

**LEVITTOWN COUNCIL PTA's  
General Membership Meeting  
September 8, 2015  
Minutes**

Call to order at 8:15 p.m.  
Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – Quorum was established

Minutes from last meeting were emailed to the co-presidents. Extras are available on the table, please review them. Seeing no corrections, minutes will be filed as written.

Presidents Report - Angela greets and welcomes everyone back to a new school year.

Angela thanks Division for the Hospitality and reminds East Broadway they are hosting the next meeting.

See attached report.

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Mary discussed volunteerism percentages among PTA's across the country. New York ranks 50 out of 51. Colorful index cards were handed out to each unit co-president prior to the council meeting. Each person had to write one thing special that another person there had done for the PTA and the children. Please take a moment to acknowledge all the great work we all do here. These colorful cards will be placed in the PTA display box in the hall for everyone to see.

See attached report

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – No Report

Treasurer's Report – Tina went over the treasurer report and the books for July & August were audited by Linda Pereira and found to be in order.

Recording Secretary - Seeing no questions or corrections the minutes will be filed for audit.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDonald welcomed everyone back. There has been a lot of work done to the buildings over the summer. Parking lots, painting thru out the district, diseased trees removed. New trees will be planted soon. New learning Center at LMEC, if you would like to see the new pond at LMEC please call to make an appointment. New display cases, Wood floor found under carpet in MacArthur.

New Administrators: Mac Arthur new Principal Joe Sheehan, New asst Principal Michael Scaduto & Gardiners new Principal Jared Vanderbeck

30 new teachers, really looking forward to working with them.,

Next board meeting Debbie Rifkin will give an assessment report. One initiative we have this is year is developing STEAM rooms. Mr. Goss at Lee Road is very excited for a possible trial run for this program, they have the extra room needed. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The connection between these subjects are tremendous.. Homecoming on September 26<sup>th</sup>, for the first time ever, we have two Homecomings together. This is due to SAT schedules.

Question from the floor – We received a connect message stating that we could now see the New York State assessment results. When you click on the link it says server can not be found. Some people say it did work. Further discussion leads towards the computers browser. Dr. McDonald suggests reaching out to the Computer department.

SEPTA – No report

**Committee Reports**

Arts in Ed – No report

Audit – Linda Pereira, Audit committee meet August 7<sup>th</sup> for the general fund & scholarship fund. All was found to be in order. Patty Genco makes a motion to accept the audit report as presented. Kristine Ekberg seconds the motion. Seeing no discussion, vote was all in favor. Motion carried.

Council Budget – No report

Elementary Curriculum – Joint meeting for First & Second Curriculum to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at 9:30 am in the small board room. Please send Mary your reps info.

Health & Safety – No report

Legislation & Advocacy – Resolutions workshop is being held, Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> at Garden City BOCES. Chairperson or Co-President should attend, very informative information that should be brought back to their units.

Question – It is the same night as one unit's back to school night. Mary offered this time to bring the information back for them.

Procedures – New copy of the Levittown Community Coalition (LCC) procedure was handed out earlier. It has been voted and accepted by the Executive Board. Will work on a procedure for Facebook and Twitter.

Secondary Curriculum – No report

Reflections – No report

Transportation – No report

### **Special Committee Reports**

Budget – Mary, The committee met August 7<sup>th</sup>, No major changes. Removed the miscellaneous line as per IRS suggestion. Should not have a line that is not dedicated to a specific item. Added a line for the JETS game, to be discussed in old business. Please review the budget. Patty Genco makes a motion to accept the budget with the correction of the date on the top. Laura Brown seconds, seeing no discussion, vote was all in favor. Motion carried.

Question – Question was brought up regarding Facebook & Twitter. Certain pages that are not real PTA pages have links on them for certain dates, flyers etc. Some links that are on those pages are links for the school district. Dr. McDonald says that they can not block those links. Suggestion to get out in positive way letting people know here is our page. Mary suggested that if inappropriate information is on the site to contact Facebook.

By Laws - They are renewing in January, we will be presenting them at next month's meeting.

Honorary Life – No report

PTSA Senior Award - 8 awards were given in June. 4 for Division and 4 for MacArthur.

See attached report

Meet the Candidates - May

Nominating – No report

Reflections – No report

Senior Award Dinner Dance – Mary, April 21, 2016 @ Crest Hollow. During the Summer Leadership workshop Mary and Angela attended, insurance items were brought up. One being how certain activities can strongly affect your insurance. They were very strongly advised not to have any event that PTA pays for that includes alcohol. The PTA, individual person and board could all be held liable. We have made the decision that there will not be an open bar at the dinner. There will be a cash bar. This will not be written in the contract either. You can still be liable if it is on flyers or in the contract. We are working with the Crest Hollow on this subject. The gentlemen who ran this workshop that we attended was the gentleman in charge of the insurance company who issues all of the certificates of insurance for New York State PTA. Presidents will get their packets with all the information at the next meeting. Mary Rickard makes a motion to have the dinner dance for \$60.00 and a cash bar. Patty Genco seconds, seeing no discussion, vote for all in favor. Motion carried.

