

**LEVITTOWN COUNCIL PTA's
General Membership Meeting
March 10, 2016
Minutes**

Call to order at 7:42 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. One change was made to the treasurers' report. The minutes read: reports, should be report. Seeing no other corrections, minutes will be filed as written.

Presidents Report - Angela greets and welcomes everyone. Welcome Dr. McDonald.

Thank you to Salk/MacArthur for hosting tonight's meeting. SEPTA you are hosting next month.

An email was sent out to every unit with the NYS PTA link for Virtual Lobby day.

See Report.

1st VP – NR

2nd VP –NR

Corresponding Secretary - NR

Treasurer – One report to review. February books were reviewed by Sue Silberger and found to be in order.

Seeing no changes to the report, it will be filed for audit.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. McDonald, the budget is taking up most of our time. I was up in Albany along with some teachers fighting for state aid. Copies of the latest press release are on the front table. The Assembly and Senate recommended the GEA be completely funded for schools. For Levittown that means around 2.5 million dollars. As of now we have a budget to budget increase of 1.9, which is very low. Tax levy limit of .65. The board did discuss buying two new buses. That will affect the tax cap slightly, probably under 1. March 16th BOE meeting we'll be presenting the staffing budgets. Darlene will be retiring and Debbie will be moving up to her position. We will be appointing someone to Debbie's position that night. We will also be recognizing our maintenance workers. One month ago we recognized our custodian's and grounds crew for the amazing job on clearing all that snow in one day. That made us think about how much our maintenance workers do. G.C Tech Mike Marino was the automotive educator of the year.

SEPTA – March 14th is Autism Daddy's. See Report.

Committee Reports

Arts in Ed – Lee Road brought in Foot and Fiddle Square Dance Company. See Report.

Audit – NR

Council Budget – Report will be presented at the March 16th BOE meeting. Pat Genco makes a motion that we accept the report as read and written to be presented at the March 16th BOE meeting. Sue Silberger Seconds. All in favor, motion carries. Thank you Laura for a great job. See Report.

Elementary Curriculum – NR

Health & Safety – NR

Legislation & Advocacy – Virtual Lobby Day

Procedures – NR

Secondary Curriculum – Meet on February 25th. Debbie Rifkin stated that she will transitioning into the assistant Superintendent of Administration after Darlene Rhatigan retires at the end of the school year. Summer reading, Changes to ELA and Math tests were discussed. See Report.

Transportation – Meet on February 8th. Nelson Traffic Study, GPS on busses were discussed. Plans to move the MacArthur softball field over to have a lane to go into the parking lot was discussed. Five areas of concern for the traffic study. See Report.

Special Committee Reports

Budget – NR

By Laws - We have received them.

Honorary Life – NR

PTSA Senior Award - In the process of updating them.

Meet the Candidates - Thursday, May 12th 7:30 @ LMEC.

Nominating – Thank You to everyone on the committee. The slate for Levittown Council of PTAs for the school year 2016/2017 is as follows:

President: Mary Rickard

1st VP: Linda Pereira

2nd VP: Margaret Costa

Recording Secretary: Susan Silberberger

Treasurer: Tina Bodkin

Corresponding Secretary: Felicia Neri

Pat Genco makes a motion to accept the nominating report, Laura seconds. All in favor, Motion carries. No further nominations from the floor were presented for the six board positions. Congratulations everyone. See Report

Reflections – We have seven students that won awards. See Report

Senior Award Dinner Dance - Missing some schools' tables and money. Two quotes for the flowers were presented. Petite II Florist and Levittown Flowers by Phil. Tina makes a motion to use Petite II as our florist again this year, Dawn seconds. All in favor, motion carries. See Report.

LSCS – No report

Food Service - Shortage of hot lunches at Abbey are a concern. PTA and District will look into this to see if it's a specific hot lunch or lunch period. Expiration dates on milks will be looked at as well. See Report.

Question- Vending machines do not seem to be in line with our Wellness guidelines. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

GC Tech – NR

LEADD - NR

Teacher Center – NR

Wellness – NR

LCC – NR

Old Business - None

New Business – Division Avenue Spring Plant sale flyers are on the front desk.

Division and MacArthur choir will be singing at the April 11th Mets game.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 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 thank you, as always for joining us this evening

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 Salk/MacArthur for hosting this evening, and don't forget SEPTA, you are on the schedule for April and Summit – You've got the last meeting in May!

