

**DIVISION AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 6, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Pledge.

Moment of silence taken for our Military serving.

**Treasurer's Report:** General Fund—Opening Checkbook Balance: \$4,077.55, Expenses: \$517.82, Income: \$10.00, Closing Checkbook Balance: \$3,569.73. Senior Award Fund--Opening Checkbook Balance: \$6,537.53, Expenses: \$742.19, Income: \$600.00, Closing Checkbook Balance: \$6,395.34. November, December and January books audited by Dawn Hanley. Kathy Reilly auditing February books during meeting.

**Review of February 6 meeting minutes**—approved as written.

**President's Report:** I have been attending the BOE meetings and planning sessions. Next month Mr. Bill Pastore, Superintendent of Finance will be here to discuss the proposed budget for the 2017/2018 school year. There are many changes proposed for the coming school year. Curriculum changes as well as building changes. The proposals to date include a new cafeteria at Northside Elementary and repositioning of the playground, a new auditorium at MacArthur HS, new turf field and track here at Division as well as MacArthur, new bathrooms in the gym lobby here at Division as well as the long awaited locker rooms, parking changes to Abbey Lane, Salk and much more. Go to the district web site, click on the district and on the bottom right are the PowerPoints of all of the presentations to the BOE so far. March 13, 2017 at 6pm is the Community Recognition dinner. If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know. Tomorrow Tuesday, March 7 is our fundraiser at Chipotle's in Levittown. Please encourage your family and friends to take a night off from cooking and participate. The DAHS PTSA gets 50% of sales from 2 to 9pm. Just tell them you are from DAHS, bring the flyer or show it on your phone. Friday, March 10th, 2017 is our "SWEEPS" fundraiser. We have 30 seats available on a first come first cash basis. Also, we are still looking for desserts for the evening. If you are unable to attend but want to contribute think of donating a dessert. The flyer for plant sale is up on the web page. Orders are due by April 7. We encourage you to pre-order as we will not be ordering a lot of extra flats this year. Plant sale pickup will be the same day as our Paint Pallet fundraiser on May 12, 2017. The sign-up sheet for Staff recognition is circulating. Please take the time to sign up to help in any way you can.

**Principal's Report:** Division Avenue High School announced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The valedictorian is Maria Mancz and the Salutatorian is Sisam Bhandari. Levittown public library art show on 2/16 was a success. Many students' work was celebrated as Mr. Ryan, Ms. Cordiello, Ms. Roth and Mr. Brown were in attendance. Junior prom was a success at Verdis on 2/17. The students looked fabulous and a good time was had by all. Spirit week was a huge success thanks to Ms. Castellano, Mr. Marzigliano, the advisors Ms Qazi, Mr. Larkin, Ms. Ronzo, Mr. Sparaco, Ms. Connolly, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Martino and of course the students who dedicated a tremendous amount of time to the hallways, events, dance, food drive, banners etc. The term Spirit Week is a bit of a misnomer because it really does take place throughout the entire year. Patty Genco shared Mr. McElroy's praises about Spirit Week and Spirit Night, as it was his first year experiencing it at our school. Mr. Coscia mentioned that 700 of 1000 students showed up for Spirit Night. GC Tech Competition winners announced. Teacher Leadership Team had its first meeting. Many issues were discussed such as: 1. Homework Central, 2. Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)--rewarding a set of character traits that we recognize as a school, 3. Renaissance club, 4. Moving testing to the classrooms. DRAGON Pride Award winners for the 2nd quarter are: Kayla Frenger – 12, Chris LaRocca – 11, Heather Bonsignore – 11,

