

**LEVITTOWN COUNCIL PTA's
General Membership Meeting
February 11, 2016
Minutes**

Call to order at 7:39 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. Welcome Debbie Rifkin and Bill Pastore. Thank you to Northside for hosting tonight's Salk / MacArthur you are hosting next month. Levittown community recognition dinner on March 3rd at LMEC. All food prepared by our G.C Tech culinary students. See Report.

1st VP – NR

2nd VP –NR

Corresponding Secretary - NR

Treasurer – One report to review. January books were audited by Laura Brown and found to be in order. Seeing no changes to the report, it will be filed for audit.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Pastore spoke about the budget. Current budget is 1.9% or 3.8 Million dollars. The state executive budget proposal is less than we expected. Increase of about 800 thousand dollars in the gap elimination state aid, which is ok but most districts were expecting a full restoration of all the GEA . Full restoration was returned to high need districts but not to others. Negotiations are going on in Albany but still too soon to know anything for sure. We will know by April 1st, hopefully sooner as to which direction its going in. Tax Cap is .54. Tax levy increase of about 726 thousand dollars or .54%. Next budget meeting is March 2nd and March 16th. We would really like to see an increase in state aid. See more budget info on the district web site.

Debbie Rifkin- Proud to announce a National Merit finalist from MacArthur HS, Ashley Kim. Three changes in testing: Greater involvement of educators in the test development process. Decrease in the number of questions on the test. Unlimited time for students.

Question- What is the purpose of the no time limit.

Debbie Rifkin- They asked for feedback from the field. They got feedback that it was very stressful for students to be timed. For now this year it will be untimed but that could change next year.

SEPTA – February 22nd, Charlie H. will be speaking about alternative housing options for those with developmental disabilities needs. See Report.

Committee Reports

Arts in Ed – Award winning author Jeff Nathan visits with East Broadway students. Mr. Nathan shares some of his age appropriate poetry using music and dance to bring them to life. Mr. Nathan then goes into classes to help them create their own poetry using rhythm.

Audit – Meet on January 28th. The books for the general fund and the Senior award fund were audited for the period of July 1st 2015 to December 31st 2015 and all to be found in order. The Audit committee included Dr. Tonie McDonald, Frank Marmo and Mary Rickard.

Council Budget – See Report.

Elementary Curriculum – Discussed the testing changes and summer reading.

Health & Safety – NR

Legislation & Advocacy – NR

Procedures – NR

Secondary Curriculum – Meet on January 19th. Debbie Rifkin showed a presentation on the Regents comparison.

Transportation – Strong gasoline smell at Wisdom. This is being monitored closely. Shortened light at MacArthur. See Report.

Special Committee Reports

Budget – NR

By Laws - NR

Honorary Life – NR

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

Meet the Candidates - Still need a chair, May 12th

Nominating – Names of Reps and alternates were read. Looking for a meeting date of March 7th or 8th.

Reflections – NR

Senior Award Dinner Dance - See Report.

LSCS – No report

Food Service - Repairs, New purchases and installs were reviewed along with quality control sheets from all schools. See Report

GC Tech – Last Thursday they held their Kills competition, it was well attended. They continue to hold tours for interested students. There are booklets and flyers on the front table.

LEADD - NR

Teacher Center – NR

Wellness – NR

LCC – NR

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Margaret Costa

Good Evening everyone, thank you for everyone in attendance this evening. On behalf of PTA Council, I would like to welcome you all here this evening. Dr. McDonald, Mr. Pastore and Mrs. Rifkin thank you for joining us this evening – BOE

I would like to remind everyone that our meetings are being recorded and please use the microphones when addressing council. Please be respectful to those who are speaking and limit the cross-talk in the room. It becomes not only distracting to those speaking, but also those trying to listen. Please put your phones on silent/vibrate. Thank you Northside for hosting this evening, and don't forget Salk/MacArthur, you are on the schedule for March.

