

Yorktown District PTSA Council Minutes

Date: 11/13/07

Submitted by: Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch

Attendance: Justine Amarosa, Nancy Calicchia, Roseann Consolo, Miriam Curtin, Tricy Cushner, Debra Georger, Christie Kelly-Edelman, Natalie Mariuzza, Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch, Jennifer Weitman
Called to Order: 9: 45 am by Tricy Cushner

Minutes: Correction to October minutes – Dr. Napolitano will contact principals regarding teachers joining PTA, not Karen Corrado.

Motion made to approve October minutes: seconded and approved. (Natalie/Miriam)

Treasurer's Report: Budget total-\$8864. All PTA's need to submit \$150 membership dues by/at next meeting which goes to District PTSA (\$100 from SEPTA).

Committee Reports:

Wellness Committee: the district wellness committee has broken into a number of subcommittees that will meet independently and come together as a district committee several times per year to coordinate. Subcommittee examples include menu (what to offer, how often) fitness, staff, parent and student development, wellness fair.

Health and Safety Program Delivery: works with principals on issues that cross more than one school. Discussed MRSA and measures being taken to prevent spread of infection.

Note: Miriam suggested that health and safety link be added to district website. All committees should eventually have links on website.

Website Committee: Everyone needs to be sure that list of PTA officers are updated on website. Minutes should also be included even if they are unapproved-just note it. Info should be sent to Lisa Rolle who will forward to Elise Davis (Webmaster).

Note: Theresa to update PTSA contact list incorporating email addresses.

Communications/Public Relations: If you have anything to reach out to the community, contact Theresa/Tricy. Note: Leo can put together shows for Channel 18. Miriam suggested adding the good news items that the children present at BOE meetings to website. Press releases should come from bldg PR persons with cc to Leo Sposato.

Theresa to copy Lili Kasdan's PR notes to Christine.

Playground Committee: waiting for info from Physical Activity Committee. Will know more after tomorrow. Need to ensure equity between schools.

School Board Committee: No report

District Council Service Award: Nancy will get letter to principals to be on lookout for eligible students who have helped out others in school.

Note: Miriam suggested that if anyone needs volunteers, they should contact the Guidance department at the HS since students need community service hours. It should be the PTA's role to support and encourage student participation in community service roles.

UNIT Reports:

SEPTA: No Nov. Meeting.

Martin Kutscher will be speaking at the Dec. 5th meeting. He is an ADD expert who will discuss helping children to organize executive functions. The meeting is at the HS at 7:30 on 12/5. Info about the meeting should be added to the front page of the district website. If anyone has questions about speakers from previous years, email Gail Chen (tpubpgzm@aol.com).

HS: very low attendance at the last PTA meeting. Held college conference and financial aid nights.

MESMS: no Oct. minutes yet.

It was suggested that PTA's send newsletters like the Mohansic Monarch.

Brookside: smart boards were permanently mounted. There is one board per 2 classes which they share. The PTA paid for them: one came from French Hill.

This raised a discussion of the larger issue of the role of the PTA. The PTA's role is being re-evaluated district wide and includes administrative staff. We can only solicit money for programs for the students. We should not be paying for equipment. We need to re-examine thoughtful fundraising. There are guidelines in the PTA resource books. For example, for each fundraiser, we should fund three programs. PTAs should never make a profit beyond their programs. We should not be sponsoring events that we are not willing to subsidize those families that cannot pay.

Examples: The Rainbow committee cannot raise money or give cash but can provide food to families in need. End of the year gifts must be minimal. We can't bring in \$6000 speakers. Library book donations are acceptable, not textbooks. PTAs can't pay for transportation but can defray entrance costs for field trips. We also can't pay for chaperones.

We need to review the green, yellow and red light activities in the PTA resource book

All PTA presidents need to review guidelines and present to the rest of the PTA members.. Christine will point out salient pages to make this task easier.

Another positive result will be that volunteers will not be burnt out by fundraising but will enjoy participating in programs that directly benefit students.

The Foundation for Excellence is the place to raise funds for equipment. They have to get BOE approval for donations.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 am

After school activities briefly discussed after meeting. Philosophy regarding after school activities also needs to be reevaluated.