Samuel Reyes-Lopez – 11, Madison Barone – 10, Jake Savitt – 10, Paige Mosca – 9, Matt Racanelli – 9. The Varsity Football Dinner was 2/27. The seniors were honored and we said our official goodbye to Ray Weidlein who coached football for 30 years at Division Avenue. He is as a genuine person as you could meet and also was an incredible role model for our kids. He is still going to be teaching special ed at Division Avenue, so we are grateful to have his services still. On March 2, 2017 Division Avenue High School hosted our annual Challenger Homecoming. The DAHS Challenger team was led by Head Coach Kelly Glenn and Assistant Coach Auroog Qazi. In addition the 25 Basketball players are supported during games and practices by teachers Kathy Mack, Eileen Savino, Eileen Nelson, Fran Burt and Kim Dobres. The Homecoming festivities began with the pledge led by DAHS students Jonathan LoDesso and Antoina Campione and the National Anthem sang by the Salk/MacArthur teammate Stephanie Church. It was dynamic game that ended with a score of 82 DAHS and 82 Salk/MacArthur. Special thanks to our announcer Mike Verdi, guest referees Assistant Principals Terence Rusch and Sam McElroy and to the Cheerleading team and Pep Band. Mr. Coscia announced all of the winter sports post season awards. Betsy Baquet read a report on behalf of Linda Pereira, who could not attend the meeting, regarding DAHS Kickline, who entered their 1<sup>st</sup> competition on February 18 @ Valley Stream High School. Their high-energy, clean-cut, high-kicking routine earned them a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Building Report--The Bleachers are slated to start this Thursday. The Locker rooms are slated to start this summer but we are waiting final approval from the state. The hoops over the bleachers have been removed. The third lockdown drill is scheduled in the near future. Upcoming Events--Nassau County art awards at Farmingdale College this Sunday at 11:00am; DAHS Sweeps Friday 3/10; The show people will be performing Pippin on 3/16-3/18 at 7:30; The senior performance will be 3/15 at 1:00; Senior prom workshop on 3/22; DECA state championships are in Rochester this weekend; Science Olympiad State Championships are in Syracuse this weekend. We are going head to head with, and are among elite, top-notch, Long Island High Schools competing this weekend.

**Guest Speaker, Mark Curtiss, Director of Guidance:** Mr. Curtiss gave an informative presentation with regard to scheduling process for each grade, college searches and screening. He also discussed the various college workshops and planning programs available to students, such as College Board and Naviance. Mr. Curtiss went over scheduling process for AP classes—when students enroll in an AP class, Guidance will revisit the concept with the student in late June to make sure the student is prepared to handle the increased workload. This way, the student will not have to drop out after the first quarter. Late June is the last chance to make a seamless change to the schedule. Making changes in August is an arduous task and doing so is reserved for extenuating circumstances only. Physical Education is being expanded to include master class electives, such as spinning, boot camp, etc.

**1<sup>st</sup> V.P.:** Position still open.

**2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.:** Betsy Baquet announced membership raffle winners on behalf of Linda Pereira.

**3<sup>rd</sup> V.P.:** Liz Kirk—Faculty meeting held on February 28. All members of Administration were there. Dr. McDonald addressed the staff and asked to “keep doors open with them,” and that they can come to administration with any needs, concerns or requests to make the staff’s teaching more productive. Mr. Coscia went over new and revised rules of the In School Suspension Room. All ISS work assignments must go through the Asst. Principal’s office. He also went over the positive behavior system, the Renaissance Club, Homework Central, roster print-outs/sub plans and attendance reminder. Staff then broke out into smaller groups: Web Based Assessments with Sam McElroy, Co-teaching Best Practices/Common Planning with Stephanie Addona, One Note with Dave Goldman, Round Table Discussion: Best Practices with Terence Rusch.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Two sympathy cards sent out—John Coscia and Lynn Petrofsky.

**Student Liaisons:** It was great to have more decorating time for the hallways during Spirit Week. There were many positive comments from students about Spirit Week.

**Council Delegates:** Meeting held January 24. Units should be doing their mid-year audits. Honorary Life is on April 20. District budget planning begins. Adopt-a-Family is 8 years running and we've helped 231 families. Dawn Marino audited the books. Everything in order. Superintendent was not present.

**Communications:** No report.

**Legislation & Advocacy:** Patty Genco attended the Legislation conference on Saturday, March 4. New format was refreshing and the fireside chat was very informative. There were many questions about the 2% tax cap, ELAs, APPRs, mandates with no budgetary means to support them and how important it is for the government to repeal the Wicks Law of 1912. The Wicks Law was put in place to create competition and bidding for work, but it is outdated and affects project spending. We were also educated in how the NYS budget is made, and what power the assembly and senate actually have on the budget, which isn't much because Cuomo could actually get away with putting things into the budget and then they have no control over it. The biggest conversation was about our getting our fair share on Long Island. The Advocacy Workshop was educational and informative, giving individuals the means and the tools to start advocating in their own districts. Patty encouraged everyone to let their voices be heard and go on the NYSED website and take the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) survey. It's a little cumbersome, but it is very, very important. You need to have your voices heard. This is Advocacy Month, and if you go on the NYSPTA website, you can get information on how to advocate and what we can do, as a PTA, to help advocate.

**SEPTA:** Meeting held on February 13. Cindy Goldrich presented, who is a Board Certified ADHD Coach, specializing in providing education, coaching and support for parents and educators to help children with ADHD at home, in school and in life. She presented Skills for Success, the brain's executive function, its development and its impact on learning. She also went over tools and strategies parents can use to promote optimal success. Next SEPTA meeting is March 13.

