

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting
February 27, 2014

Call to Order 7:35PM

Pledge and moment of Silence to support our troops who are fighting for our freedom.

Attendance

Recording Secretary – Minutes presented from January 16, 2014. Minutes will be filed with correction to spelling of Marguerite's name.

Treasurer's Report- See Attached. Treasurer Report is filed for audit. As of the time the Treasurer gave her report the books had not been audited.

President's report- Report Attached. Items to be addressed: We took a vote at the last meeting for the nominating committee. Most of the members are Presidents or 1st Vice Presidents, the Past President has always been chair of the committee and the alternate has alternated, this year it would be Laura (Wisdom Lane)

Mary Rickard made a motion for Wisdom Lane (Laura Brown) be the alternate chair for the Council Nominating. D. Waitkus made a second to the motion. All present voted in favor. With the motion being voted on Cindy has given notification that she can not fulfill her duties, as Laura Brown will be the chair of the nominating committee.

1st VP- No Report.

2nd VP- No Report.

Corresponding Secretary – Thank you for the card on passing of her Mother-in-Law.

Superintendent's Report

Debbie Rifkin is in for Dr. Grossane. Spoke about changes to NYS implementation changes for Common Core. Plan on doing a presentation at the next Board of Ed meeting on 4/12.

Periodically having reviews and updates of Common Core Learning Standards.

Advocate for the money to do this – their intent is to do this, but they first have to advocate for it and get the money to do it.

To provide equitable funding to schools for professional development to implement that, again they have to advocate to Government to provide funds to do this.

State assessments – plan was to have all of our graduating seniors – instead of 65 to pass regents and be able to graduate with a 65 as passing they have new measures that they are calling aspirational measures – that is a 75 on the English regents and an 80 on 1 math regents – they have delayed this until 2022. Many new sources are stating "Common Core delayed until 2022" – this is not true, only this aspect of it is delayed. Our current 4th graders are in this group.

Eliminating high stakes for students based on assessments, this does not affect us much. Can't use solely a state assessment for placement decisions like retention of for an honors class, etc.

Reduce field testing and give more access to the questions after the test.

Students with disabilities, they are going to put something into place for students with severe disabilities who don't qualify for alternate assessment, to be tested at their instructional level, not their chronological level.

Looking into providing students who have only been in this country for 1 or 2 years to be excused from ELA and only take NYSESLAT.

New grading standards- 2 used to be approaching standards and 3 used to be meeting standards. Now 2 will be on track for regents exam passing for graduation on common core regent exams and they have yet to give a new 3. The new 2 will be 3.

Eliminate unnecessary tests as far as APPR is concerned. We are in the process of looking at what tests we can eliminate for next year for APPR in order to give teachers a fair shot and only give tests that we would normally give as instructional info and help us analyze where students need to be.

1% cap on time for locally selected standardized tests.

Some discussion re AIS – now going to be more of a local decision, not the state as far as where cut offs are for AIS services for students.

Provide more resources for parents – pending more money from the State.

Questions for Debbie:

Explain changes for Physics curriculum- Students in Honors have only the option of AP physics or regular physics? A- Yes, Curriculum has changes, so it's now AP physics 1 and AP Physics 2. We looked at the Honors and Accelerated physics curriculum and determined that the students can handle the curriculum.

Financial algebra is a new course for Juniors focused on students who are not on track for an advanced regents diploma. We needed some courses in place, because our district requires 4 years of math and students who take algebra and geometry need something else.

Q-In order to take Pre-Calc do students need to pass a regent? A- Take it case by case, if a student misses passing by a few points, we would encourage them to take it. If the student misses by a lot of points, then this would require a discussion. We want all students to have the opportunity available if they want to take the class.

SEPTA – Report Attached – No meeting due to the snow, there is one coming up March 31st at 7:30PM at LMEC. Thank you to all members, membership is up about 30-40 members. There are membership forms available and nomination forms. Spring fundraiser is Yankee candles – all Presidents have forms...

Committee Reports

Arts in Education- Report Attached

Audit- No Report

Council Budget – Report Attached.

We want the policy re-visited and training provided for all staff members on food allergy awareness in light of increase presence of food allergies among our student population and we would like to see CPR course and certification offered to all staff every 2 years.

The motion read: To accept the Council Budget Report presented along with CPR and food allergies amendment to be presented to the BOE on 3/5/14.

Elementary Curriculum- Report Attached.

Health, Safety, and Environment- Committee met on the 23rd – the next meeting is April 12th. Pre-Prom workshop is 3/18 at Division Avenue and 4/1 at MacArthur.

Q: If you can not attend the workshop, what happens? A: you can call and set up viewing of the video of the workshop. In order for your child to be able to attend, a parent has to view the video and sign off.

Legislation- No Report

Procedures – No Report

Secondary Curriculum – Report Attached. Q: Which school did not make 95%? A: Gardiners Avenue.

Q: Math Curriculum Chair at WLMS had a website, IXL, for kids, but felt the parent portion was not ready or accessible. Could the website be given out? A: District will look into it and give the information.

Special Committees

Budget – No Report

By Laws – No Report

Honorary Life – No Report

PTA Sr Award – Application is on line

Meet the Candidates – on 5/1 at 7:30. Report Attached.

Nominating – No Report

Reflections – Report Attached

Dinner Dance- Report Attached Marguerite made a motion to use Petite 2 florist for the flowers. \$8 per corsage and \$3.50 per boutonniere. Laura Brown made a second for the motion. All present were in favor.

Mary presented 3 DJ's for the Dinner. Susan Massoni made a motion to use On the Mark for \$350 as the DJ for the Honorary Life Dinner. Motion was seconded. All who voted, voted in favor of the motion. Robin asked If Council could put together a list of names that the units use for DJ's.

Liaisons

Levittown Schools Community Scholarships, Inc. – There was no meeting in February Meeting to be held March 20th. Application for scholarship is in the guidance office at both schools. Zumba fundraiser-hopefully March 28th.

Food Service – Report Attached. Lee Road pizza, the students do not like it, believe it is 2nd grade.

Mary stated the vending machine vendor was filling the machine at DHS while the Sr class was decorating the hallway for spirit week. He put Green bags of Hippee Chips in the machine to match their color and theme.

Laura told the district 3 months ago about the shortage of help at WLMS and was told there were plenty of people on the substitute list, now there is such a shortage that the blue cafeteria is closed due to lack of help.

GC Tech –Report Attached

LEADD – No Report

Teachers Center – No Report.

Wellness – Report Attached.

Old Business – None

New Business – Flyers Attached. Advocate in Action awards presented by Patty to Eileen, Dawn, Donna and Mary. April 11th is Big Time Wrestling

Note Upcoming Events on the back of the agenda.

Adjourned - Minutes prepared by Angela List

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting Agenda
February 24th, 2014

**Please be advised that these meetings are being recorded.
If you wish to address council, please step up to the microphone to assure you can be heard.*

*** Switch all cellular devices to vibrate. Sign Off- Tune In; We have a lot to talk about.*

- I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum
- III. Approval of Minutes- Recording Secretary
- IV. Treasurers' Report
- V. Executive Committee Reports
 - A. President Report
 - B. 1st VP Report
 - C. 2nd VP Report
 - D. Corresponding Secretary
- VI. Superintendent Report
- VII. SEPTA Report
- VIII. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Arts in Education
 - B. Audit-NR
 - C. Council Budget
 - D. Elementary Curriculum
 - E. Health, Safety and Environment
 - F. Legislation
 - G. Procedures -NR
 - H. Secondary Curriculum
- IX. Special Committee Reports
 - A. Budget-NR
 - B. Bylaws-NR
 - C. Honorary Life -NR
 - D. PTA Senior Award
 - E. Meet the Candidates
 - F. Nominating
 - G. Reflections
 - H. Senior Award Dinner Dance
- X. Liaison Reports
 - A. Dollars for Scholars
 - B. Food Service
 - C. GC Tech
 - D. LEADD-NR
 - E. Teacher Center-NR
 - F. Wellness
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Adjournment



"Together..... We can make a difference."