As you all know, this is a busy time of year with budget planning and the state assessments. I encourage you all to browse the NYS PTA Website and FaceBook page, there is a lot of great information there to help you make informed decisions. NYS PTA representatives are constantly advocating for all our children and speaking at NYSED hearings and Congressional Hearings.

I want to also encourage all of you to subscribe to NYS PTA and receive their monthly Fast Facts. It is a brief email send to your inbox each month with a wealth of information, from updates at NYS PTA to changes in Unit Insurance, ideas and activities of other PTA Units across NYS and information on different ways to advocate for not only your child, but all children.

The Levittown School District will be having their Community Recognition Dinner on Thursday March 3rd. All PTA Volunteers will be recognized and we encourage you to attend this wonderful dinner. All food is prepared by our Culinary Arts Students. If you haven't paid or registered yet, you may do so by tomorrow.

I really don't have much else to say this evening, except that I encourage you all to keep learning and sharing your experiences with all of us here and your Unit Members. Don't be afraid to ask questions or tell someone you are not sure of an answer, but you'll find out. We all volunteer our time to do the jobs we have here and its not always easy, but I want to thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment to our children. I know it is not easy to recruit new members and volunteers, but keep trying and continue to keep them informed and be open and honest about what is going on in the unit and at your meetings. The Council Exec is here to help in any way that we can, just give us a call or send us an email.

Again, I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year!

Feb 15-19 is Winter Recess

Feb 22nd SEPTA Meeting at LMEC

March 2nd – BOE Planning Session

March 16 – Regular BOE Meeting

March 10th is our next PTA Council Meeting with President/Super at 6:30

March 24-28 No School – Easter Break

Good Morning- This is our **SEPTA** report just in case I do not make it there but I should be there for 6:30 but I have to be home by 9.

At our February 22nd meeting @ 7:30- Charlie Hammerman will be speaking about alternative housing options for those with developmental disabilities.

At our March 14th meeting @ 7:00-in the auditorium- Autism Daddy, the blogger will be speaking about his experiences as an autism dad. This event is sponsored by NSASA (Nassau Suffolk Autism Society).

At our April 18th meeting @ 7:30- Danielle Brooks and her son with ASD will be speaking on how to best advocate for your child and how to teach them to advocate for themselves.

We are in need of general members to sit on the nominating committee.

We are in need of nominations. Nearly every ex board member is moving on after this year, as all have been in various positions for many years. It would be greatly appreciated if each president can let their members know that SEPTA is in need of ex board members next year to remain an active unit.

We will be running our Mets fundraiser again this year....date TBD.

Council Budget

Have collected all of the requests from the schools. Summit had no requests and I never heard from Gardiners Ave. Have sent emails to personnel that handles the items/services requested and have heard back from all. As always the administration has been prompt and helpful with this. We are waiting on several details from Mr. Milano from Buildings and Grounds, as his list had follow up questions on status from items last year and a new list for this year. Committee has been updated via email on answers to requests and we are deciding if follow up meetings with any administration is necessary. At this time I feel that a brief meeting with Mr. Milano would be the one most likely to be requested. Our units are passionate about the maintenance and look of our building and grounds. For the last two years, those have been the bulk of the requests. I am pleased at the progress and the similar sense of commitment that administration and the BOE have shown these past two years in going forward with addressing what might seem to be minor matters in the beautification and maintenance of our buildings & grounds, but to the community are important in our sense of pride. As I stated last year, our buildings and grounds are existing assets and need to be invested in to show our community that the district has the future firm in mind.

Levittown Public Schools

Memorandum:

TO: E & A Committee
FROM: Dajuana Reeves-Alston, Transportation Supervisor
DATE: January 27, 2016

SUBJECT: **E & A Committee Minutes/Meeting January 12, 2016**

“Success for Every Student”

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Present: Dajuana Reeves-Alston, Colleen Montanino, Cathy Rust, Karen Quinones-Smith, Sherry Zinger

Absent: Tara Levi, Bill Pastore, Linda Savage, Linda Toron, Frank Ward, Rosemary Winter

OLD BUSINESS:

SAFETY AT BUS STOP (East Broadway)

Dajuana: I hope everyone had a nice holiday, and brought in the New Year with positive outlooks. A new year promotes change and progress. That is what I strive for. Bill sends his apologies for not being able to make today's meeting.

