

**Division Avenue High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2012**

PTSA Co-President Mary Rickard called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Pledge, quorum.

Co-presidents Report – Mary Rickard- Lisa Curran is unable to attend meeting. At President Superintendent meeting Dr. Grossane spoke of the new communication system that involves text messaging. Building principals starting twitter account to be reviewed. District will start a Facebook page for informational purposes only. Physical Education- all grades across the board will be numeric. The rubric will be reviewed and PE grades will not be included in the GPA. Chain of command was reviewed. All PTA/PTSA events are to go thru the proper channels and must have a written confirmation from the appropriate administrator before being scheduled. Report on file.

Executive Committee Reports

1st VP- Laura Brown- Flip Flops-not many orders, since we need to have minimum order we must either cancel those we have or order extras to be sold in school store. Motion- Pat Genco “to purchase 50 in total of 25 slides and 25 flip flops.” Second Liz Kirk. Discussion- the flyer will be reissued if needed, there is an expense line in the budget so no funds need to be moved, we would need to lay out \$397.50. Motion adopted. Report on file.

2nd VP-Lynn Petrofsky- 382 members to date: parents 182, Students 131, Staff 66, Community members 3. More cards being ordered, payment being sent in.

Recording Secretary- Minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected.

Corresponding Secretary- Patricia Genco-resignation received from Mr. Wallace for position of 3rd VP. Mr. Sagistano is interested in being the 3rd VP. Motion- Pat Genco “to accept Mr. Sagistano for the position of 3rd VP. Second Liz Kirk. Motion adopted.

Treasurer- Tom Huber- Scholarship account has been reviewed- opening balance on Dec 1 \$1,695.00, two deposits not accounted for and \$3 addition error. Closing balance Dec 3 \$1,692.00. Balance is even except for the \$3 which Tom will double check all math. General account- Esta and Tom reviewed the books- some deposits have been omitted in the books but are on statements. 3 checks are outstanding and did not show on the reconciliations. 3 deposits were made but not recorded in the ledger. White out was used on addition and subtraction errors in ledger. Searching for audit reports, one still missing. Voided check was never withdrawn on the ledger. Outstanding checks have been added back into the account on ledger- Tom contacted bank and was told that if older than 6 months they would not honor. Opening balance on 11/30/12 was \$5,984.77. When November statement is received a reconciliation will be done. Esta Lachow stated that the general account is showing more \$ in the bank than in the ledger. Some outstanding checks are prior to June 2012 and there are no bank statements for July and August that Tom was able to get from the bank. July had no activity and August activity is not matching up with the books. The membership thanks Esta and Tom for their time in straightening out the books.

Council Delegate: Liz Kirk- 11/15- additional 43 families added to the already 98 on the food pantry list at Wisdom. Dajuana Reeves is the new Director of Transportation; Dr. Grossane spoke about improving the plan for getting information out in emergency situations, hoping to use text messaging notification system; calculations of the school days missed was reviewed. Classes will be held on Feb 20, 21 and 22. If we do not have 180 days for school the district will lose \$212,000 in state aid for each day short. Commissioner King will be reviewing and going over granting National Disaster excuse days but each district is on a case by case basis. Report on file.

Student Liaison: 9th grade: James Lunetta- currently have a class balance of \$445 and are planning on holding bake sales on 12/10 and 12/11. Funds raised will go to Spirit Week. Made \$36 on last bake sale. Planning more meetings with the grade to raise attendance. **11th grade:** Alexis List- questions regarding mid-year exams and finals. There are no block midterms but English Regents on Jan 22 will be a block day. Wed, Thurs, Fri of that week will be regular school days. Any other Regents will be made up on those three days, students will be pulled from class to take the test. On Jan 15, 16, 17 semester long classes will take finals in class. Mailing to go home shortly.

Principal Report: Dr. Ianni- onsite college admissions took place and the scheduling process for next year is set to begin. Nov 20th 47 baksets were delivered to community families in need. Financial aid night in conjunction with MacArthur HS was a success. Regarding the parking lot issue from last month- working with the custodial staff for a plan to prevent U-turns.

Committee reports:

Standing Committees:

Audit: Angela List had volunteered to be a general member on the nominating committee but was already chair of the audit committee. Angela has resigned as chair of audit committee. Donna Papa agrees to step in as chair of the audit committee and Angela will be an audit committee member. Angela questions if the audit committee should be a special committee rather than a standing committee. Mary Rickard had spoken with the Nassau Region Treasurer who stated that the audit committee should be a special committee and the audit committee members do not do the monthly reconciliation of the books. Motion Donna Papa “to change the audit committee from a standing committee to a special committee in the procedures.” Second Angela List. Discussion. Motion Adopted. Donna Papa steps down as chair of the audit committee and Angela List is appointed chair of the audit committee.