Important Dates to Remember

2/17-21	Winter Break- School Closed
2/26/14	<i>Board of Education Planning Session #2 7:30PM LMEC</i>
3/01- 02	<i>NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference Albany</i>
3/03/14	President/Superintendent Meeting 9:30AM LMEC
3/05/14	<i>Board of Education Planning Session # 3 7:30PM LMEC</i>
3/08/14	<i>Nassau Region PTA Legislation Brunch 8:30- 12 Hofstra</i>
3/12/14	<i>Board of Education Regular Meeting 7:30PM LMEC</i>
3/13/14	<i>Community Recognition Dinner 6:30PM LMEC</i>
3/19/14	<i>Board of Education Planning Session #4 7:30PM LMEC</i>
3/20/14	PTA Council Meeting 7:30AM LMEC



No more snow- we're so ready for spring

Levittown Council of PTAs
Treasurer Report

January 16- Feb 27, 2014

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$8,836.28
Expenses:		
Convention	285.00	
Total Expenses:	\$285.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$8,551.28

Senior Award Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$12,226.33
Expenses:		
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$12,226.33

Levittown Council of PTAs Budget 2013-2014

General Fund:	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual to Date
	2012/2013	2012/2013	2013/2014	2013/2014
Starting Balance	\$8,949.23	\$8,949.23	\$8,482.13	\$8,482.13
INCOME				
Membership Dues	\$1,200.00	\$1,039.60	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Other	\$0.00		\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,149.23	\$9,988.83	\$9,982.13	\$9,982.13
EXPENSES				
Administrative Functions	\$250.00	\$28.94	\$250.00	\$143.87
AIDS Awareness	\$6.10	\$0.00	\$6.10	
Banking Supplies	\$30.00	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$8.00
BOE Recognition	\$100.00	\$99.92	\$100.00	\$99.94
Carry Over	\$5,713.13	\$0.00	\$5,346.03	
Convention	\$1,400.00	\$497.41	\$1,400.00	\$535.02
Get a Voice	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Health & Safety	\$500.00	\$25.39	\$500.00	
Historian/Correspondence	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$16.95
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
In House Training	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00	
Installation	\$50.00	\$48.52	\$50.00	
LEADD			\$200.00	
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$58.78	\$0.00	
Office Supplies	\$250.00	\$293.74	\$250.00	\$44.07
Pres/Prin Dinner	\$300.00	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$268.00
Publications	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Workshops/Conferences	\$500.00	\$198.00	\$500.00	\$315.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,149.23	\$1,506.70	\$9,982.13	\$1,430.85
Available Balance				\$8,551.28
SR AWARD FUND:				
Starting Balance	\$11,961.62	\$11,961.62	\$12,730.33	\$12,730.33
INCOME				
Dinner Dance Income	\$25,000.00	\$27,084.50	\$25,000.00	
Other Fundraising	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$36,961.62	\$39,746.12	\$37,730.33	\$12,730.33
EXPENSES				
Carry Over	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
CD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	
Banking Supplies	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$175.00	\$4.00
Dinner Dance Expenses	\$24,311.62	\$22,974.43	\$24,980.33	\$500.00
PTA Senior Awards	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Senior Award Supplies	\$50.00	\$31.36	\$75.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,961.62	\$27,015.79	\$37,730.33	\$504.00
Available Balance				\$12,226.33

Some reminders:

- ❖ Monday, March 3rd, 2014 is our next President/Superintendent meeting.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 5th, 2014 is the BOE Budget Planning Session #3(PTA Council Budget Committee will present)
- ❖ When holding election vote, parliamentary procedures do not allow for the recording secretary to cast a vote for the whole unit any longer, You must have a hand or ballot vote yes or no (no abstentions)
- ❖ Check the website for latest updates on the calendar. April 21st and May 23rd are no longer days off due to snow- we will be in session.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 12th, 2014 is a Regular BOE meeting (public be heard sign up before 7p.m.)
- ❖ Thursday, March 13th, 2014 is the Community Recognition Dinner at 6p.m. at LMEC
- ❖ Wednesday, March 19th, 2014 is the BOE Budget Planning Session #4
- ❖ Thursday, March 20th, 2014 is our next Council meeting and elections.

Please keep the lines of communication open.

Thank you all for all that you do for the children of Levittown.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia Genco 2/27/14

Arts and Education Report

February 27, 2014

Abbey-No report

East Broadway

Students next Thursday night invited to exploring Dinosaurs. Join Cope and Marsh as they go on an adventure back in time to learn how dinosaurs' adaptations are a lot like the ones we have in modern times. With puppets and engaging songs, students will learn about the survival strategies of animals throughout our earth's history. On March 26 the students learn about language Arts through a fun interactive show with Jeff on the guitar. The show is called Curriculaughs.

Gardiners- No report

Lee Road- No report

Northside

On March 10 the fourth grade students will see "Yes, Yes You Can" by motivational speaker Lloyd Bacharach. March 19, 2014 the kindergarten classes will be entertained by an Arthur / illustrator who will perform "Tale of Two Teddies." The month will end off with the third graders attending an assembly about rainforest butterflies on March 26, 2014.

Summit

Yesterday the students were wowed and amazed with Prismatic Magic's American Pride Laser Spectacular. The American pride theme tied in very well with President's week. Both students and teachers alike loved the program. Positive feedback was received by the students, teachers, and parents.

Salk/ MacArthur- no report

Wisdom- no report

Divison- no report

PTA Council Budget Committee

Submitted to the Levittown Board of Education
March 5th, 2014

We would first like to thank the Board of Education and Dr. Grossane for all the hard work they do on behalf of our children and for allowing us to present our recommendations. We would also like to thank Debbie Rifkin, Darlene Rhatigan, William Pastore, Todd Connell, Vincent Dulisse, Keith Synder and Christopher Milano for meeting with us and answering all our questions during this process.

The committee was equally represented by all of our schools and by SEPTA. We fielded many questions and requests from all the buildings, concerning staffing, technology, sports and buildings & grounds. Many of the questions and concerns were in the process of being addressed by the district and several fell under the Health & Safety committee and were directed to them.

We agreed upon several different areas that we would like to see go forward in the upcoming budget process.

1. Marching Band Uniforms: MacArthur High School Marching Band uniforms are over 25 years old. They have been dry cleaned and maintained through out these years, but the uniforms have reached the end of their life span. The colors have faded, the fabric is uncomfortable and the style of the uniforms is dated. We have spoken with the Music Director Vincent Dulisse and he agrees with the assessment. He has been working with Mr. Romano on a new design and has procured quotes on the uniforms. He will be submitting this to the Board of Education in his portion of the upcoming budget. We fully support Mr. Dulisse in going forward with this expense.

2. Dive/Assistant Coach: The girl's varsity swim team consists of members from both high schools and a select group of 8th graders. The team has grown in members and now consists of over 30 girls. For safety alone the team should have an assistant coach with a number that large and growing. In hiring an assistant coach, the district should insure that the person is also a certified dive coach. The team has been moving up the division ladder and is now competing in a higher division against schools that have dive teams. Without a certified dive coach to run a dive team section, our team losses 13 points automatically. The provision of an assistant coach/dive coach will provide a safer, more structured varsity team environment and enable the teams to be successful overall. Mr. Snyder has spoken with us and agrees. He will be submitting this to the Board of Education in his portion of the upcoming budget. We fully support Mr. Synder in going forward with the hiring of an assistant/dive coach.

3. Computer Department Addition: In the last few years we as a district have added many advances in our technology division. All of our classrooms have SMART Boards, the students have remote access to their work, the parent

portal, the usage of text messaging for sending out information to parents, the expansion of our website and the ongoing implementation of the video morning announcements at the High Schools. In doing these expansions, the computer department staff level has remained the same. We met with Mr. Connell to discuss the future of the department and to address some questions the committee had. The majority of our questions were in the process of being addressed and the remaining ones we will address further in this report. In speaking with Mr. Connell, he and Mrs. Rhatigan spoke of their concern that the department is in need of another technician to help support the ever growing demands that the implementation of all the new equipment and programs the department supports.

They would like the new staff member to work a later in the day shift to help support the remote access portion of the department as well as other aspects of the department. Students often need assistance after normal hours to help access their school work files and it has been suggested that a help station where students can call up for support be implemented. The committee agrees with this, but suggested that possibly this support position be filled with via internship, possibly a high school or college student studying computer science. We do agree that the department is in need of additional staff to continue to help support the expansion of our reliability on computers district wide.

4. Summer School Program at Middle School: The middle school presents a particular issue when a student fails Math or English for the year. Unlike at the High School, where the student can attend an out of district summer school program or repeat the class the following year, there is no such option at the Middle School. At this time a packet is sent home to be done over the summer and handed in the first week of school. There is no way of gauging if the student has truly learned the work necessary, nor a way to guarantee that they did the packet themselves. Mr. Avena and Mr. Zampaglione would like to see a summer school program formed to address this. It would run for six weeks, three days a week, 1.5 hours a class, twenty students per class, Math and English only. The cost of this program would be \$15,000.00; the cost of developing the necessary lesson plans is included in that price. It makes the most sense to house it at Wisdom Lane, as they have two computer labs for the classes to use. Between the two Middle Schools they estimate 2 sections of Math for all three grades and 1 section of English for all three grades. We are concerned that with the implementation of Common Core that the numbers of students that will fail their course work in English and Math this year will climb. At Wisdom Lane in 2012 pre-common core they had 25 students fail English and 55 fail Math. In 2013 it rose to 36 in English and 72 in Math. As of the second quarter results for 2014, Wisdom has 17 students in the sixth grade failing Math, Salk has 20, seventh grade, Wisdom has 37 and Salk 21, eighth grade Wisdom has 26 and Salk has 17. For English, sixth grade: Wisdom has 4, Salk has 9, seventh grade Wisdom has 13, Salk has 13 and eighth grade Wisdom has 21, Salk has 7. For some of the failing students though it is also an issue of multiple absences limiting the students from putting in their best effort. Our students deserve to be given the

best chance to succeed and we see this program as a way to support their education. We support this budget request.

5. Peaceful Playgrounds: The elementary schools would like to see the implementation of the "Peaceful Playgrounds" program. This program teaches our lunch aide staff to interact with the students in structured play and in peaceful resolution of issues that arise on the playground. The Wellness Committee and Health and Safety are also in agreement in going forward with this program. At this time the program will cost \$4,000.00 per school. This includes equipment, templates and instruction manuals. The program has a grant process and could be paid for by applying for the grant.