Question – It was suggested to one of the unit presidents to hold a fundraiser in a bar. Angela strongly suggests staying away from that. Another unit asked about a comedy club fundraiser. As long as it is not PTA funds buying alcohol & as long as the contract does not state alcohol. Try not to promote it. If any questions regarding a contract you can contact council or your AD for help in reviewing it.

### **Liaison Reports**

LSCS – No report

Food Service - We now have a new company Chartwells, lunch went up by 10 cents.

Question - The menu was missing a lot of details that were previously there. September's menu is just a mock up menu. The October menu will have more details.

GC Tech – Back to school is Thursday. See attached report

LEADD - Angela would like to have a table there, more info to follow.

Question - Will Culinary be baking their bread? Dr. McDonald will ask them.

Teacher Center – Meetings are right after school so it's very hard to attend. Dr. McDonald stated they have moved to LMEC. It was suggested to have each unit ask their teacher rep to report back to them.

Question – What is the teachers Center? Dr. McDonald, They support the educational mission by providing professional development and providing information to teachers and parents to better educate us and to have the parents more involved in the educational journey of their children.

In the past Grants allowed to the Teacher Center to open up to the community, is that be something that they will be allowed to do again this year? Dr. McDonald, They did receive a grant, it was cut. She will speak to them about opening up.

### **Old Business**

New York JETS – In trying to bring the community closer together, we have been in touch with the New York JETS. Game date is Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. at Met Life Stadium. Flyers are in all of the buildings. The deadline to purchase tickets is October 8<sup>th</sup>.

See attached flyer

Facebook/Twitter - Mary, Facebook: Levittown Council of PTA's. Profile picture is a colorful bunch of cut out paper dolls. Twitter is ltowncouncilpta.

Question – Wasp and bee problem at the Gardiners Ave flag pole. Dr. McDonald, will look into that.

### **No new business**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Margaret Costa

## **PTSA Senior Award Winners**

### **Division Ave**

Alexis Alvino

Alexandra Sorbello

Samantha Kucmierowski

Matthew Brzezinski

### **MacArthur**

Mary Kate DiNorcia

Angelinna Bradfield

Jennifer Cooper

Brianna Giuliano

## Levittown Council of PTAs President's Report – September 2015

Good Evening! Welcome to the Levittown Council of PTAs General Meeting. I am excited to welcome everyone to another successful School Year! It is wonderful to see so many new faces here at our meeting. My name is Angela List and I am your PTA Council President. I started PTA when my oldest daughter (who is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of college) was in Northside, continued onto Wisdom Lane and Division. Now I am back at Northside with my youngest daughter who is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I'd like to take a moment and ask that we go around the room, introduce ourselves. Please tell us your name, the school that you represent and what position you hold (Council Delegate, Officer or Committee Chair).

Dr. McDonald, welcome and thank you for attending this evenings' meeting and welcome to the Board of Education members in attendance this evening.

Please join me in thanking Division Avenue for hosting our meeting this evening. East Broadway you are our host next month.

Our meetings are recorded. This is for the sole purpose of making the job of our recording secretary (Margaret Costa) easier. This is her first meeting taking minutes, so please bear with her as she gets used to her new role. Please utilize the microphones in the room when addressing Council, again this is to make things easier for Margaret as she cannot hear the voices on the recorder, otherwise. Please remember to always be respectful of others when they are speaking, we may not always agree with each other, but we can be courteous as each of us speaks.

Minutes of the meetings will be forwarded to the Unit Presidents each month for review. If any corrections need to be made to the minutes, please bring them up at the meeting. Once the minutes have been approved they will be posted on the Council link under "District" on the Levittown Public Schools website.

Please note that although all of our meetings are open for all to attend; there are certain restrictions in who is allowed to speak and participate in the meetings. There are also restrictions for voting. According to our Bylaws: The voting body of this council shall consist of the officers of council, chairmen of the council standing committees, the president of each member unit, the superintendent of

schools, the immediate past president of council and accredited delegates of the units. Anyone else is certainly welcome to attend, but is not to be voting. If you are Co-Presidents or Co-Chair....both people share 1 votes, so please don't both raise your hands to vote, unless 1 person holds a second position such a delegate or chair of a standing committee.

There is a draft directory circling around for you to make any necessary changes. We will have the directory printed and distributed at our October meeting, as well as on the Google Drive. Please remember, the information in this directory is for PTA purpose only and will not be shared.