Communications: Emma Curran asks that reports be sent to Diane McPartland- Recording Secretary to be forwarded to Emma for the newsletter.

Legislation: Diane McPartland- thank you to Division for allowing her to vote on behalf of the unit at convention. All new resolutions passed. One update on medical training for volunteers was sent back to committee.

Procedures: Lynn Petrofsky- Audit committee procedures will be updated.

SEPTA: Liz Kirk-11/20/12- guest speaker was Valerie Stammelman a Division parent and LI Regional Coordinator for Parent to Parent of NYS. This is a not for profit organization established by parents of developmentally disabled children to support and connect families of individuals with special needs. They provide health care information, an outreach center, information on eligibility, a referral service and all many types of family support services. She gave an overview on understanding support services for the Office of Person with Developmental Disabilities. She also raved about the CD program at Division and how it is the “Harvard of schools” for developmental disabled students. Next meeting 1/28/13 guest speaker will be Dr. Andrew Aidsman speaking on the different facets of ADD and ADHD. Report on file.

Youth Issues: Lyndsey Petrofsky- Slide show is completed and will be emailed for review. The topic was changed to “Stress Relief Tactics. Lyndsey thanks the membership for sending her to convention. Report on file.

Special Committees:

Book Fair: Mary Rickard for Lisa Curran- will be held on December 13 at Barnes & Noble book store in Carle Place.

Bylaws: Lynn Petrofsky- committee will meet before the January General Meeting.

Harlem Wizards: discussion regarding a committee event meeting.

Honorary Life: Debe Howe- April 25th is the event at the Crest Hollow. Honoree has been chosen and will be posted once they have been told.

Levittown Tribune: Laura Brown- event is now closed.

Reflections: Debe Howe- Jan 7 & 8 are the new drop off pick up dates.

Scholarship Sweeps: Pat Genco- to be held on March 8th in the Division Gym. Mailings have begun to go out, collecting donations. A donation box will be in the main office, letters are available to give to business for solicitations. Report on file.

Liaisons:

Council Budget: Pete Calabrese- asked for any items to present to the committee. Suggestion that the elementary schools have their Librarians back. Pat Genco will get Pete’s contact information to Maria Xenios so he is informed about the meetings.

Dollars for Scholars: Debe Howe- next meeting is last Monday in January.

Elementary Curriculum: Angela List- October meeting- new report cards for grades 2-5 aligned with the common core standards. Number system of 1-4 being utilized but parents are having issue understanding the system. Principals in each building will hold a workshop for the parents to better understand the new system. There are many subcategories on the cards that are more explicit explanation of the grade. The K-1st report cards will now be 3x per year not 4. Schools are currently making up the missed parent teacher conferences.

Food Service: Mary Rickard for Lisa Curran- school district and Chartwells have mutually agreed to remove the vending machines from the cafeteria due to Answer Vending Machines inability to properly maintain them. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase on the lunch lines. Salk has a designated snack window and MacArthur will be getting a designated snack machine. BOE members Peter Porrazzo and Mike Pappas addressed parents concerns that one side of town was getting the machine and the other is not. The lines are already long and for snack only buyers to have to wait in the line will create longer lines. Chartwells is not increasing staffing. They will look into this further. Membership was wondering why there are no snack machines in the faculty lounge.

Secondary Curriculum: Mary Rickard for Lisa Curran- In order to make up the days missed after Hurricane Sandy, school will be open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday of Winter Break. The District is eliminating mid-term exam week except for 1 day. It will be a regular schedule and this year mid-terms will not count for 1/6th of the grade. Bill Zimmer, Curriculum Associate for English made a presentation on Common Core Curriculum. There will be a Common Core

Workshop for Parents on December 5th at 7 p.m. in the Wisdom Lane Middle School given by Mrs. Rifkin, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Mr. Morris, Curriculum Associate for Mathematics & Mr. Zimmer, Curriculum Associate for English Language Arts Learn how the new Common Core Standards in Mathematics and Literacy will impact your child's learning experiences. Two Recommended websites are: www.engageny.org and www.nysed.gov. Report on file.

Wellness: Angela List- selection process in place for Physical Education, bowling has been eliminated, concussion process reviewed. Discussion regarding structured recess with optional clinics done by teachers outside; bus and lunch monitors will go thru bullying training; no candy in school store except at MacArthuer at this time; suggested healthier snacks for LAPP; LEADD- possibility of changing date to be held to Fall.

New Business:

Esta Lachow- Dr. Ianni & Ms. Lorelli suggestions regarding the back parking lot issue, can spikes be put in that would puncture tires of anyone who backs up?

Pat Genco- reminder that all reports given at the meeting are meant for informational purposes not to point fingers. Pat reminded the attendees of the chain of command procedure for the district.

Meeting adjourned 9:25pm

Submitted by Diane McPartland, Recording Secretary