6. Transportation Survey: One of the most frequent issues that came up is the traffic patterns at many of our schools. All committee members spoke to Mr. Pastore and Mr. Milano and told of multiple issues with double parking, parents entering parking lots the wrong way and the general flow of cars at our schools. We would like to see a district wide transportation analyses done of all of the schools, not just the few. In addition we suggest that the surveyor meet with interested parties at the schools to see what they feel are ongoing issues. We feel that the input of parents and staff members will enhance the outcome of the study, by providing insight that only comes from being part of the issue daily.

7. Phone Lines: In discussing an issue at East Broadway concerning the lack of open phone lines for staff to be able to call parents to discuss student issues and the ongoing problems Wisdom Lane has with the phone lines going down, we were told by Mr. Milano that the district is going forward with an upgrade of the entire phone system with Nassau BOCES. The copper wires would be replaced with fiber optic lines. This would lead to more out going lines and should eliminate the ongoing issue at Wisdom Lane of the entire system going down. We would like to see this implementation go forward in a timely manner.

8. Inventory System: We would like to see a complete inventory system be done of the table and chairs district wide. There should be a central data base of what each school has, so that sharing of these district owned supplies, not individual building owned supplies can be facilitated easily. Many of the tables and chairs used at events are in poor condition and should be replaced, but without a full inventory of the existing items we feel this issue will continue. We discussed this with Mr. Milano and Mr. Pastore who agreed this inventory should be done.

9. Audio/Visual Program: The implantation at both the High School of a morning video announcement has been very successful. The announcements are a great use of our talented students and has opened up a whole new area of career interests for our students. The middle schools would like to see this program in their schools. Salk MS has the equipment at their school already and is looking to have an every other day audio/visual class to support this program. It has been suggested that the Liberian would be capable of teaching this class. Wisdom

would need the purchase of the equipment and a staff member trained to support the program. We believe that this would be a well received program by students, staff and parents. It allows students through out the building to take part in the planning of the morning announcement and will spark interest in multiple areas, broadcast, editing, writing and taping of program.

10. Capital Projects: Several requests made by schools were for projects to large for the committee to review. MacArthur High School is in need of a refurbishment of their auditorium, multiple broken seats, seats not placed correctly when floor was installed several years ago, heat system does not properly work and a new sound system is needed. Division Ave High School is also in need of a new sound system for their auditorium. Summit Lane would like a cooling room, using their all purpose area for this. This room is very large and would need the installation of a roof top air conditioner. All of these projects would fall under the guise of a Capital Project and we would like to see these added to the five year plan.

In conclusion we are interested in facilitating the future of the Levittown School District. By going forward with these recommendations we feel the district will continue to successfully grow to accommodate the needs of the future, by supporting our computer department, growing our swim team, revitalizing our Marching Band, supporting our middle school students academically and teaching our younger students peaceful resolution. Going forward with making sure our students arrive at school safely, ensuring our phone system is capable of growth, keeping better track of the district inventory and investing in capital projects that add pride to our district. All of these items will ensure that Levittown continues to move forward to a successful future.

Thank you, for your consideration of these matters
Respectfully submitted:

Greg Bodkin, Laura Brown, Robin Cammarata, Michelle Catura, Margaret Costa, Kristen Ekberg, Maryann Lawless, Mary Rickard, Dawn Tiemer, Maria Xenios.

Elementary Curriculum

Met Jan 21st

Changes are being made to the elementary report card. There have been grading inconsistencies reported when something has yet to be taught in class.

Questions were:

“What grade should they get?” Or “Should we X out certain topics until they have been covered in class?”

There are some constraints in Power School as to what we can change mid year. We can change wording but can't combine or eliminate lines.

You will see some wording changes and some “x” on 2nd trimester report card.

Some items may have a grade for 1st trimester and will have an X for the second.

ELA Reading- Teachers felt that having effort/participation under each category was redundant since there is an over all line for that. They want just the one line. That can't be done mid year but that change is coming.

Elementary Math- Every 4 topics has a benchmark assessment used to inform instruction. Students will have 2-3 benchmarks per year in both Math and ELA.

Next meeting on February 14th was cancelled due to the 2 hour school delay, so the meeting was combined with the secondary meeting on 2/26

Our next meeting will be

Secondary Curriculum:

Met on January 28th

Keith Snider, Valerie Spicer-Carillo, Brian Maloney came to the meeting to discuss the updated health curriculum. Attached is a power point presentation.

Reminder that Deputy Commissioner Ken Slentz from the NYS Dept of Education will be at Wisdom Lane Middle School tomorrow evening. All Levittown residents and district employees are invited to attend, please be sure to bring photo id. Email questions in advance to Council Pres-levittowncouncilptas14@gmail.com This is brought to you by PTA Council

Proposal to the Board of Ed some type of middle school program for students at the middle school who do not pass their English and/or Math classes. Both MS Principals have asked for some sort of summer program. Found it you loose them in MS it is difficult to pull them back in at the HS level. Students are currently given a packet to do at home over the summer, but district knows it not always the student who completes the work. Feel like the reason the students fail is due to lack of motivation and a program would help them much better than a packet of worksheets.

Received the official letter stating that 2 schools did not make 95% participation rate for state assessments. In math the district did not make 95% participation rate for math because the numbers of one of the schools was so low. There is not penalty for this from NYS, but still no word on this year.

Met February 26th

Went over some of the changes in implementation of CC that have come down from the state.

1. Periodically review and update CCLS
2. Provide equitable funding for schools including appropriate funding for professional development
3. Give HS more time to meet CCLS. Class of 2022 will be the first class with new requirements for graduation. Next year will be giving both Geometry regents
4. Eliminate high stakes for students-placements not made based on state assessments AIS decisions will be left to the district's discretion instead of the score on the state tests.
5. Reducing field tests and increasing access to test questions
6. Offer smarter testing options for students with disabilities
7. Offer smarter testing options for ELL
- * these are both "advocating for a waiver from the gov't. not a done deal
8. Develop Spanish language tests for ELL students
9. Clarify what the new grade 3-8 test scores mean.
- A 2 now will say "on track for Regents Exam passing"
10. Focus extra support on students who need it most.

11. Reduce unnecessary tests. Review APPR Plans to change the requirements of all the extra testing to get those measures
12. Eliminate traditional standardized testing in K-2
13. Establish a 1% cap on time for local tests. (State assessments now account for less than 1% of instructional time)
14. Offer flexibility to districts to further reduce local testing time required by APPR. Allow the use of school wide measures for APPR for middle school SS and Sci teachers
15. Prevent unfair negative consequences to teachers and principals. Using CC assessments to determine ineffective ratings teachers can use alleged failure of the BOE to timely implement the CC by providing inadequate professional development, guidance or curriculum
16. Provide new resources for teachers of students with disabilities and ELL
17. Create a "teacher portal" to share resources around the state
18. Ensure IEPs are appropriate to student needs as CCLS is implemented
19. Provide new resources for parents of students with disabilities

The idea of some Parent Workshops to help introduce elementary parents to some of the resources available to them to assist their children was brought up. This is something that might be considered for the fall.

Next Meeting:
April 22nd

Report for Meet the Candidates:

*Meet the Candidates will take place on Thursday, May 1st at 7:30pm at LMEC.
There are three open positions and applications are due by 5pm April 21st.
Submitted by: Tina Bodkin*

2/23/14

Honorary Life Report 2-27-14

All unit chairs should have received their invitations by email.

Deadline for \$\$ is March 21st to each school. We need your seating arrangements and money by March 28th. Please have your chairperson contact either me or Angela to make arrangements to get the money to us. It must be received in person. DO NOT interoffice money to us.

Please remind your chairs that Council is not responsible for any money that is lost and council will not be reimbursing for any lost money before it gets to us.

Hopefully you've all ordered your pins. If you have them you can get them to me at your earliest convenience. You can either drop them off at my house or interoffice them to me at DAHS Attn: PTSA Mailbox

I already have Summit, Wisdom and Abbey.

Flowers for the recipients:

Called three shops-

Petite II- \$8 for ladies, \$3.50 for men
Phil's- \$15 for ladies, \$10 for men
Boos-\$12.50 for ladies, \$9 for men

We've used Petite II for the last few years and she actually lowered the price for me this year from \$8.50 to \$8.

DJ-

We've used RonJames. He's always charged us \$600 but he is not available anyway.

I spoke to On The Mark who we use for dances at Wisdom. He said he could do it for \$350 and if we got a lower quote to let him know and he'd work with us. He also just did a fundraiser for Tom Suozzi at the Crest Hollow in October.

I have a call in to the DJ that Abbey uses. I didn't hear back from them yet but I spoke to Tina Bodkin and she said he charges \$300 for their school dances of 3 hours and is charging them \$400 for their 5 hour fundraiser event.

We need to make a decision on these 2 vendors.

If you have any questions, please let us know!

Food Service Committee Report
February 26, 2014

Quality Control check list from each school were discussed. Some of the issues brought up for each school are as follows:

Abbey Lane states the menus and nutritional are still not posted were the children/staff can see them. There is a side by side freezer down. Food was discarded. Waiting for parts to fix the unit

Gardiners Ave kitchen staff would like a 2 door freezer to replace an old ice chest they have that is not useful. The cheese sticks do not seem to be hot enough inside. Also is there any other way to prepare the broccoli; by the last lunch it is soggy and unappealing.