We investigated the raccoons reported at the bus stop. We contacted the Town of Hempstead, and they reaffirmed it is the responsibility of the homeowner to remove rodents from the property. In order to find out who owns the home, we have to go to the Department of Assessment in Mineola with the section, block and lot number. That is beyond our control at this particular point. Even though an alternative stop was given, the parents never utilized it. The bus stop is now back at the corner, and I haven't heard anything further.

SAFETY AT SCHOOLS (MacArthur)

We called the County regarding the shortened traffic light at MacArthur. The light is going to be assessed and adjusted. We were requested to monitor it, and call back if it is still a problem. I haven't heard anything from the Drivers, so we are assuming everything has been adjusted.

SAFETY AT SCHOOLS (Wisdom)

The strong gasoline smell at Wisdom has been evaluated. Craig Arvelo-Shaw, the Assistant Principal, has been monitoring outside. He vouches that some buses are older than others, but to his knowledge there hasn't been any extreme concern beside that one particular time. They will continue to monitor the buses, and report any problems or concerns. They will also try to pinpoint whether it is a Levittown or ACME/Bauman Bus.

Are there any additional items for this month?

NEW BUSINESS:

SAFETY AT SCHOOLS (Division)

Karen: At Division they changed the entrance doors that are open in the morning, so there might be a little more traffic now. The front and gym doors will be open. I think it is good for security reasons. The one door at the North end of Division is now locked.

Cathy: Any reason why?

Karen: I'm thinking for security reasons. I think they were doing an evacuation drill one day, and it was closed for that. A Connect Ed message, and PTA email was sent confirming the decision.

OLD BUSINESS:

ABSENCE OF PARENTS AT STOP AT END OF DAY (Summit Lane)

Dajuana: Colleen, have any buses been coming late?

Cathy: No, things seem to have fallen into place.

Colleen: All is good now.

DISTRICT MAPS

Dajuana: Last month, we also discussed the mapping. Nassau Boces has had a delay with processing paperwork. We contacted them today to confirm receipt of the contract. It was received and will be processed within the next couple of days.

Sherry: Can we re-send it?

Dajuana: The process is lengthy, and requires multiple signatures which have already been obtained.

Cathy: Can we copy some maps in the meantime?

Dajuana: Yes, but the font might be blurry.

Cathy: A slightly blurry map is better than not having anything.

Dajuana: I will check with Stephanie, and see if she can print about 25.

Cathy: That is exactly what I was thinking.

SAFETY AT SCHOOLS (East Broadway)

Dajuana: Sherry, is everything good at East Broadway?

Sherry: Everything looked fine. The cones were missing in the beginning of the week, but they are back.

Cathy: I haven't heard anything from the drivers.

Dajuana: The February meeting needs to be rescheduled due to the Spring Refresher. Our meeting for February is the 9th; would anyone have a problem with it being switch to the 2nd?

Karen: That is the Terrific Kids Award at Lee Road that day.

Dajuana: How about Monday the 8th instead of the 9th? Is that good with everyone?

(Everyone acknowledged and confirmed the 8th)

Cathy: We can establish the 9th for the Driver Refresher then.

Dajuana: I thank everyone for making the adjustment for next month in order to meet our protocols for New York State. We will send out a notification and reminders to everyone, and of course, for those who are not here of the date change. I thank everyone for coming out, and as always we will see you next month.

Meeting Adjourned: Next Meeting Monday - February 8, 2016

Food Service meeting, Feb. 24,2016, 9:30 a.m. @ LMEC

Renovations:

- Consultant should be visiting the schools shortly.
- Lee Road had a new oven installed.
- Abbey has a really old oven and a warmer that is hot to the touch on the outside. They will be ordering a new pretzel machine, the old one is broken.
- Division is still waiting for more outlets to be installed.
- Wisdom has some lighting issues that are being looked into.