These last few months of school are sure to be busy and make you feel overwhelmed. I want to encourage you all to stop for a moment and breathe. I also want to remind that even though the pool of volunteers seems to be smaller and smaller as more people are going back to work, sometimes you just have to let some things go, if you don't have people to run it. You as PTA President can't do everything on your own. Please also remember that when you take on responsibilities within a Unit, not to let one overshadow the others. As PTA Presidents and Council Delegates, one of your responsibilities is to attend Council Meetings – it actually states in your bylaws that you should attend council meetings regularly and report back to the association. You clear your schedules to attend your Building meetings (barring any unforeseen circumstances or pressing family obligations) and I would hope that you can do that for Council as well. These meetings are an extension of your own PTA Meetings and your Units deserve the votes here at these meetings.

Tuesday was PTA Virtual Lobby Day, this is a very important day in PTA - It is the chance for you to quickly and easily tell NYS Government what you want for our children. I sent an email Tuesday Morning with a link to NYS PTA website which has a super easy tool to help you electronically send a letter to NYS Government, which I hope you forwarded to your entire membership. It's not too late to tell NYS what we want for our children. The link is still available on NYS PTA Website and you can send your letters electronically or even via regular mail.

NYS PTA Board of Directors, as well as representatives from Region and Local units have been speaking to key Albany legislators since the end of February - Now it's OUR TIME!!! We are a BIG District and can truly make a difference!

There are 4 separate letters that you and your members can send - Funding Our Schools, Family and Community Engagement, Early Childhood Education and Heroin & Prescription Opiates/Opioids.

The Community Recognition Dinner was held Thursday March 3rd. All food is prepared by our Culinary Arts Students. It was a great evening to see all of the community members that take time out to volunteer for our Children. . Always remember to say Thank You to your Volunteers.

March 14th SEPTA Meeting at LMEC

March 16th – Regular BOE Meeting

March 24-28 No School – Easter Break

March 30th – BOE Planning Session – Board Adopts the Budget

April 5-7 – NYS ELA Grades 3-8

April 7th – Next President/Superintendent Meeting 6:30

PTA Council 7:30

April 13-15 NYS Math Grades 3-8

April 18th No School Elementary Students

SEPTA report

Hello-

This Monday March 14th is Autism Daddy sponsored by NSASA

4/18 Elizabeth Joyce Dorsey, Caitlyn Stremel and Leigh Rust will present on ADHD & executive functioning in the classroom.

5/1 Autism Awareness Mets Game- Mets v Giants at 1:10

5/23 Septa's final meeting of the year will feature Parent to Parent

We are still accepting nominations for next year.

Thank you.

PTA Council Budget Committee
Submitted to the Levittown Board of Education
March 16, 2016

We would first like to thank the Board of Education and Dr. McDonald for all the hard work they do on behalf of our children and 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 of 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 building, concerning staff, technology, athletics, clubs, music and buildings & grounds. As we found in prior years many of the questions and concerns were in the process of being addressed by the district.

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

1. Elementary Clubs: last year we requested based on input from the elementary schools that the budget be raised to give them the ability to have more clubs. This request went forward in the budget and the clubs were given more funding. Shortly after, the teacher's contract was settled and minor raises were given to the staff for being advisors to the clubs, therefore using a portion of the now extra budget to fund the increase in salaries, not leaving enough of the extra funding to develop more clubs at the elementary level. Most have five clubs in place, Student Council, Spirit Club, Peer Mentoring, are typical clubs seen at the schools. Some are trying to put in place writing clubs, arts and craft clubs and music clubs. We would like to see in the next budget some consideration to an increase in the elementary club money so these hands on arts in education clubs can be developed, as well as the increase in demand for STEM clubs.

2.

Technology: last year it was determined in speaking with the director of technology that students needed more direction in proper computer skills. With the implementation of the 1:1 initiative for the ninth grade students to have tablets given to them for use in school and at home, it was also a concern of ours that the program would fall short in its goal as many students lack the skills needed to use the tablets to their full potential. We were thrilled to hear of the planned program of elementary keyboard classes and the return of the much missed computer literacy classes at the Middle Schools for our sixth grade students. The sixth grade computer literacy class was disbanded several years ago due to budget cuts.