Lee Road states that the Board of Health certificates are still posted on the refrigerator where no one can see them at the serving lines and that menus are not posted for the children.

Northside has had issues with the 5th grade lunch period running short on hot food. The principal has been notified and has spoken to the teacher staff as well as the students in regards to placing their lunch order in the morning. The kitchen staff does make extra however there have been times were the students decide to get hot lunch after the lunch tallies have been taken.

WLMS has been short handed most of this year recently to the point that the blue cafeteria has been closed. Line waits have been long, expired milks in the refrigerators have been found weekly. This is not acceptable to the committee and needs to be addressed.

In response to the quality control issues Alan Levin from Chartwells will address the menus, nutritional and BOH certificates. Alan and Bill Pastore will look into the requests for equipment as well as the broken freezer at Abbey- if the freezer at Abbey is the unit that has been repaired often they will look into a replacement. In regards to the short staffing at WLMS, Alan states that WLMS is chronic at sick call and needs more on call personnel in order to cover the cafeterias : If anyone is interested in an on call position contact Alan Levin at 520-8470 ext 123 or Alan.Levin@Compass-usa.com.

March is yogurt month. The week of the 17th there will be taste testing in all of the schools. (Check the menu for yogurt offer dates).

Samples of a Gatorade alternative were given to the committee. A taste testing will be scheduled at the high schools. This item would not be offered in the cafeteria but may be a vending machine option.

The USDA guideline changes were discussed in brief. Alan and Helen from Chartwells agreed to make a presentation to the district in regards to the changes.

The Next Food Service Meeting will be on March 19th, 2014. At that time, Jim Beagley form HMB will be present to start discussing the contract to go out for bid for a new food service company. Mr. Pastore will invite the wellness committee to attend.

Respectfully Submitted by: Patricia Genco

GC Tech Report

Inbox x

[Print all](#)

LBrown2293@aol.com

Feb 27

to me

Students at GC Tech will be competing in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition on Monday, March 17th at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. They will be competing against Career & Technical students from throughout Long Island. We have been very successful with many winners over the past years and look forward to another successful competition.

I have attached the report for Council Budget too

Laura

**PTACouncilBudgetCommitteerev.doc**39K [View](#) [Download](#)Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

WELLNESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 27, 2014

Review

Mr. Goss informed the committee that the elementary principals were in favor of implementing the Peaceful Playgrounds Program in their schools. The committee further discussed the many groups that may benefit from the program including: LAP, LAMP and Physical Education classes. Questions were posed as to funding and implementation. A sub-committee will be formed to create a proposal that will be sent to administration.

Mr. Goss stated that the district is exploring the possibility of providing first aid training for our school lunch monitors.

Mr. Snyder shared that the district is in the process of working with an organization that will provide first aid training for our district high school athletes.

Mr. Snyder outlined the revised district concussion policy for our high school athletes. The new five-step protocol will help to ensure that our athletes are fully recovered from any injuries.

Mr. Levin stated that the National Nutrition Guidelines have been revised and there is a strong possibility they will be formally adopted in the near future. Some of the revisions that will affect our schools include: moving to 100% whole wheat grains, revised sodium content limit and a change in the flavor profile. Schools will not be able to sell unhealthy foods during the school day and half an hour after school. Outside groups who sell or fundraise after school will not be affected. Please Google smartsnacksinschool to view a full description of the proposed guidelines.

Mr. Howard explained that the Food Service Contract will be going out to bid as required by the state. Our current vendor, Chartwells, may be considered as a candidate. Hiring a consultant to oversee the process is under consideration. Two committee members expressed their satisfaction with the services that Chartwells currently provides.

New Business

Mr. Matousak has been appointed to the District Safety and Wellness Committee. His attendance at the meetings will allow our committee to be informed of topics related to our committee.

District Wellness Committee Minutes

November 18, 2013

LEADD Mr. Snyder Discussed LEADD Week- Activities were enjoyed by all. The Walk and Fair were well attended. Congratulations to Mrs. Nina Glenn who served as this year's Grand Marshall.

Maturation- The committee was informed that the district has approved the replacement of the 5th Grade Maturation Video. The committee viewed the video and agreed that the content and quality were a definite improvement from the previous one.

Health Course- The district considered the Wellness Committees proposal and agreed to move the years that health classes are taught in the high school from 11th and 12 grades, to 9th and 10th. The change will be in effect for the 2014-15 school year. Moving health down to 5th grade was not approved as such change would necessitate the hiring of additional staff. The committee discussed exploring opportunities that would facilitate a change without the need to increase staffing.

Concussion Training- Mr. Snyder shared a new policy in effect that will help provide safeguards for students with suspected concussions. A 5 step process, which includes clearance from a medical professional, will be instituted pending approval from the school board.

Food Service – Mr. Levin, Food Service Director, shared possible reforms to nutrition laws that may be instituted next year. Among the changes are increased sodium restrictions and requiring whole grains for all bread products. In addition, regulations may be in effect that will dictate what type of food items may be sold outside of school i.e. fundraisers, sporting events, class parties etc. The committee decided to wait to see if such changes become law before revising our District Wellness Plan

Peaceful Playgrounds- Mr. Goss discussed the Peace Playgrounds program which provides materials for cooperative games at recess for K-8 students. The program

also provides training for monitors to promote cooperation and conflict resolution. The committee viewed a video that outlined the essential components of the program. The committee felt the program could be an enhancement for our elementary schools and agreed to look into further details about the program. Mr. Matousek inquired as to possible grant opportunities that may help to defray the cost of purchasing.

First Aid/ CPR Training- The committee shared opinions about the need to have school personnel trained in first aid and CPR. Members were in agreement about the importance of having key personnel i.e. lunchroom monitors trained should emergencies arise. Mr. Goss will inquire as to possible opportunities for training for personnel.

Are You Ready For The Scrabble Challenge?

GC TECH KEY CLUB'S 8th ANNUAL SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT!!!



OUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!
COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF FUN & HELP
HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN!

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
"THE JOHN THEISSEN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION"

CERTIFICATES:

1ST PLACE
2ND PLACE
3RD PLACE

**MOST TEAM SPIRIT
(USE YOUR
IMAGINATION!)**

TOURNAMENT DATE:
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

TIME: 6:30 PM SHARP!

PLACE: GC TECH PANTHER ROOM
@ LEVITTOWN MEMORIAL
150 ABBEY LANE, LEVITTOWN

**TEAMS CONSISTING OF
2 PLAYERS**

**COST OF
REGISTRATION:**

**\$10.00 PER TEAM OR
\$ 5.00 PER PERSON**

****REGISTRATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014***

TEAM NAME _____

CLUB/SCHOOL NAME _____

PARTICIPANTS NAMES _____

TEAM CONTACT # (____) _____

CASH/CHECK# _____

PLEASE RSVP: LILLIAN CREEDON
GC TECH -LEVITTOWN MEMORIAL
150 ABBEY LANE
LEVITTOWN, NY 11756
516-520-8300 EXT. 649



NASSAU COUNTY POLICE ACTIVITY LEAGUE

Special Needs Unit

Serving children ages 5 through 21 years of age



www.specialneedspal.org
Like us on Facebook/ncpalsnu

PO Director Jethro Cardona
510 Parkside Blvd.
Massapequa, NY 11758
516-809-7617



Fall / Winter Programs-2013-2014

*****Registration will be held the first day of the program at activity site*****

Basketball-Hicksville (\$160 registration fee) (ages 5 & up)- Friday Nights

Begins-September 27th -Runs through June-

Group 1 (beginner/intermediate) 6:30-7:30 pm Group 2 (Advanced) 7:45- 8:45pm

Town of Oyster Bay Athletic Center-167 Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Basketball- New Hyde Park (\$160 registration fee) (ages 5 & up) -Wednesday Nights

Begins September 18th -Runs through June

Group 1 (beginner/intermediate) 6-7pm Group 2 (advanced) 7-8pm

New Hyde Park Baptist Church-635 New Hyde Park Road, New Hyde Park

Bowling-Recreational (\$30 registration fee) plus (2 games \$8 per week) (ages 5 & up)

Begins September 21st, Saturdays 3:00-4:30pm, -Program runs through June

Farmingdale Lanes-999 Conklin Street, Farmingdale

Bowling-Competitive (\$30 registration fee) plus (2 games \$8 per week) (ages 5 & up)

Begins September 14th, Saturdays 1:00-2:30pm, -Program runs through June

Farmingdale Lanes-999 Conklin Street, Farmingdale

Computer/iPad Workshop \$100 registration fee (Teen & Up)

Begins September 18th (8 consecutive weeks) 7:15-8:45pm

Adelphi University, Garden City Campus

Flag Football (\$60 registration fee) (ages 10 & up)

September 14th-November 2nd, Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm

Cedar Creek Park, Seaford

Horseback Riding -(\$200. registration fee- 5 half hour Instructions) (ages 5 & up)

Begins October 12th- All Participants **MUST** be registered by October 4th-Contact Eileen at 516-670-6999

New York Equestrian Center- Saturday and Sunday- 8am-9am and 6pm- 9pm

Karate Shotokan -(\$160 registration fee) (ages 6 & up)

