

LEVITTOWN COUNCIL PTA's
General Membership Meeting
October 15,2015
Minutes

Call to order at 7:41 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. Thank you to East Broadway for hosting tonight's meeting. Gardiners you are hosting next month. Reminders about committees, bylaws and check signing. Upcoming date reminders.
See attached report.

Suggestion: Mary suggested that when writing a large check out to a vendor that both the treasurer and a co-president be present in the store to sign the check. This will eliminate one person having to layout the money and then getting reimbursed.

1st VP – Mary asked for some feedback for what we think our Facebook page should be posting. Should we repost information from New York State and National PTA Social Media?

Suggestions: We should post information from other units like fundraisers. Schools achievements like sports etc.

Mary: We could post this information as long as the units co-presidents forward the information along. School achievements falls more under the district. We could put links to the district on our site. PARP, Reflections information should be posted as long as it is sent to levittownptacouncil@gmail.com.
Facebook is Levittown Council of PTAs
Twitter is @ltowncouncilpta
See attached report

2nd VP –Levittown Council of PTAs Directory was sent out.

Corresponding Secretary – No Report

Treasurer's Report – Tina went over the treasurer report for September. The books were audited by Sue Silberger and found to be in order. Seeing no changes the report will be filed for audit. Reminder for Gardiners, Division and SEPTA your council dues are due.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDonald welcomed everyone. Letter for Adopt A Family was read, please see attached. The author from the summer reading program visited the schools. Reflections submission from a Wisdom Lane student, Brandon Moy will be featured at the Cradle of Aviation. Dr. McDonald will be attending the ribbon cutting ceremony to see his artwork. . Dress warmly for the Newsday Marching Band Festival is on Monday, November 19th. Very spirited event please go out and join them.

SEPTA – Meeting here at LMEC on Monday, November 19th. Membership is ongoing.

Committee Reports

Arts in Ed – Please email Tina @ naps713@gmail.com with any information on assemblies your school is having.
DAHS is holding an assembly on Oct. 23rd "A Message from Justin"
Wisdom will be hosting a Narcan training on Nov. 3rd Open to the community.
Monday, Oct. 26th a Nassau Police officer will also be on cyber bullying. Open to the public on Oct. 21st.
See Report

Audit – One person signed up already we do need two more people.

Council Budget – No report

Elementary Curriculum – Social Studies & Science were discussed. Committee was given a tour of the outdoor learning center. Possible reading assignment for 4th & 5th grade. Parent Math workshop on Oct. 27th. Next meeting is being rescheduled. New Date will be emailed.
See Report

Health & Safety – No meeting as of yet. They are on a as to need basis.

Legislation & Advocacy – Resolution packets were emailed to the unit co-presidents. 10 Retentions this year. Patty makes a motion that we vote on the 10 retentions as a block. Laura seconds. All in favor, seeing no opposed motion carries. 7 Updates this year. Mary makes a motion that we vote all 7 updates as a block. Jose Delafuente seconds. All in favor, seeing no opposed motion carries. 1 new resolution this year. Ban the use of Bio solids in fertilizer. Mary makes a motion that we support the passing of this resolution. Patty seconds. All in favor, seeing no opposed motion carries. Mary will be attending convention for DAHS and Angela will be attending for Council. Mary makes a motion that Mary and Angela have a vote of confidence that they may vote on behalf of Council at PTA convention. Laura seconds. All in favor, seeing no opposed motion carries.

Question – Who started using that? The sewage cleaning plants. We use animal waste for fertilizer so why not us.

Suggestion: Mary suggests that each unit email the resolutions to your members. You can then vote on it as a block like we just did. This cuts back on paper and saves time.

Procedures – Review of Social Media procedure.

Question: PTA meeting minutes are posted on the school web site is that ok? Yes, just not Facebook or Twitter.

These procedures are for Council, please review your by laws and procedures.

See Report.

Secondary Curriculum – No report. Next meeting on Oct. 29th @ 9:30 a.m.

Transportation – No report. Need a council rep.

Special Committee Reports

Budget – No Report

By Laws - By Laws are set to expire on January 1, 2016. We need to discuss any changes at this meeting. Then give notice that the vote will be on the November meeting to finalize. We do not have a December meeting. Discussion regarding the flat rate of the council dues. All agreed that was fine. Historian position can be brought back. No need to bring it back. We can also combine the recording and corresponding secretary. No keep separate. Having an alternate on the nominating committee. Not needed our procedures cover that. Nominating dates for slate and voting were discussed. Further discussion lead to the solution that the procedures need to be updated or changed. Lowering the number of delegates. Keep the number the same. Discussion leads to no changes to our by laws. Patty makes a motion to keep our by laws as is, with no changes. Dawn seconds. All in favor, seeing no opposed motion carries. Official vote will be in November.