**Youth Issues:** We are still looking for representatives.

**Sweeps:** 220 baskets to be raffled in the \$1 section and about 18 items in the \$2 section. List of items will be available Wed., March 8. Everything being moved into quiet room on Thursday night. Need help wrapping.

**Honorary Life:** April 20. Liz Kirk is Division Honoree. Get your tables in by March 17.

**Nominations and Elections:** The entire slate is open for nominations, so please send in your letters.

**Senior Awards:** Application is on-line. Student has to be a paid PTSA member.

**Spring Plant Sale:** Flyers on-line and order due by April 7.

**Staff Appreciation:** Kathy Reilly and Bernadette Inciarrano are chairing and there is a signup sheet going around.

**Council Budget:** Patty Genco read the letter from the Council Budget Committee to the Board of Education making budget recommendations. Kris Ekberg made a motion to support the Levittown Council of PTAs Budget Committee's recommendations to the BOE. Jen Benz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote taken and motion passed.

**Elementary Curriculum:** The committee met on 2/14/17 and discussed the following topics:

1. Levittown Talks- A drug awareness meeting sponsored by Yes Community Counseling and Community Coalition will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2017 from 7-9pm.
2. Levittown Hall of Fame- People can still be nominated-go to the district web site for details. Candidates will be selected in March by the district committee. We will not celebrate winners at the Community recognition dinner as previously discussed and will celebrate them at the Homecomings at each HS. To date the district has received 10-12 nominees so far. The hallway near the auditorium at LMEC will be used to display honoree plaques.
3. FLES- began the first day of the third trimester on March 3, 2017. This replaces the fifth grade literacy center. Letters were sent home explaining the change. The committee discussed the reason for adding FLES and for replacing Literacy center in fifth grade as well as the transition of FLES into sixth grade and then eventually down into the earlier

elementary grades. 4. i-Ready Pilot- this is being piloted with grade 5 AIS. Math support students take an assessment and then are assigned instructional supports through the computer to provide support in deficient areas. 5. Camp-Invention- the plan is to run the program after the end of summer rec. during the first 2 weeks of august. The cost will per approximately \$250 per student. Information will be sent home in early March. 6. Math- The committee discussed various approaches the district is currently taking to improve math in the district. Suggestions from the committee was to have a “help desk” each evening so parents/students could get live help. The District will investigate this. Our next meeting will be March 15, 2017 at 9:30am.

**Secondary Curriculum:** The committee met on 2/17/17 and discussed the following topics:

1.College Credit Courses-The district would like to enhance the course offerings to our students. They are working with C.W.Post, St. John’s, Hofstra and Molloy. For example St.Johns offers a forensic course. Will report progress as it becomes available. 2. Grade 12 Summer Reading Assignments- The district is addressing the issues that occurred over this past summer. The reading assignments will be assigned to the course the student is taking in the fall semester. 3. Revamp of the 12th Grade English- in the 17/18 school year the district will no longer offer 12A and 12B. There will be a College writing class, Public Speaking, Research Skills, College Prep Writing class (there are 100 enrolled already and in the spring this will be offered to juniors. 4. Middle School Math--Professional Development training is set up to start in March with great strategies. There will be no change yet from the 1.5 period structure this should eventually change. Students at WLMS were not going to the lunch extra help--so now they are looking into push-ins in the middle school. 5. Benchmarks vs Midterms- the committee discussed the possibility of bringing back blocked midterm time in the secondary schools. Our next meeting is scheduled for 3/23/17.

**Food Service:** No official report, but Patty Genco advised that the Wisdom oven broke down. The purchased a new oven, which also then broke down. This new oven was then replaced with a new electric oven. Patty expressed concern to the Food Service Committee that in the event of a power outage, an electric oven would not function and posed the question of how will they feed the students. Committee will look further into the problem and take appropriate actions.

**Health, Safety & Environment:** No report—committee hasn’t met yet.

**Levittown Community Coalition:** No report.

**Wellness:** Meeting next week.

**Unfinished Business:** Kathy Reilly audited February books and all was found to be in order.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Executive Board Members that were present conducted a ballot vote for the Nominating Committee members. Results resulted in the following committee members: Executive members--Betsy Baquet, Linda Pereira, Dayna Fereiro (Alternate—Stephanie Gannon). General members—Susan Massoni, Barbara Huckstadt (Alternate—Marianne Britton).

Minutes prepared by Betsy Baquet