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm Begins September 24th Saturdays 10:00-11:00am Begins September 28th

L.I. Shotokan, 130 Jericho Tpke, Floral Pk. (Program runs through June)

Thursdays

4:30-5:30 Tweens/Teens Beginner/Intermediate

5:30-6:30 Adult/Advanced 6:30-7:30 6 & up/Beginner

Levittown Memorial 160 Abbey Lane, Levittown

Teen Dance-Floral Park (\$60 registration fee) (ages Teen & up)

Begins October 18th - runs through June Friday Nights 6:30-8:00 (once per Month)

Christ Lutheran Church Plainfield Avenue/Spooner St., Floral Pk

Zumba-Floral Park (\$160 registration fee) (ages Teen & up)

Begins September 28th - runs through June Saturday AM 9:00-10:00am

L.I. Shotokan, 130 Jericho Tpke, Floral Pk

All programs are subject to change due to coach and site availability as well as weather conditions

IT IS BETTER TO BUILD YOUTH THAN MEND ADULTS

www.specialneedspal.org



REGION DIRECTOR

Laurie May
35 Hidden Lane
Westbury, NY 11590
(516) 652-4430
Director@nassaupta.org
www.nassaupta.org

February 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As Region Director, I am writing on behalf of Nassau Region PTA to address the serious issues facing education in Nassau today: equitable education funding and the implementation of Common Core Learning Standards.

Nassau Region PTA is New York State's largest Region PTA. We proudly boast of a membership of well over 87,000 members. Our members include parents, teachers, students, school board members, administrators and others interested in working for the well-being of children and youth. Nassau Region PTA is proud to be an active, committed and integral part of PTA, the voice for every child.

We urge you to consider how we can work together to address Nassau Region PTA's top three Legislative Priorities regarding funding for education in 2014. Our priorities are:

- Supporting education finance reform to provide a funding formula that is adequate, equitable, understandable, reliable and sustainable for all school districts
- Supporting equitable funding for schools with consideration of regional cost factors
- Opposing tax caps on public school districts that disregard uncontrollable school cost drivers, create greater educational inequities, and undermine the long held principle of local control

We are deeply concerned because your 2014-15 proposed education budget does not meet our priorities. We strongly encourage you to distribute education dollars more equitably and ...

- eliminate the GEA, which unfairly reduces aid to Long Island school districts, including low wealth/high tax districts; that will have a profound effect on the educational and fiscal sustainability of our schools
- replace the Foundation Formula that currently ignores regional and other cost factors
- provide relief to school districts from unfunded mandates, including the cost of implementing Common Core, implementing universal pre-K programs and modernization of school facilities
- eliminate the 2% tax cap which also profoundly effects the sustainability of programming and staffing in many school districts

We also urge you to add PTA representatives to your panel of educational experts and Members of Legislature when reviewing corrective actions to the implementation of Common Core. For 117 years, PTA remains as the oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We provide valuable expertise and would like to offer our unique viewpoint of the Common Core rollout. As you know, the rollout of the Common Core Learning Standards was flawed. The families we represent feel that unless all stakeholders are represented and this education reform is well managed with adequate advance planning and the appropriated funds to carry out the reform, their children will not receive the best possible chance to be successful.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these requests. I look forward to your reply about working together with PTA and urge you to continue to invest in education because just as you, we remain fully committed to every child's right to a free, appropriate public education, regardless of economic status, geographic location or special needs.

Laurie May
Nassau Region Director



Nassau Region
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

REGION DIRECTOR
Laurie May
35 Hidden Lane
Westbury, NY 11590
(516) 652-4430
Director@nassaupta.org
www.nassaupta.org

February 2014

Dear Presidents,

How do we as parents, teachers, school administrators and school board members get Albany to fund education as New York State is constitutionally required to do? We advocate! As our recent response to the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards has demonstrated, we are passionate about education and its long-term implication when it comes to our children.

It is imperative that we become educated advocates. Educated on what is the cause and effect of state funding dollars in regard to the educational and fiscal sustainability of our schools. The tax cap and GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment) are having a profound effect on the amount of dollars going to fund public education. We will not see an end to program and staff reductions if state aid is not increased. Pressuring our elected officials to eliminate the GEA should be an advocacy priority of your PTA.

We encourage you to meet with your superintendents to discuss how your PTA can best advocate for your school and ultimately, for your children. Enclosed in this mailing is the letter written to Governor Cuomo, please feel free to adjust the letter to fit your PTA's advocacy efforts. Also enclosed is the contact information for all of the elected officials representing Nassau County. The letter can also be re-worded to fit your needs when writing to them. Included in the contact information is their email addresses, please utilize these tools to empower your members to fight as passionately about state aid as they have about the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards.

We would also like to encourage you to send at least one member of your PTA to the NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference being held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, March 1st and 2nd. It is an amazing 24 hours packed with great speakers, workshops and dialog. It will give you a much greater insight to the efforts of PTA on behalf of children.

Please also plan to attend the Nassau Region PTA Legislation Roundtable on Saturday, March 8 at Hofstra University beginning at 9:00am. There will be a presentation by Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Nassau BOCES, on the impact of the GEA and its effects on our school districts. You will also have the opportunity to speak to our elected officials during the question and answer part of the program. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

March is advocacy month. With school budget proposals just around the corner, it is crucial that we make sure Albany Hears Our Voice and responds with an increase in school aid to ensure that our schools, a source of pride for Long Island, can sustain their success.

Laurie May
Nassau Region Director

Dear PTA Member,

After a great deal of education and advocacy, including the many voices of our members, the Board of Regents has proposed certain changes to the Common Core Learning Standards rollout. While not completely satisfied with the outcome, some of the changes do speak directly to the NYS PTA's five points as outlined in the Hear Our VOICE campaign. More needs to be done and we will continue to advocate to our legislators to realize greater improvement. We thank you all for your contributions thus far.

*While the Board of Regents has recognized the value of feedback, policy makers are not hearing our **VOICE** on everything.*

V: We sought for the Board to **Value** input from parents.

Result: The Board is listening to *some* input from parents.

O: We sought to **Order** at least a one year delay on test scores being used for teacher evaluations.

Result: We are disappointed to report that the Board has not addressed suspending the link between student assessment outcomes and teacher evaluations. Considered the responsibility of the Legislature rather than Regents, we must focus continued efforts on our state senate and assembly representatives to support this suspension for a period of at least one year. Consideration of an adjustment allowing a teacher to raise as a defense an alleged failure by the board of education to timely implement the Common Core by providing adequate professional development has been postponed until April.

I: We sought to **Implement** first, test second.

Result: The Board approved a delay to 2022 on student performance scores for graduation requirements, recognizing the need to fully implement CCLS and sequence learning; the Board did not recommend a delay of Common Core testing as a whole.

C: We sought to **Create** flexible and less frequent testing of our students.

Result: The Board seeks to cap standardized testing time for local tests at 1% of instructional time and eliminate standardized tests for grades K-2. The Board also seeks funding to develop additional test forms that will eliminate the need for stand alone field tests and provide more useful feedback by making it possible for the education department to share more question and response detail. The Board will apply for federal waivers related to testing of student with disabilities (SWDs) and English Language Learners (ELLs). We laud the Board's intent to assure appropriate and useful assessment of certain students with disabilities at their instructional level, yet we are concerned that eligibility criteria are too narrow. Transition to an adaptive testing model would likely eliminate concerns and should be pursued as a top priority. We support the ELL waiver and, for both ELLs and SWDs, urge that accountability not be compromised.

E: We sought to get **Expanded** services and funding for professional development for teachers.

Result: The Board of Regents proposes \$125 million in 2014-15 funding for professional development and parent engagement activities, with as much as \$200 million in funding such efforts in the 2015-16 school year.

Moving forward, we are cautiously optimistic that more change will come. We are at the table and are being heard, but our **VOICE** needs to be louder in order for real change to occur.

Recognition by the Board of Regents that change is necessary was the first step in the process – but now is the time for us to really let them hear what we have to say and advocate for our five points. If you need to brush up on the five points and what the NYS PTA is seeking, I urge you to visit the Advocacy tab on the NYS PTA website (www.nyspta.org) and stay active in your community. The time for change is now!

SCSSA - Eliminate the GEA Draft Letter

October 2013

Dear _____,

As a voter, taxpayer and resident of the _____ School District, I urge you to support and fight for the repeal of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) starting in the 2014-2015 school year. Formerly known as the Deficit Reduction Assessment, its original purpose was to reduce state support to public schools in order to close the state's own \$10 billion budget deficit. This annual practice is detrimental to quality education on Long Island and is not acceptable to taxpayers. ***Now is the time to work together to Eliminate the GEA!***

The success of Long Island's public schools is the pride of New York State. Over the past three years, the GEA has reduced state aid to Long Island school districts by close to \$1 billion, with nearly half of this amount coming from Long Island's 28 low-wealth school districts. In an attempt to lessen the destructive effect of the GEA, those districts that can, have been relying on their fund balances and reserve funds to minimize detrimental cuts to educational programs and to maintain a tax levy increase that local taxpayers can support.