Tax time is quickly approaching, November 15<sup>th</sup>, please do not wait until last minute to set up a meeting with your Treasurer. All units MUST file taxes each year –some may just need to file an E-postcard, while others may need to file and actual 990.

By this time, everyone should have completed their building usage forms for your PTA Meetings. Remember, anytime you need to use school property (committee meetings, book fair, cultural arts, etc) you must first fill out a Building Usage Form. They are now online. Please also remember to send in a copy of your Unit Insurance.

As you all know Council has always stressed the importance of training. There are many opportunities throughout the year for you to attend a workshop or training seminars to assist you in the role you play in PTA. One of our key responsibilities as PTA is advocating for all children and there is no better way to do this than training. – take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. Train yourselves, your officers and your membership and you will have a successful, cohesive unit. The words “well, that’s how we’ve always done it” really doesn’t stand up anymore. PTA is continually evolving and so should all of us. Your first opportunities for training are : Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region PTA Resolution Workshop Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region Fall Conference

Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region President Rap

NYS PTA will be holding its annual convention in Niagra Falls this year. Council has always encouraged units to send representatives. We often hear that it will cost too much money, or that is money we can use for the kids – well I can certainly

tell you that it is money well spent and you will be using it for the kids when you come back with more advocacy tools and activity ideas.

The Board of Education typically meets twice a month. These meetings can be very informative – the better informed you are as to the BOE planning and decision making the better you can serve your unit and the children of the district.

Many of the unit have made updates to their district web pages and more of you have Facebook pages for information purposes. With technology moving at such a fast pace in today's world, these are wonderful ways to get information to your members. Minutes, by-laws, procedures and announcements on your pages will allow the opportunity for all of your members to stay up to date with the happenings of the units. If your unit does not have a social media outlet, you may think of starting one. Please make sure that you have procedures in place for this. PTA Council has put in place a facebook page, as well as a Twitter account. Please follow us and invite your friends and neighbors to as well. Speaking of social media and internet use, PTA Council has also decided to forego the usual paper committee folders and make everything electronic on our Google Drive. We are still finishing up this process, but as soon as it is complete all of the officers and committee chairs will receive a link to their folders. Please remember to follow proper notification procedures when calling additional meetings or making changes to your meeting dates and times.

We still have a many committees open that we need volunteers for such as Audit, Arts in Education, Reflections, Capital Projects/Bond Watcher, LEADD, LSCS, Teachers Center, Transportation, Wellness and Food Service. These are important committees that have made some amazing impacts on the education in our district. There is a committee sign up sheet going around. Please don't be shy and if you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact me.

All of your elected members of Council have been where you are today. We have all acquired much experience and knowledge performing the many jobs you will find yourselves doing now. This doesn't mean we still don't ask questions or ask for help. We are all here to share the knowledge and experience we have. Some of us are experts at treasury, while others are great at updating by-laws and procedures or other things. Don't be afraid to use us!

Communication is the key to a successful year working together. We may not always agree on the topic of discussion, as long as we continue to work together and treat each other with respect we can accomplish a great deal for the children of Levittown. Keep in mind that the issues we advocate for here in Levittown with our School Board or Administration may not always affect you or your child directly, but they do affect someone.

In the past Council has allowed units to share information and we would like to continue with that this year. Please feel free to share your unit's information: Arts in Education programs, fundraising ideas, etc. under new business. Please remember to have your flyers approved by your building principal before distributing.

Thank you for all that you do for our children.

Please keep the line of communication open. Contact us with your questions or concerns. We are here to help in any way that we can. Remember – the question you ask may be that question that someone else was wondering also-don't be afraid to ask!!

Some Quick Reminders:

Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education Regular Meeting

Saturday September 26-Homecoming – DHS Parade at 11, game at 1;30

Mac Parade at 12, game at 2

September 29<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region Resolutions Workshop

Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education Regular Meeting

October 15<sup>th</sup> is Our next President/Superintendent meeting at 6:30, followed by our Council Meeting at 7:30

Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region Fall Conference

Wednesday October 21st – Board of Education Planning Session

Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> – Nassau Region Presidents Rap

Respectfully submitted:

Angela List 9/8/15

Levittown Council of PTAs  
Treasurer Report  
July 1 - September 8, 2015

**General Fund**

<b>Opening Checkbook Balance:</b>		<b>\$6,760.24</b>
Expenses:		
Hospitality	\$77.82	
Workshops/Conferences	\$113.51	
Banking Supplies	\$4.00	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$195.33</b>	
Income:		
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Closing Checkbook Balance:</b>		<b>\$6,564.91</b>

**Senior Award Fund**

<b>Opening Checkbook Balance:</b>		<b>\$9,569.72</b>
Expenses:		
Banking Supplies	\$4.00	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>	
Income:		
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Closing Checkbook Balance:</b>		<b>\$9,565.72</b>