Honorary Life – No Report

PTSA Senior Award - No Report, but we need chairs for DAHS and MacArthur that do not have seniors.

Meet the Candidates - May

Nominating – All reps and alternates will be voted on next month. Forms will be emailed to units.

Reflections – No report

Senior Award Dinner Dance - All Unit co-presidents should have received the packets. Please forward to your reps, dates are coming up fast. April 21, 2016 @ Crest Hallow. Names are due by November 23rd.

Recipients are NOT to be writing their own bio. Order you pins from New York State. Review of the insurance policy regarding alcohol was given for the two LUT reps present.

Liaison Reports

LSCS – No report

Food Service - No Report

GC Tech –See attached report

LEADD - October 25th

Teacher Center – No Report. Meeting times do not look like they can be changed.

Wellness – District committee. Anyone within the community who is interested in sitting on this committee, please submit your letter of interest by Oct. 31st.

LCC – No Report

Old Business

New York JETS – 65 tickets or 16 families within the entire district bought tickets.

New business

GC Tech movie flyer on front desk. Flyers will be emailed to unit co-presidents later tonight. Adopt A Family flyer will be emailed as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Margaret Costa

Levittown Council of PTAs President Report – October 15, 2015

Good Evening, Welcome to this evening's Levittown Council of PTAs general meeting.

Welcome, Dr. McDonald. Thank you for being here with us this evening. Welcome to the BOE members also in attendance this evening.

Thank you to East Broadway for hosting this evening's meeting. Gardiners Avenue, you are up for November.

I am going to remind everyone that our meetings are recorded. This is for the sole purpose of constructing the minutes of the meeting. Please utilize the micropohes in the room when speaking, they are spread out on the tables. Please always remember to respectful of others when they are speaking.

It is that time of year again when you need to be sure to present the resolutions at your next General Membership Meeting. Also, get a vote of confidence from your unit to have the representative attending convention able to vote for your unit.

I feel like every year, maybe even multiple times a year we touch on the subject of transparency and how important it is for all of your officers to be as transparent as possible when conducting business. When I speak of being transparent, I mean everything from the way you run your meetings, to the way you communicate to your officers, committee chairs and members and how the money of your PTA Unit is being spent. Remember this money does not belong to the President or any other officer, it is the money of the General Membership. When you are deciding school clothes or spirit wear and cultural arts

programs or family fun events, it not the sole decision of the Committee Chair to make all the decisions – hold a vote and let your membership feel like they have had a say in what their money provides to the children in your school.

The Treasurer, President and Audit Committee have a fiduciary responsibility to the Unit in order for the Unit and its members to be covered under the Unit Insurance. Use expense and remittance forms, be sure to attach deposit slips to the remittance forms and all receipts to the expenses.

Be open and honest and sincere, remember, like many of you there are new members to your PTA Units.

I don't really have a whole lot to take about this month, but I do feel it is necessary to go over some reminders:

You are all in the process of trying to fill your committees and appoint committee chairs. Please remember that it is important to read your By-Laws before doing anything. These are the rules that your unit must abide by. Your procedures are in place to help your committees successfully run – the information in your procedures can not differ or contradict your By-laws.

Your nominating committee is specified in your by-laws, it specifies how many on the committee, how they are elected and how to appoint

a chair. There shall be a nominating committee consisting of _____ members, _____ of whom shall be elected by the executive board from its body, and _____ who shall not be members of the executive board, elected by the association at a regular meeting of the association at least sixty (60) days prior to the election meeting. The committee shall elect its chair

Some Reminders: BOE Recognition is Wed October 21st

Fall Conference is October 20th and President Rap is Oct 28th

Membership Money is due to NYS by Oct. 31st.

Tuesday November 3rd is election day – Get out and VOTE! All school are closed for superintendents conference day.

November 4th is the next regular BOE Meeting here at LMEC. If you would like to address the BOE, you can sign up for “public be heard” before 7:30pm.

November 15th is Tax Day – Do NOT jeopardize your units 501C3 Status, submit those taxes.

Our Next General Membership Meeting is Nov 19th at 7:30PM

Our Next President/Superintendent Meeting is Nov 9th at 9:30AM

NYS PTA Convention is November 13-15 in Niagra Falls

President/Principal Dinner – November 23rd at Crest Hollow

LEADD October 25th

Council Bylaws Report 10/15/2015

Bylaws are set to expire 01/01/2016. So we need to discuss any changes at this meeting and then give notice that we will vote at the Nov. meeting to finalize vote on bylaws. This way I can do paperwork immediately and submit to NYS. With the bylaws being electronic now, we should be fine time wise.