School districts have laid off teachers, administrators and support staff; consolidated and/or closed schools; increased class sizes; reduced and/or completely eliminated sports programs, music and the arts, and enrichment and summer programs; and delayed facilities preservation. (INSERT SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT HERE.) At the same time, expenditures which school districts have no control over – such as pensions, benefits and health insurance – continue to grow.

We have passed the point where we are doing more with less. We are now doing less with less. The GEA, combined with a major state aid reduction from which we have not recovered, insufficient mandate relief and the enactment of the property tax cap, has created irreversible financial consequences. Our schools are at a crossroads. The continuation of the GEA is an unacceptable practice that will chisel away and ultimately destroy the quality of education our children deserve, we as taxpayers expect and our state leaders promote with pride.

We can no longer bear the burden imposed on taxpayers by the GEA. I am asking you, as our elected representative, to be our voice in Albany and take effective action. ***Now is the time to work together to Eliminate the GEA!***

Sincerely,

New York State

PTA everychild. onevoice.

2014 Budget Analysis

NYS PTA Response to the Executive Budget Proposal Addresses Two Key Components: Funding Restoration and Prekindergarten

Background

New York's Governor traditionally proposes his executive (state) budget the third week in January for the fiscal year beginning on April 1st. The 2014-15 proposed NYS Budget was introduced in the wake of a barrage of reports, recommendations, ongoing or expected court action and community reaction to a combination of fiscal stress and efforts to reform classroom instruction and educator evaluation. The zeal of varying entities to identify education priorities and funding of reforms is evident in the report of the NYS Education Reform Commission, state aid recommendations by the NYS Board of Regents and position papers of the Educational Conference Board, the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), the NYS Comptroller's Office defining fiscal stress and identifying districts subject to greatest stress and others.

With education reform and equity receiving unprecedented media, legislative and public attention, Governor Andrew Cuomo on January 21, 2014 proposed a 2014-15 State budget that included a proposed \$807 million (3.8%) increase in State support for pre-K-12 education.

Description of Proposals

General Formula Aids. The Governor's proposed \$807 million increase breaks down to three key areas:

- \$603 million increase in formula-based aid
- \$100 million increase in pre-K funding
- \$54 million in grants and unallocated aids

General formula aid includes:

Operating Aid: Net Increase of \$323 million. Operating aid (foundation aid) represents the largest single form of State support for schools. Schools are paid a portion of their full foundation aid entitlement according to a multi-year phase-in plan. That amount is then reduced by a Gap Elimination Adjustment or (GEA). For 2014-15, the Governor proposes to freeze foundation aid payment at the 2013-14 level and restore \$323 million of the GEA "takeaway."

Expense and Entitlement Aid. Increase of \$285 million. These formulas reimburse school districts for specific costs, most of which were incurred in the previous fiscal year. There are no formula changes proposed but increased aid is the result of reimbursement for increased expenditure for transportation, building construction, BOCES, special education and instructional supplies.

Pre-K Aid. Increase of \$100 million. This proposal is intended to expand current half day pre-K programs to full day and expand eligibility to all students. The governor proposes a five year plan that adds \$100 million each year for a total investment of \$1.5 billion in five years.

2014 Budget Analysis

Grants and Unallocated Support. Increase of \$54 million. The Governor proposes increased funding for grants and unallocated aid of \$54 million.

Additional Proposals

The Governor makes a number of other proposals that are not included in 2014-15 formula and grant proposals. These include:

Property Tax Freeze. Citing a \$2 billion state revenue surplus by the end of the 2016-17 budget year, the Governor proposes so-called tax relief measures that include a two-year freeze of school property taxes and expansion of a circuit breaker program that would limit property tax obligation to a percentage of personal income. For individual property owners to be eligible for the property tax freeze, school districts would need to keep their tax levy increase within current cap limits in year one. Freeze eligibility for property taxpayers in subsequent years would require that their school district achieve enough savings through reorganization or sharing to reduce their tax levy by one percent each year.

Smart Schools. Rather than include new technology funding in the 2014-15 budget, the Governor proposes a \$2 billion bond referendum to be placed on the November 2014 ballot. If passed, schools would be eligible for reimbursement of certain expenditures made to purchase classroom technology or construction of facilities to serve pre-kindergarten populations.

After School Programs. An allocation of \$720 million is proposed over a five year period, beginning with \$160 million in the 2015-16 school year. These costs would be funded through projected casino revenues.

Teacher Excellence Fund. \$20 million would be made available to provide "bonuses" to teachers rated "highly effective" and distributed through plans negotiated locally and approved by the State.

PTech Expansion. \$5 million would be allocated to expand high school to college programs focusing on programs leading to two year degrees in STEM subjects.

STEM Scholarships. The Governor proposes \$8 million to offer full scholarships to students graduating in the top 10% of their class and pursuing a STEM major in a SUNY or CUNY college.

Pre-School Special Education Savings. This proposal would achieve dollar savings by establishing regional service reimbursement rates and limiting payment for preschool special education services to services actually provided.

K-2 Ban on Standardized Testing. The Governor joins a number of other groups (including NYS PTA) in proposing a ban on standardized testing of students in grades K-2.

Waiver of Special Education Requirements. A new section of Education law would permit schools and BOCES to seek waiver from certain state requirements that exceed federal regulations in order to theoretically permit the creation of innovative special education programs that enhance student achievement.

Dignity for All Students Act. Proposed amendments to this act would require administrators to assess whether individual incidents represent a "pattern". Such incidents would require administrators to report findings and be subject to removal if they fail to do so.

Common Core Panel. The Governor proposes establishment of a panel of legislators and National education experts to make recommendations regarding successful implementation of Common Core reforms.

Age of Criminal Responsibility. \$250,000 is proposed for services that would be necessary to raise the age at which youth offenders may be treated as adults from 16 to age 18.

2014 Budget Analysis

Analysis

Education is at a critical crossroads. What we do in the year ahead is likely to affect our future over the next generation. The NYS PTA analysis of the Executive Budget proposal addresses three key concepts:

- First do no (additional) harm.
- Acknowledge the magnitude and necessary cost of education reform efforts.
- Invest in highest priority reform efforts.

Do No Harm. The Governor proposes an additional \$603 million to address continuation of the basic operating needs of school districts in the 2014-15 school year. With at least 70% of the State's schools receiving less support in the 2013-14 year than they did five years ago; with \$1.6 billion owed to schools in GEA reductions, with an additional \$5.3 billion in funding promised three years ago but remaining unpaid, this amount is grossly inadequate.

In attempting to cope with funding inadequacies and rising costs, schools have depleted reserves and collectively eliminated more than 30,000 positions over the past five years. The Education Conference Board's calculation of a \$1.5 billion increase in State support needed to avoid additional program and staff reductions is realistic, if not conservative. An aid increase of \$603 million is not only inadequate but would do serious, possibly irreparable damage, particularly to our most needy and fiscally stressed urban and rural schools.

If, as the Governor suggests, there is a \$2 billion state budget surplus, the State's first priority must be to restore funding denied schools through the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The GEA not only diverts attention from foundation formula as the State's primary means of adequately and equitably distributing state aid, its continued use expands funding inequities certain to be challenged as unconstitutional.

Reform Efforts. In response to challenges posed by economic globalization, New York State, along with 45 other states and the District of Columbia are currently in the process of implementing the most ambitious and controversial instructional changes of our lifetime. While the Governor proposes a number of exciting new initiatives, his acknowledgement of the challenges of Common Core based reform seems an afterthought. Reform of this magnitude cannot be an afterthought. Mandated changes and their associated costs must be as central to State level budget discussions as they are to individual school districts.

The Regents' state aid proposal includes funding for professional development and parent/family awareness needed to supplement major instructional reform efforts. This essential initiative should be strongly supported.

Priority Investments. The Governor proposes investment in two major program initiatives that, while important, must not be adopted at the expense of ongoing K-12 programs or result in the demise of ongoing reform efforts due to lack of adequate funding. Early Childhood Education programs that combine integrated, sustainable plans for pre kindergarten through grade two students are essential to assuring success at higher grades. The Governor draws appropriate attention to the need for such programs, but proposed plans are neither well-coordinated nor adequately funded.

Likewise, the Governor draws appropriate attention to the need for ongoing investment in technology to support instruction that keeps pace with a rapidly changing world. Because much of bond funding proposed by the Governor, however, are for technologies that will need to be replaced in a few short years, we conclude that such short term investments are better addressed through ongoing budget appropriations than through long-term borrowing plans.

2014 Budget Analysis

Conclusion

The governor's proposal fails to acknowledge the value of investing in our educational system, in our children and our future. At a time when many of New York's schools are grappling with fiscal and programmatic challenges to meet the demands of reform initiatives we see little if any support of these efforts through this budget. Limiting and reducing funds that flow to the classroom undermines the effort of those very educators we are depending on and holding accountable to prepare every child for the world they will meet upon high school graduation.

Funneling yet to be realized surpluses to tax relief and alternate objectives without first considering immediate needs and outstanding commitments may provide good sound bites, but not necessarily good investments that can be sustained. Providing "relief" may briefly make property taxpayers feel like winners, but children, communities and individual taxpayers will ultimately be the losers. This Executive Budget is not a solution for struggling schools, especially those heading to fiscal or educational insolvency. Its proposals are instead attention grabbers and, more importantly, distracters from the reality that the State has repeatedly ignored the fact that sound educational reform costs money, needs investment, and access to it must be equitable.