**CD Account**

<b>Opening Balance:</b>		<b>\$4,020.73</b>
Expenses:		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
Income:		
CD Interest	\$4.09	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$4.09</b>	
<b>Closing Balance:</b>		<b>\$4,024.82</b>



<b>Levittown Council of PTAs Budget 2015-2016</b>				
<b>General Fund:</b>	Proposed	Actual-YTD	Proposed	Actual-YTD
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
Starting Balance	\$7,770.35	\$7,770.35	\$6,760.24	\$6,760.24
INCOME				
Membership Dues	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Jets Game			\$100.00	
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,270.35	\$9,270.35	\$8,260.24	\$6,760.24
EXPENSES				
Administrative Functions	\$250.00	\$6.71	\$200.00	
AIDS Awareness	\$6.10	\$0.00	\$6.10	
Banking Supplies	\$30.00	\$28.55	\$50.00	
BOE Recognition	\$100.00	\$103.63	\$100.00	
Carry Over	\$4,334.25	\$0.00	\$3,904.14	
Convention	\$1,450.00	\$590.00	\$1,700.00	
Get a Voice	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Health & Safety	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Historian/Correspondence	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
Hospitality	\$100.00	\$12.06	\$100.00	
In House Training	\$550.00	\$108.38	\$300.00	
Installation	\$50.00	\$91.49	\$50.00	
Jets Game			\$100.00	
LEADD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Office Supplies	\$250.00	\$170.29	\$200.00	
Pres/Prin Dinner	\$300.00	\$268.00	\$300.00	
Publications	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
Workshops/Conferences	\$800.00	\$1,131.00	\$800.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,270.35	\$2,510.11	\$8,260.24	
Available Balance		\$6,760.24		
<b>SR AWARD FUND:</b>				
Starting Balance	\$13,257.70	\$13,257.70	\$9,569.72	\$9,569.72
INCOME				
Dinner Dance Income	\$25,000.00	\$25,186.00	\$25,000.00	
Other Fundraising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$38,257.70	\$38,443.70	\$34,569.72	\$0.00
EXPENSES				
Carry Over	\$4,056.70	\$0.00	\$4,419.72	
CD	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
Banking Supplies	\$175.00	\$39.00	\$100.00	
Dinner Dance Expenses	\$26,000.00	\$20,834.98	\$26,000.00	
PTA Senior Awards	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Senior Award Supplies	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$38,281.70	\$28,873.98	\$34,569.72	
Available Balance		\$9,569.72		\$6,760.24
<b>CD ACCOUNT:</b>				
Starting Balance	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,020.73	\$4,020.73
INCOME				
CD Interest	\$24.00	\$20.73	\$20.00	
TOTAL INCOME				
EXPENSES			\$0.00	0
TOTAL EXPENSES				
Balance		\$4,020.73	\$4,040.73	\$4,020.73

<b>Levittown Council of PTAs Budget 2015-2016</b>				
<b>General Fund:</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual-YTD</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Actual-YTD</b>
	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>
Starting Balance	\$7,770.35	\$7,770.35	\$6,760.24	\$6,760.24
INCOME				
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Jets Game			\$100.00	
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<b>CD ACCOUNT:</b>				
Starting Balance	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,020.73	\$4,020.73
INCOME				
CD Interest	\$24.00	\$20.73	\$20.00	\$4.09
TOTAL INCOME				
EXPENSES			\$0.00	0
TOTAL EXPENSES				

## Volunteerism-

Out of the 50 states and DC:

Where do you think is the highest rate of volunteerism is?

Where would you think NY ranks in number of citizens that volunteer?

Utah is the highest. 44.6% volunteerism with an average of 75.5 hours a year.

New York ranks 50 out of 51 in volunteerism. Only 19.7 % of New Yorkers volunteer at all. That's 29.5 million people. On average they only spend 25.7 hours a year volunteering. That's roughly 2 hours per month. And only 30% of those people volunteer in educational/fundraising efforts. That's roughly 6% of New Yorkers volunteering their time to educational endeavors like we do. However this is not only PTA. This includes alumni associations, booster clubs etc. So think about it. When was the last time you only volunteered 2 hours in a month to PTA? Chances are we're about to spend those 2 hours here tonight.

Through volunteerism and advocacy, as well as family and community education, National PTA has established programs and called for legislation that improves our children's lives, such as:

- Creation of Kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Public health service
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- Juvenile justice system
- Mandatory immunization
- Arts in Education
- School Safety

So what does that mean about all of us? I think it means we are awesome. We are a dedicated group of people who care about the task we've taken on and we prove it with the overwhelming amount of time and energy that we dedicate to the children of this district.

When you look at all the amazing things we have accomplished for our children. We should be proud of ourselves for the efforts we make and the changes we have brought about.

Report submitted by:

Mary Rickard