sarah Hoffman will be taking over as chairperson.

Convention Report:

First off I just want to say thank you for allowing me to go to the convention up in Niagara Falls, it was an honor to represent the Levittown Council. The three workshops I chose to attend were "Encouraging and Stretching Young Writers at Home", "Panel: The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids" and "Putting a New Communication Wave of Social Media to Work." Each workshop was interesting and offered good insight on the topics covered. In the first workshop on writing I learned that you must encourage kids to read and have a love of reading. She gave us a list of 10 ways to help Young Writers and encourage them to write. In the second workshop I learned about healthy food initiatives being taken in school in New York City and upstate New York. I learned about the new guidelines for schools lunches and all the positive changes being made to try and encourage kids to be healthier and enjoy healthy food and make school lunch healthier and fresher. In the third workshop I learned about how many schools and PTSA's are using social media site such as Facebook and Twitter to connect with parents and students to give them information about the school and upcoming events. It can be very helpful going into the 21st century where everyone seems to be involved in some sort of social media. We also attended general sessions in which all the resolutions were passed with some discussion on the safety requirements of school buses, but in the end everything was squared away. It was an interesting 3 days and I learned a lot and it was helpful and it was a great experience. Thank you again for sending me!!

Secondary Curriculum

Last meeting was October 26th, next meeting is November 30th.

Spoke about the Common Core Curriculum Standards. These are national standards that have been adopted by 44 states. Why standards: * Provide a shared vision of what students should know and be able to do. * Provide a shared vision for teachers and administrators.

What are the Common Core Standards:

* Aligned with college and work expectations. * ~~Focused and Coherent~~ ^{grades} * Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high order thinking skills. * Build upon strength and lessons of current state standards. * Internationally benchmarked so all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society. * Based on Evidence and research.

With in the ELA/Literacy there are 4 strands: Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening and Language. Then there are 10 standards (Anchor standings) that are the same for all grades, and then there are grade level expectations that match up with each anchor.

For grades 9-12 state has not given specifics for changes ~~in March~~

Grades 3-8 have joined consortium with BOCES to develop curriculum. Will be working over the Summer –looking at the new material.

Superintendent Conference Day teachers had training. Each elementary principal took a grade. MS/HS principals will have chair people in each content area work with that group of teachers.

This year assessments will be pretty much the same, next year content will be aligned with the new common core standards.

2014 state has aligned w/PARCC Assessment.

Wellness

Wellness Committee met on October 19, 2011. We reviewed the work of the sub-committees from last year and are working on setting goals for the 11/12 school year. Mrs. Spicer is working on updating the maturation film. She will be coming to the next meeting to give us a mini lesson.

We spoke about a program called Rock and Wrap it, where you can organize a group of students/parents to collect pre-packaged snacks and left over food from the cafeteria and deliver it to shelters/food pantry or soup kitchens.

Spoke about different ways to get kids exercising and more time for phys Ed (120 minutes is the state mandate, we are short 8 minutes). Sachem has recess time separate as a full period.

Other districts have initiated a health club, like a drama club. The committee took a consensus vote and would like to recommend the health club to each building.

Some schools have a Healthy Steppers program (Wantagh does it) where children walk/run laps outside at recess to see which class can do the most. Some schools use an index card and punch it for every student at ^{each} every mile. Then the miles are tracked in the hallway of the school. &

The district will continue with ACES on May 12th.

We spoke @ great length re: Dover vending machines and their non-compliance w/ the wellness policy.
Honorary Life:

Units should have already sent out the letter requesting nominations for the Honorary Life award. Units should be well on their way, receiving letters and setting up your committees and a meeting date. Several Units have already notified me of their winners and have sent either the photos or biographies. Units can send actual photos and written bios via inter-office mail to Northside-to my attention or you can email them to me. *if you have them in electronic format.*

PTA Council Meeting – November 17, 2011

GC Tech – no report

Senior Citizens Prom

Friday, May 11th 6:00-9:30 PM

Held at LMEC Gym

Theme: Sock Hop (Wear your poodle skirts and bobby socks)

Volunteers will be needed for the evening. Will send out signup sheet in March & April.

Food Service 11/17/11

PTA Council

Food Service

Mark Flower spoke about Dover Vending. Dover has the vending ~~cont~~ machines in the secondary school halls, LMEC + Teacher Lounges. Dover has been in violation of the Wellness Policy. There have recently been several meetings with them + they have brought products in that meet the Wellness policy, but Dover says these items are expensive, costing up to 60¢ at the wholesale level and that they need to raise prices to \$1.25. Many of these items are ~~also~~ already vended by Answer Vending in the school Cafeterias for \$1.00 ~~if you go on~~. These products are listed on the Sarnow Vending website w/ wholesale prices of 27¢ to 39¢ w/ one item in ^{the} low 40¢ range. ~~the p.~~

Salt packets are back in the Cafeterias since they are called for in the 7.5. Contract

Rock-Wrapelt - is a program where food donations of unused packaged + prepared foods are donated to local food banks or food kitchens.

Port Washington did this last year + donated over 1,000 meals. The recommendation is that this program be given to a Student Organization or Student Government to implement.

SEPTA

We held our October General Membership Meeting on October 24. Our speakers were Mitchell Weisbrot and Andy Cohen. They spoke about Estate Planning for Special Needs Families.

Our Yankee Candle fundraiser has ended and it was successful. We would like to thank everyone for their support.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 5th @ 7:30 p.m. @ LMEC in the large boardroom. Jamie Spencer an Occupational Therapist will be doing a presentation on what educationally and developmentally appropriate toys/games to buy kids for the holidays

All are welcome to attend.