Here's what each of us can do:

- **Identify local challenges:** Your Board of Education is right in the middle of the most difficult discussions they will have had in our lifetime. Get a sense of the most crucial local issues.
- **Set a priority:** Your Board of Education will be deluged with all kinds of requests. See if your units or council can come up with one or two positions that you believe are so critical, it would be difficult for the school to effectively accomplish its mission without them.
- **Attend School Board meetings:** This is hard. They aren't always held at convenient times and we all have many other commitments. Keep in mind, however, that others will be there. If your voice isn't at the table, others' will be. This is a critical time and your time will be well spent.
- **Ask questions:** Use our resources and don't hesitate to call or email team members if you have a question. Remember, school board members are people too and for most of them, their primary objective is to make everybody happy.

Don't be discouraged or intimidated. This is a critical year but it's also a time of opportunity. Use our resources and insist on being an informed and engaged part of the discussion. Our children depend on us and nobody is in a better position to represent them.

Nassau Region PTA

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS WORKSHOP




PRESENTED BY:

Lynn Petrofsky, Associate Director
and
Tracy Allred-Pulice, Assistant Director

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THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



- Who elects the Nominating Committee?
- When is the Nominating Committee elected?
- Where is the Nominating Committee elected?

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Nassau Region PTA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD:


- Include both experienced, ongoing leadership as well as newer members
- Be elected on merit and ability, not on popularity.
 - Have knowledge of PTA unit/council goals, purposes and programs.
 - Have knowledge of potential nominees' qualifications and abilities.

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Norwalk Region PTA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO:

- Give objective consideration to find the best qualified leaders for the PTA.
- Be able to express ideas and to defend their convictions.
- Use sound judgment in evaluating possible nominees.
- Be tactful, have integrity and use discretion.
- Keep all deliberations confidential.


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NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD:

Have integrity and be able to keep deliberations confidential, know what each office entails, and be able to choose the most qualified people as nominees:

NOT because they are friends
 NOT because they want the position
 NOT because they "deserve" the position
 NOT because that's the way it's ALWAYS been done
 BUT because they are the BEST PERSON for the position!


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Norwalk Region PTA

ELECTION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

How is your nominating committee chair elected? And, where do you find the information?



- By the Executive Board?
- By the Nominating Committee?
- By General Membership?

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Norfolk Region PTA

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR



The chair's responsibilities include sending the committee members a copy of the bylaws, the procedures, monthly sign in sheets, the job descriptions and the Nominations and Elections Resource Guide section as soon as possible after election and before the committee meets, in order to have ample time to become familiar with them.

Norfolk Region PTA

WHAT DO I DO NEXT AS THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR


- Select a time and place for the meeting, allowing sufficient time for the committee to complete its job on time.
- Notify all committee members and alternates, if elected in accordance with your bylaws, of the meeting. Do not meet over the telephone or through email.
- Use recommendation forms so that the committee has written input to discuss. Be sure to prepare, distribute and ask for these forms back in a sealed envelope in time for the nominating committee meeting. Remember not to open them until the entire committee is present.

Norfolk Region PTA



PREPARATION FOR THE COMMITTEE MEETING...

Should You:

Approach potential nominees? 

Promise your best friend a position?

Request written recommendations from PTA members?

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR DURING THE MEETING:

- Contact potential nominees, only when agreed upon by the majority of the committee during the nominating committee meeting.
- Get a vote of confidence from your committee members if you are expecting responses after the meeting.






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WHAT TO DO IF...

- A nominating committee member is considered for nomination
- The nominating committee chairman is considered for nomination






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NOMINEE REQUIREMENTS:

- Nominee must be a PTA member;
- Must support the purposes and basic policies of the PTA
- Recognize that PTA is an effective organization working for all children and youth;
- Should have effectively carried out previous PTA and/or other organizational responsibilities;
- Should have knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and community;
- Should be willing to give PTA priority and commitment including attendance at meetings;
- Must be fair and objective and concerned for the well-being and best interests of the PTA; and
- Must understand the importance of effective teamwork.

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THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SHOULD:

- Determine eligibility for office
- Avoid reshuffling the officers
- Nominate one person to serve in an office
- Develop a tentative slate of officers with possible alternates for each office to be filled. Unanimous consent is desirable, but only a majority is needed
- Avoid putting a past president into another elected position

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR AFTER THE MEETING:

- Inform committee members of the results of the contacts if calls are made after the meeting.
- Complete a written report signed by all committee members.
- Notify President of the completion of the slate.
- Advise nominees to attend the election meeting and the installation of officers, if held.


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NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR SHOULD:

- Present the report to the executive board, if specified by your procedures
- See that the proposed slate of officers is published, in accordance with your units bylaws and procedures
- Present the Nominating Committee report at the general election meeting

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RESIGNATIONS AND VACANCIES:



- After the Nomination and before the Election Meeting
- After the Election Meeting


*** NOTE - If co-presidents are elected and one resigns, a vacancy does NOT exist ***

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GUIDELINES FOR ELECTIONS:

- Check the bylaws to verify:
- When the election meeting should be held




- How many days notice of the election meeting is necessary

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THE ELECTION MEETING:



- Presentation of slate by the nominating committee chair
- Presiding officer asks for additional nominations from the floor either by:



Order listed in bylaws – for all offices
OR
Each position individually

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THE ELECTION MEETING:

- Types of votes
- How the secretary helps
- Nominations from the floor
- The actual election
- Nominee attendance at election meeting






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THE ELECTION MEETING: A Ballot Vote – What To Do

- Ballots are prepared in advance
- The procedure for distributing and collecting ballots should be established before the election begins
- Tellers are appointed - NOTE: No nominee should be involved in the election procedure as a teller
- List of members is provided by the membership chair






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THE ELECTION MEETING: More on Ballot Votes

- Completion of ballot
- Collection of ballots
- Illegal ballots
- Ballots distributed to eligible voters by the tellers





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MORE ON ELECTION RESULTS

- Why would you need to take a revote?
- Make a motion and vote to destroy the ballots




NOTE: An election is valid as long as a quorum is present at the meeting even if the number of persons voting is less than the quorum

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CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed your responsibility in the Nominations & Elections process for your unit/council. By following the bylaws and procedures, you have ensured that you put together a slate of officers that will lead your membership and continue the goals and mission of your PTA.



Feel proud of your participation!

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Nassau Region PTA

If you have any questions feel free to contact your Assistant Director (AD).

<http://nassaupta.wordpress.com/assistant-director-ad-directory/>

Lynn Petrofsky – Associate Director
AssociatePetrofsky@nassaupta.org

Tracy Allred-Pulice
ADsection10@nassaupta.org



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_____ PTA
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee met on (date) _____ with the following members present:

The committee acted in accordance with the (unit name) _____ Bylaws and followed the guidelines set forth in the PTA Manual for the Nominating Committee.

The following names are placed in nomination to serve as officers of (unit name) _____ PTA for the _____ year.

President: _____
Vice President: _____
Corresponding Secretary: _____
Recording Secretary: _____
Treasurer: _____

Chairman

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member



Letter to the Membership

To: The _____ PTA Membership

From: Chairman of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to select a nominee for each office to be elected at a regular meeting of the association (general membership meeting) on

(Date of election meeting)

We are seeking your input to be considered by Nominating Committee during its deliberations. However, according to procedures your suggestions and supporting information are advisory only. You do not need to sign your name; all information will remain confidential.

Please use the enclosed recommendation forms and submit them in a sealed envelope marked "NOMINATING COMMITTEE" to _____ no later
(Name of Chairman & delivery location)

than _____
(Date prior to Nominating Committee meeting)

The envelopes will remain sealed and be opened only in the presence of the entire Nominating Committee at its meeting.

Members of the Nominating Committee are:
(list all members of the nominating committee and alternates if applicable)

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance in this important task.

_____ PTA Nominating Committee Confidentiality Agreement

I hereby acknowledge by my signature below that any information either presented or discussed during the meetings of the PTA Nominating Committee will not be divulged by me outside the meetings or with any individual not a member of this committee.
Furthermore, I acknowledge that a violation of this agreement shall result in my removal from the committee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PTA Leadership- It's Not a Popularity Contest

The role of a nominating committee to identify strong leaders

"*An organization is the lengthened shadow of its leaders*," said Voltaire, author and philosopher. With that in mind, one of the most important committees in any organization is the nominating committee. These are the people who search and recommend the new leaders for offices in the PTA and who, therefore, have an impact on the direction of the organization for years to come. Through recommending new people to serve on the PTA board, the nominating committee is in a position to have tremendous influence on the future of the PTA.

Traits to look for in a nominating committee member

The members of the nominating committee are themselves elected. Each organization's bylaws outline the number of seats on the committee and how its members are elected. The nominating committee is THE ONE committee on which the president may not serve, even in an *ex officio* capacity. While electing members of the nominating committee, bear in mind just how important their jobs are to the future of the PTA. The nominating committee should be a combination of people who have been board members and those who have never held a position. Additionally, the committee should reflect the diversity of the population the PTA serves. Ideally, members should be people who are knowledgeable about PTA—its workings and its members.