For clarification purposes our council works as such:

Executive board is made up of executive committee, standing committee chairs and president of each unit. Delegates are not part of executive board, but are voting members of council.

Executive Committee is made up of officers of the council and the immediate past president. Officers means, President, (2) VP, Treasurer, Recording & Corresponding Secretary.

There are only certain items that can be changed on bylaws now I am going to list them all with what we have, what we can have and any recommendations:

In 2013 we changed the dues to be \$150.00 a unit. Do we have any discussion on changing that total? I

We also eliminated Historian in 2013, we can if we wish put one back on either executive committee (so they would have to be nominated and elected as an officer of the association) or executive board, (so they would be appointed by president in cooperation with the executive committee or elected by executive board). Any discussion on continuing without a Historian position?

We can if we wish combine recording & corresponding secretary to one position. Officer Term can be a maximum of two consecutive one year terms in the same office or no more than one two year term. I believe it is best to retain the maximum of two consecutive one year terms.

We currently allow only (1) President, (2) VP's in designated order (1st/2nd). I do not believe any changes to this are needed.

Annual Meeting is currently May, I do not think this should be changed.

Nominating Committee: We can add a line for an alternate to be added to committee. At this time there is no such addition to our current bylaws. We have 11 members on the committee elected from the voting body of the council and zero who are not on the executive board.

At this time we hold elections in March, it is also when the committee announces slate. Do we want to move elections to April? As in the past the timeline for the committee to be formed, take nomination letter and meet has been prohibitive, since we do not meet in December, it means in January committee asks for nominations, meets in February and then announces in March. If we have any of these meetings canceled due to weather issues, it risks the flow of the process.

Executive Committee has immediate past president on it currently, any discussion on changing that?

Executive Board we can if we wish add Superintendent or School Board liaison, any discussion?

Biggest change that we might want to consider: The amount of actual delegates per unit. We can if we would like, lower the amount from the standard 7 to maybe 5? We can if we would like lower it by elementary/secondary/septa, each of these three groups having different amounts of delegates.

If we go forward with changing the number of delegates, every unit will have to do an amendment to their own bylaws going forward to make their number comply with ours. At this point every unit should have 7 delegates in their bylaws.

Submitted:

Laura Brown

I am unsure who is recording secretary or who is chairing Cultural Arts, but I wanted it said that DAHS is holding an assembly Oct 23 periods 2 &3 for all grades titled " A message from Justin", the presenter is Jeff Veatch, the parent of Justin, a young man who died of a drug overdose at 17. Administration and the PTSA felt that in this time of daily headlines about opioid addiction and overdosing, that our students needed a strong presentation, told from a parent who suffered such a painful loss.

I also believe that at Wisdom Nov 3rd the district is hosting a Narcan training open to the community.

Elementary Curriculum Meeting

October 13, 2015

Social Studies director Steve Costello discussed how schools are starting to teach students to analyze social studies documents, even at the elementary level. Social studies primary sources are used on the ELA, so this will help students. There is also a social studies website that the teachers in our district analyzed and recategorized into folders on the district intranet by grade-level, making it a much easier and more efficient way to get materials for their classes.

Science director Kevin McDermott discussed how the district is starting to focus more on engineering. STEM kits are being used in classrooms. Several teachers are piloting new programs this year. District will evaluate the success of these programs at the end of the year. State has modified existing science standards to develop the NYS Science Learning Standards for grades K-8. Each grade must cover certain topics each year to prevent gaps and overlaps. There will be a long transition period before it is fully implemented. Principals are also looking at STEM clubs that we can provide.

Tour of Outdoor Environmental Learning Center was given. Classes are beginning to use the center for field trips. Eventually district hopes to have all classes in all grades coming on a rotating basis.

Possibility of implementing a summer reading assignment for fourth and fifth grade is being discussed.

Math workshop on October 27 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. RSVP by October 16.

Next meeting is in the process of being rescheduled. When the date is decided, I will send it out.

Submitted by:
Mary Rickard

GC TECH KEY CLUB PRESENTS

A "LAWNFLIX BIG SCREEN" SHOWING OF

"HALLOWEENTOWN"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD IN THE GYM AT LMEC

6:00 ENTRY

OPEN TO ALL LEVITTOWN ELEMENTARY "AFFILIATED" SCHOOL STUDENTS

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00 PER PERSON**

CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER FREE

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE DUE TO GYM SPACE LIMITATIONS

****PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**

ALL DONATIONS WELCOMED !!!

