

Yorktown District PTSA Council Minutes

Date: 9/11/07

Minute-Taker: Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch

Attendance: Justine Amarosa, Adriana Beaudreault, Nancy Calicchia, Karen Corrado, Miriam Curtin, Tricy Cushner, Geri Del Priore, Debra Georger, Terri Hunt, Lili Kasdan, Natalie Mariuzza, Cheryl Reynolds, Lisa Rolle, Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch, Linette Sanfardino, Laura Tolli, Coleen Walsh, Jennifer Weitman

Called to Order: 9:40 am by Tricy Cushner

Minutes: June minutes were already approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tricy has \$6800 check from District for PAKT reimbursement.

Committee Report: Appointment of Committee Chairs by Executive Board:

Wellness: Christine Kelly-Edelman

Health and Safety: Geri Del Priore

Website: Lisa Rolle

Note: Adrian asked why we can't improve appearance of the website-should send email to Lisa

Communication/ Public Relations: Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch

Playground: Debra Georger

Note: This will involve Mohansic, Crompond and Brookside since there are issues involving the big toys. French Hill can also be involved. If anyone is interested in participating, let Debra know.

School Board Communication: Miriam Curtin

District Council Service Awards: Nancy Calicchia

Old Business:

By-laws had been approved but never signed. It was decided to re-approve today. By-laws were passed around for review. No changes were made in the past two years. Tricy made motion to approve by-laws; seconded by Nancy. By-laws were approved and signed off on.

New Business:

*Unit Slate Reports (address and phone numbers) from each building should go to Elaine Cariello at ecariello@yorktown.org.

*ASAP-Insurance certificates should go to Trish Harris, Yorktown Central School District, Bldg. B, 2729 Crompond Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. (Fax) 962-1748 (Phone) 243-5658. Certificates should have been sent to PTA presidents.

*Procedures to address/resolve concerns: We want to make sure we know how to communicate with parents and the community. For example, if there are flyers someone wants to distribute, they should be brought to district PTSA to support or not. They must also go to Dr. Napolitano and building principals for approval. Wellness issues should be taken to the building wellness rep and nurse who will take it to the wellness district committee. There also are log books for dangerous issues at each building which can be checked to see if issue is addressed. Tricy reminded the PTSA that these meetings are to determine whether the process is working, not to debate the actual issues. Tricy asked that the District PTSA email list be added to each building's PTA minutes so we can review minutes before meetings.

*Response to Attempted Child Abduction: Dr. Napolitano met with family. Many are working to ensure that the family knows they are being supported by the school community.

“Community Service/Buddy Walk: Terri Hunt informed us that a committee of parents and teachers are planning a Buddy Walk to increase awareness of children with disabilities and of all children. The event will have a carnival-like atmosphere with a focus on activities. It is scheduled for October 21st at FDR Park. It is sponsored by YAC and WARC. Terri to email copy of flyer to PTSA members. The flyer will be distributed to all buildings. when approved. While this is not an official school event, it should be a positive experience for all. The administration and teachers are being encouraged to attend. Motion to endorse Buddy Walk was made (Adriana) and seconded by Colleen. Motion was approved.

Colleen offered to approach the Girl Scouts to help at the walk.

BOE Report: Karen Corrado

Wellness Policy-there are many pros and cons. Changes have generally been seen as positive by parents and children at the elementary level. There are still issues at the HS; for example, water is more expensive there. There are concerns about the price increases. However, the food is now healthier (organic, no Trans fats, no additives) and the price hasn't increased in ten years. There will be a meeting this week to go over the menus. Complaints should be forwarded to the main office of each building and will go to Elaine Goodwin, policy chair.

EXCEL Aid: Money is being distributed to each school district to be used for existing bond or for new projects. The amount allocated to Yorktown School District is \$1.3 million which will be matched by the State Education department only if the money is used for new projects. The money must be used for Health and Safety, Education and Curriculum, Technology and Infrastructure. Proposed projects include clock and POA systems in elementary schools, air conditioning in HS, playground equipment replacement (Note: Playground committee will decide big toys vs. small repairs), Life Skills classroom renovations, Technology upgrades-wiring and TV studio upgrades, and

district-wide replacement of ceilings and lights. Vote will be held on October 23rd since this concerns new items. Go to Yorktown.org and click on EXCEL link for more information. Miriam noted that Ed Ciffone is lobbying for money to be used to pay down old debt but Karen stated that would only reduce cost to taxpayer by \$8.50 per year for 15 years (based on assessment of 10,000).

Graduation for HS: It is usually held outside on July 29th with auditorium for back-up. The BOE looked into alternative rain-dates vs. Purchase College (Still can only get 4-6 tickets/family) vs. City Center (can't get dates). Students and parents were polled and it was proposed to move graduation to 6/22 with 6/29 as back-up. The official decision is with the HS.

Philosophical Discussions: The BOE met to discuss the philosophical direction they're seeking concerning a number of issues including field usage, modified sports, Destination Imagination, Gifted and Talented programs, and building maintenance.

Lili Kasdan raised question of whether BOE knows who to approach in the media. Karen mentioned the new Director of Communications, Leo Sposato. He will be responsible for coordinating media outreach, community newsletters, and other communication initiatives. Contact him at 243-7741 and at LSposato@yorktown.org.

Other Items:

-Lili handed out PR/Publicity information to rep from each building, Theresa, Tricy, Terri and Karen. She also mentioned the following tips: make sure you don't photograph child whose parents refused permission (MESMS requires that approval be signed each time), try not to schedule events you want covered on Wednesday since North County News won't send out reporter, any press releases should identify no more than three main points, try to make your story part of larger issue for the community. Add Justine to PR committee since she has news director contact (Jim Driscoll). If you have any questions you can email Lili at dlkasdan@optonline.net.

-Tricy polled reps from each building as to questions/concerns:

HS-needs insurance certificate

MESMS-beautification of courtyard. Miriam mentioned that the HS courtyard will be beautified. Maybe MESMS beautification could be piggybacked into EXCEL.

Crompond-needs insurance certificate.

Next Meeting is October 2, 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.