Quality Control Sheets:

- Expiration on the milks were extremely close.

This was due to the break and delivery dates; all schools should have received their new orders.

- Abbey is still having problems running short with their alternative lunches.

This will be looked at very closely by PTA rep and District to determine if this is with one particular item and or lunch period.

- Calzones are made in house not store bought like the stuffed cheese sticks. Many children voiced that they would like to see more cheese in the sticks.

Old Business:

- The nutritional App is still being worked on.
- Still waiting for a joint meeting with the Wellness committee
- Having some sort of sample day at the secondary school was brought up again. This would be for when new food items are put on the menu or old items that are being brought back.

Levittown Council of PTAs
Treasurer Report
January 1 - January 31, 2016

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$6,223.25
Expenses:		
Banking Supplies	2.00	
Total Expenses:	\$2.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$6,221.25

Senior Award Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$9,565.72
Expenses:		
Banking Supplies	\$2.00	
Total Expenses:	\$2.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$9,563.72

CD Account

Opening Balance:		\$4,032.88
Expenses:		
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	
Income:		
CD Interest	\$2.05	
Total Income:	\$2.05	
Closing Balance:		\$4,034.93

Levittown Council of PTAs Budget 2015-2016				
General Fund:	Proposed	Actual-YTD	Proposed	Actual-YTD
	2014/2015	2014/2015	2015/2016	2015/2016
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	\$1,500.00
Jets Game			\$100.00	\$4,385.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$431.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,270.35	\$9,270.35	\$8,260.24	\$6,316.04
EXPENSES				
Administrative Functions	\$250.00	\$6.71	\$200.00	\$105.00
AIDS Awareness	\$6.10	\$0.00	\$6.10	
Banking Supplies	\$30.00	\$28.55	\$50.00	\$144.00
BOE Recognition	\$100.00	\$103.63	\$100.00	\$120.02
Carry Over	\$4,334.25	\$0.00	\$3,904.14	
Convention	\$1,450.00	\$590.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,878.68
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	\$15.20
Hospitality	\$100.00	\$12.06	\$100.00	\$77.82
In House Training	\$550.00	\$108.38	\$300.00	
Installation	\$50.00	\$91.49	\$50.00	
Jets Game			\$100.00	\$4,119.00
LEADD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Office Supplies	\$250.00	\$170.29	\$200.00	
Pres/Prin Dinner	\$300.00	\$268.00	\$300.00	\$272.00
Publications	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	
Workshops/Conferences	\$800.00	\$1,131.00	\$800.00	\$688.51
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,270.35	\$2,510.11	\$8,260.24	\$7,420.23
Available Balance		\$6,760.24		\$6,223.28
SR AWARD FUND:				
Starting Balance	\$13,257.70	\$13,257.70	\$9,569.72	\$9,565.72
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	\$2.00
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		\$9,565.72
CD ACCOUNT:				
Starting Balance	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,020.73	\$4,020.73
INCOME				
CD Interest	\$24.00	\$20.73	\$20.00	\$14.20
TOTAL INCOME				
EXPENSES			\$0.00	0
TOTAL EXPENSES				
Balance		\$4,020.73	\$4,040.73	\$4,034.93

The Audit Committee met on January 28, 2016. The books for both the general fund and the Senior Fund were audited for the period of July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and all accounts were found to be in order.

The Audit Committee ~~was~~ included

Dr. Toney McDonald
Frank Marmis
& Mary Rickard.

Report Submitted by:
Mary Rickard

Senior Award Dinner Dance

Feb 11, 2016

Don't forget to order your pins
~~to~~ from the NYS PTA Website.
If I haven't gotten your
photo & bio yet, please send
it to me ASAP.

All seating is due by March 21ST.
You must make arrangements to
meet with either Tina or me
to give your money and seating.
No money can be interoffice.

All tables seat 8-10, Please
adjust your table arrangements to
meet these rules or we will
adjust them for you.

As always, please let us know
if you have any questions

Report submitted by:

MaryRiska