Potential members should be enthusiastic about PTA and familiar with all its programs and purposes. They also need tact, integrity, discretion, the courage of their convictions, sound judgment, and knowledge of the potential candidates and positions.

Electing a nominating committee should not be a popularity contest. Members have to work hard and make tough decisions about potential candidates, acting to ensure that candidates reflect the diversity of the population.

Suggesting candidates for office

The primary responsibility of the nominating committee is to find and nominate the most qualified candidates for each PTA office. Beyond the fact that candidates must be members in good standing, how the committee searches for those potential candidates can vary greatly. The committee chair could send out a survey to the membership asking for member interest in open positions. The committee should ask the general membership and current PTA board members for suggestions for candidates. The committee can suggest nominees as well. Regardless of the number of times an individual is suggested for office, the committee must evaluate each suggested nominee equally and by the same standards as all other nominees.

Once the committee agrees on a candidate for an office, the nominee should be contacted as soon as possible to make sure he or she is willing to be nominated. The nominating committee must be ready to give the potential nominee a fair statement of the responsibilities of the office and the amount of time (and travel) involved. After all nominees have agreed to their candidacy, the nominating committee prepares a report for the PTA membership. The report is read by the committee chair at a meeting, and then handed over to the meeting chair.



The benefits of a year-round committee

Several years ago National PTA and some state PTAs moved from having a short-term nominating committee to having a year-round nominating committee. As such, during the year National PTA's Nominating and Leadership Development Committee members attend various committee meetings, board meetings, and some state conventions in search of potential leaders. These opportunities to see people in action make it easier when it comes time to review suggested people for offices and committee seats. At all PTA gatherings, nominating committee members hand out referral forms for potential candidates to members. If someone thinks of a potential candidate, he or she completes the form and sends it in!

The year-round nominating committee also gives committee members the necessary time to form and act as a team.

On the national level, committee members are elected by the delegate body at national convention and serve a three-year term. To obtain more information on the work of the National PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, visit the [About PTA](#) area of National PTA's website.

Selecting good leaders is the first step to creating a vital and successful PTA organization. Start the process with a well-informed nominating committee that is committed to the task, and let the search begin!

National PTA
Our Children – January/February 2004

Nominations and Elections

True/False Quiz

Answer Key



1. The nominating committee is selected. ___ F ___
2. The president is an ex-officio member of the nominating committee. ___ F ___
3. The principal should be on the nominating committee. ___ F ___
4. The chairman of the nominating committee is always chosen by the committee. ___ T ___
5. If the nominating committee consists of 5 members and only three attend the committee meeting, the committee can choose nominees. ___ T ___
6. Observers can attend the nominating committee meeting. ___ F ___
7. The nominating committee must be unanimous in its choices. ___ F ___
8. The nominating committee can nominate more than one person for an office. ___ F ___
9. An individual can be nominated for more than one office. ___ T ___
10. A person without children in the school or program may serve as an officer. ___ T ___
11. A person must be a PTA member in order to be elected. ___ T ___
12. The bylaws provide for a president or co-presidents. The nominating committee is obligated to find one person to fill the position if possible. ___ T ___
13. The nominating committee must ask officers who are eligible to serve a second term if they would like to serve again before considering other eligible candidates. ___ F ___
14. The bylaws allow for president or co-presidents. The nominating committee has nominated one person for the office of president. A co-president can be nominated from the floor. ___ F ___
15. Members of the nominating committee are not eligible to be nominees. ___ F ___
16. A vote may be taken by telephone to replace a member of the nominating committee who resigns. ___ F ___
17. The committee's report is submitted to the Executive committee for its approval and then to the general membership. ___ F ___
18. The presiding officer must ask for nominations from the floor for each office. ___ T ___
19. A ballot vote is required if there is more than one nominee for each office. ___ T ___
20. The nominating committee's job is finished once the election is held. ___ T ___
21. The nominating committee cannot present a slate unless all positions are filled. ___ F ___

Nominations and Elections Frequently Asked Questions

What happens when a member of the committee cannot serve?

Advise the chairmen that you are unable to serve. A special meeting should be called to fill the vacancy by election. If the bylaws call for the election of alternates, the chairman calls for the 1st alternate to fill the vacancy.

May a member of the committee be considered for office?

Yes, however, during deliberations for that office the member should leave the room and return to vote. Members of the committee are not barred from becoming nominees for office themselves. To make such a requirement would mean, first, that service on the nominating committee carried a penalty by depriving its members of one of their privileges; and second, the election to the nominating committee could be used to prevent a member from becoming a nominee.

Can your Principal appoint your Executive Committee?

No. The rules that govern your unit/council are the bylaws and as such, your officers must be nominated and elected according to the bylaws.

Can your Principal or Teacher Liaison serve on the nominating committee?

Yes, if the individual is a member and has been nominated and elected to the committee the same as any other member may serve.

When should you hold the officer interviews?

NEVER! The function of the nominating committee is to seek input from the membership, evaluate past participation, and decide amongst the committee members the most qualified candidates for each position.

Only one of our officers has completed two years of service in her position. That is the only position we need to fill, right?

No. each position is for a one year term (unless indicated differently in your bylaws). At the end of the first term an individual is eligible for renomination to the same position for a second term. All officers need to be nominated and elected to their position each school year. There are no guarantees that someone will serve a second term.

Our current President has just completed their second term and there is no one able to serve as President. Can we nominate the current President?

No. To begin with, this is a violation of your bylaws. A person may serve no more than two consecutive one year terms or one two year term. By allowing an individual to continue in the same position for a third term does not serve the best interest of your unit – you allow for no growth to take place. It takes a unit one to two years to recover from this type of situation. Your bylaws prescribe how to handle a vacancy in the office of President, such as a 1st Vice

President can serve as "acting President" and call for nominations at the start of each meeting until an individual is elected. Generally, if an individual is able to serve as "acting President" they may be able to serve as President.

Should the nominated President be given the names of the proposed slate of officers?

No. That information will be presented in accordance of your bylaws. They should accept the position because they want to advocate for the children and educate the parents – not because they want to work exclusively with particular individuals.

If Co-Presidents (individual A & individual B) have been nominated, can another individual (individual C) be nominated from the floor as Co-President with one of the other individuals (A or B)?

They can but you must first check the bylaws to see if they allow Co-Presidents. The nominees must win by a majority vote. Membership will continue to vote until there is a majority.

May a person be nominated for more than one office?

Yes, however if the election for each office is done separately, and should one person be elected to two offices, then the candidate, if present, has the right to choose which office they would accept. If absent, the assembly decides by majority vote which office is assigned to that person and proceeds with an election to fill the other office.

How does an election take place?

At the election meeting the committee chair reads the report of the nominating committee and hands it to the presiding officer (which will be attached to the minutes at the close of the elections). The presiding officer rereads the name of the nominee for each office (one at a time) and opens the floor for nomination. Some units require any additional nominees submit their intent to run from the floor ahead of time, as per their bylaws.

If there is more than one nominee for office, the election must be by ballot. If there is only one nominee the election may be by voice vote.

If the election is by ballot, a nominee must be elected by majority vote. If there are two or more names on the ballot, all names remain on the ballot until one has received a majority of the votes cast.

What happens if the election is not completed at the election meeting?

Action should be taken to set the time for an adjourned meeting (a continuation of the election meeting) for the purpose of completion of the election meeting.

What causes an illegal ballot?

Ballots are considered illegal if they are unintelligible, if they contain the name of a nominee who is not a PTA member, if they have more names than were required or two or more filled out ballots are folded together. They count as one illegal vote.

What materials should the chair provide to the members of the committee?

A copy of the bylaws, procedures, job descriptions, unit membership roster, unit attendance sheet, eligibility list, the nominations and elections section of the PTA resource guide and the UNOPENED recommendation forms.

Does the nominating committee have to select the person with the most nominations for each position?

No. Recommendations are just that – recommendations. The committee will weigh the qualifications of all prospective nominees and by ballot vote to fill each position.

Can anyone be nominated for President, even a new parent or someone that does not have a child in the school?

The answer is yes unless it is specified otherwise in your bylaws.

What happens when the whole executive committee is stepping down at the end of the school year?

The committee will diligently find nominees to fill the positions.

What happens if we have left messages for potential nominees but need to end the meeting?

The committee should vote to give the chair a vote of confidence to contact other members (that the committee has agreed on) if need be. Once the slate is complete, the chair will notify the nominating committee and the current President and let them know that the proposed slate is complete. The names of those nominated should not be released until the slate is presented in accordance with the bylaws.

Is a ballot vote allowed at the nominating committee meeting?

Yes, it is preferred. Some units have it written into their procedures. This type of voting helps the individuals involved vote based on their true feelings and reduces the peer pressure sometimes felt to vote along with the group. If this is not yet in your procedures you can make a motion at the meeting to vote in this manner.

Nominations and Elections True/False Quiz



1. The nominating committee is selected. _____
2. The president is an ex-officio member of the nominating committee. _____
3. The principal should be on the nominating committee. _____
4. The chairman of the nominating committee is always chosen by the committee. _____
5. If the nominating committee consists of 5 members and only three attend the committee meeting, the committee can choose nominees. _____
6. Observers can attend the nominating committee meeting. _____
7. The nominating committee must be unanimous in its choices. _____
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