PLUS: Make your own Halloween "goody bag"
Halloween costumes optional
Bring your own blanket to sit on!

****PRE REGISTRATION PREFERRED, WALK IN'S ACCEPTED**

CHILD (S) NAME & AGE _____
CHAPERONE NAME(S) _____ CONTACT # _____
SCHOOL & GRADE(S) _____ ALLERGIES _____

CASH OR CHECK(S) MADE OUT TO: "GC TECH ACTIVITY FUND"

MAIL TO: LILLIAN CREEDON

GC TECH-150 ABBEY LANE

LEVITTOWN, NY 11756

Email: lcreedon@levittownschools.com

516-434-7124

Dear PTA/PTSA Presidents, Officers and Membership:

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we have once again initiated the Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program for the children (and in some cases additional family members) of the Levittown School District. Last year, we were able to "adopt" approximately 200 individuals in need of gifts, clothing and food during the holiday season.

There are different ways that you can participate. Last year some PTA units adopted as a group...either through general membership, Executive Committees or as individuals. You can adopt 1 or more individuals.

If you are interested in participating in our program; please call or email me with your name, phone number and email address. Beginning the middle of November and through December, we will begin emailing "Adopters" with information on the student or family they wish to adopt. All gifts must be delivered to the District Clerks' office at Levittown Memorial by 12 noon on December 11th. Items should be in a gift bag or gift box. Each bag or box **MUST** be clearly labeled with an ID # that is found on the informational form you will receive. The Adopt-a-Family form should also be attached. Please remember the names of the "ADOPTER" as well as the "ADOPTEE" are kept anonymous. If you wish to include a holiday card, please sign it "a friend". If you are including a gift card, please put that in an envelope or box too. You may wrap the gifts if you would like to.

If you would like to get involved in this program and cannot adopt a student/family; you can purchase gift cards for any amount from any local store, such as: Target, Kohls, Walmart, Ulta, Stop & Shop, etc. No amount is too small!!!!

We appreciate your help and wish you all the best for this holiday season.

Esta Lachow

520-1546

E13RAL@optonline.net

Gina Interdonato

314-9244

NURSEG54@optonline.net

Social Media (Standing Committee)

Purpose: To provide accurate, relevant and up to date information, promote and encourage PTA participation, membership and/or PTA events to our community via our <http://levittownschools.com/district/pta/> and other social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and others. Levittown Council of PTAs by using the latest internet tools will ensure that both members and non-members have access to the latest information and that they are able to share that information with their PTA and others.

The executive committee shall approve the site and assign responsibility of monitoring content. Passwords must be given to the president, the treasurer and recording secretary. The president shall monitor and approve all social media content. Contents on all social media sites used by council shall:

- be civil, cordial and relevant
- be welcoming to all families
- know the school policy on social media use
- check with the school district communications administrator (webmaster) for guidelines and policies pertaining to photo release policies
- obtain permission(signed photo release form) from individual(s) prior to posting photographs and videos

Contents on all social media sites used by council shall **NOT:**

- use explicit or profane language or acronyms of explicit expression
- use offensive language, including but not limited to race, religious or ethnic slurs
- air grievances with PTA or its members, B.O.E. members, school administrators, teachers, staff, students or any other individuals
- endorse, promote or solicit on behalf of a business, product or service
- endorse a specific candidate or political party
- include documents that are for members only such as bylaws, meeting minutes and financials.
- further an issue or product for personal or professional gain
- include comments and posts intended as advertising

Each social media site used by the Levittown Council of PTAs shall contain the following information so visitors are aware of our expectations:

The Levittown Council of PTAs is a noncommercial, nonsectarian, nonpartisan association that does not endorse any candidate or political party. Council does not endorse non-PTA products or service. Solicitation or anything that resembles solicitation shall not be posted on this site. If complaints are received about content or if council deems content as advertising, that content will be removed regardless of whether the content is relevant to our members. Offensive or inappropriate content will not be tolerated and will be removed and the author will be banned from the site. Posts endorsing candidate for office or any political party shall be removed immediately. This site is not the appropriate place to express complaints and grievances. If you have a concern please contact a member of the Levittown Council of PTAs executive committee.

The Chairperson shall:

- Perform all duties outlined in the Committee Chair people section and be familiar with the Committee section of the Bylaws as they may pertain to this portion.
- Submit an annual report at the Council annual meeting in May with a copy to the 1st Vice President.
- Submit Procedure folder to the 1st Vice President within 30 days of the annual meeting or immediately upon resignation as chairperson.