The plan in place to have sixth grade students do 10 week sessions during works study periods to teach them how to properly use excel, word and power point will only enhance the ninth grade tablet 1:1 when they get to that grade, bringing the whole idea of the initiative to a higher level of usage and understanding of what the tablets can do for their learning experience. It is our understanding that Salk Middle School will need an additional computer lab put in place, at a cost of \$50,000. As this was a need of the building prior to this as well, we support the improvement to the building. We have been assured that Mr. Connell will look at the most feasible way to fund this, with either a BOCES purchase, where the district would get a large portion of the funds back in 2018/19 school year or through the SMART Bond. The plan to go forward with expanding the Math IXL program to grades 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10th is also supported. We have seen first hand the struggles the students are having with the Math curriculum, especially at the High School, a program in place such as this making it easier for them to practice and review at home is welcomed.

3. Grounds and Maintenance: Last year our committee fielded countless requests for the most basic of items. This year the list was substantially shorter due to Mr. Milano's guidance and both the Board's and Districts support of the plans put in place to address those concerns. Most items are scheduled to be addressed this Spring, such as replacement of blinds, painting, landscaping, paving, concrete repairs, window replacement, signs and furniture. Two large items loom in the background as they have for several years, the MacArthur Auditorium being refurbished and Northside Elementary having an expansion put in place. It has been the understanding of this committee that the Board is currently interviewing architects to go forward with conceptual ideas and designs for these two items. We would like the board to give strong consideration in a future budget for these projects to be built. We support the district moving forward with these two long overdue projects. This is a long process and the planning should begin this budget year. We are well aware that the budget this year cannot support the actual project to begin, but we are also aware that the planning, studies concerning the plans and the submission to NYS will take over a year before anything else can even be done concerning these projects. We feel that the district should at least begin to set the wheels in motion for these much needed projects.

In conclusion we are pleased with the progress the district has made over the past two years in addressing the concerns of the committee. Many suggestions were followed through on and the improvements in most cases are visible to all of the community. We continue to move forward in our support for all of our students through a sound budget, classroom and staff stability and the improvements made to our buildings and grounds.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Brown, Tara Carr, Margaret Costa, Dawn Marmo, Felica Neri, Linda Pereira, Dawn Santorufo, Susan Silberger, Cheryl Winski, Jean Wyckoff.

Meet the Candidates

Thursday May 12th at 7:30 at LMEC

Peggy and Jimmy's seats are up for three year terms and Kevin's seat is available for the rest of his term which is two years.

Nominating petitions are due to the District Clerk by 5PM on Monday, April 18th.

Reflections – 2015/2016 NYS Award Winners

Dance Coreography

Grace O'Connell – Gardiners, Award of Merit

Carly Kiernan – Division, Award of Merit

Natalie Mojica – Division, Award of Merit

Film Production

Brandon Moy – Wisdom, Award of Excellence

Music Composition

William Hebert – Northside, Award of Excellence

Emily Petera – Northside, Award of Merit

Photography

Avery Benson – Salk/MacArthur, Award of Merit

Food Service Report

February 24, 2016, LMEC in the large board room

Lee Road - New oven came in over the winter break. Box refrigerator has a gap in the seal.

Abbey - The old refurbished oven still cooks uneven. They need a new pretzel warmer, Maria said it can be replaced in 5 days.

Wisdom - Having an issue with their lights, possible short somewhere.

Gardiners – Stove is situated badly, the flow is not nice.

Division – Still waiting on outlets.

Nutritional app – Maria still has to look into this. The committee would still like to meet with the Wellness Committee.

Next week a consultant is coming from Chartwells to review the kitchens. He will make suggestions for some layout changes and machine upgrades.

Could the secondary schools have Bosco sticks? They really don't like them reports Maria. Tacos and quesadillas are back at the high schools as per the boys' request. March will have Philly cheese steak

Quality Control:

Northside – No salad on Monday after the holiday break.

Abbey - Complaints regarding the alternates running out. Maria – Could be due to that delivery is on Wednesday or because of the break they ran out of things. Jenny (PTA) says everything was good. She did say that they sell more alternative than regular food.

Wisdom – All is running smoothly

Salk – Some kids were saying that they get more meat on the sandwich than other days. Maria- All the meat is weighed out beforehand.

Lee Road - Can children go up for seconds? A child was told no seconds. Will look into this more to see if this was a lunch lady or cafeteria monitor.

Division – Fruit is warm because it is too close to the pizza warmer. That is because they are still waiting for more outlets.

Student Reps:

John Paul stated last year the Philly cheese steak wasn't good. Last year they were on whole wheat, this year they are on white.

Shawn said they don't eat the veggies but they do like the fruit.

Douglas said that kids don't know what the Bosco sticks are. They really like the idea of a sample day.