

Yorktown District PTSA Council Minutes

Date: 12/4/07

Submitted by: Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch

Attendance: Justine Amarosa, Nancy Calicchia, Roseann Consolo, Karen Corrado, Miriam Curtin, Tricy Cushner, Dr. Klein, Dr. Napolitano, Florence O'Connor, Theresa Ryan-Onatzevitch, Linette Sanfardino, Colleen Walsh, Jennifer Weitman, Enza Woska

Called to Order: 9:40 am by T. Cushner

Minutes: November minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: no report

Committee Reports:

Wellness: Laura Tolosi is the new wellness coordinator. C. Walsh attended wellness conference. Parents are no longer helping with lunch at the elementary schools. IAs are in the cafeterias. It is a building issue. There are also security issues. Maybe the IAs can be redirected to provide more supervision to increase compliance with eating.

Students are cleaning tables at Crompond and Mohansic. Should be using spray bottles. Bring to shared decision making council at each building to clarify procedures and process.

Board Meeting: 12/3 (M. Curtin) Modified sports presentation. 7th and 8th graders can play; kids don't get cut. BOE supports it. Modified hockey is parent funded. Destination Imagination has \$22K budget; need \$25K more. It is hard to estimate because amount you need depends on success of teams. They have done very well in the past. Coaches are paid by stipend but details need to be worked out. Will be discussed in Jan or February at BOE meeting. Issues are similar for sports:

How are coaches chosen? Code of Conduct? Longevity?

It was noted that this is a great opportunity to go to the BOE to advocate for DI.

Promotion and Retention of students was examined. Will tie in to Guidance to make sure parents know students may be in danger of failing.

RTI was discussed (Response to Intervention): part of no child left behind. It is a quick assessment to determine if early intervention is needed in early grades. There are three tiers of intervention

1. Classroom: targeted instruction
2. pullout with specialist
3. special education

This is already being done but is now being formalized. Dynamics of Early Literacy K-2: identifying students at low, mid, high risk of not doing well in ELA. Laurie Strong was the trainer. It's a K-12 initiative but we are starting in the younger grades.

MESMS already has structure in place. Some is HS but are working on implementing throughout. Teachers and principals are very involved and positive. Training will be ongoing. Please mention at PTA meetings so parents know this is being done. It is practical to do early before students are aware they are having difficulties. Can also prevent future discipline problems before kids get caught in failure loop. There is also the benefit of communicating problems before students are classified which frees up special ed resources for students who really need it.

Good News: Grace Foundation. Cecil and Boo Grace are investing \$125K at MESMS to help kids develop good character by forwarding positive role model.

Winter Concerts are coming up. Remember that groups are available to perform at other venues. Music department is fabulous and very willing to do so.

SEPTA: meeting tomorrow at HS- Kutcher will speak.

Dr. Napolitano: supervising and observing new teachers, and is very pleased. Also looking at those up for tenure. The principal search committee is meeting. It is a huge process and involves principals, teachers and parents.

Dr. Napolitano's contract has been extended for a total of 4.5 years.

First newsletter will be arriving in the mail soon-will try for 4 times per year.

Web page changes should now go through L. Sposato.

T. Cushner offered congrats to BOE in appreciation of review of philosophical commitment to programs.

PTA should be working to learn how to tap into grants and foundations. Dr. Klein: best way to get foundation resources is to utilize parents. Some PTAs survey parents re: matching \$ or foundations. We might even have parents in our community who work as fundraisers.

Some local businesses include Readers Digest, Carvel, Pepsi, and IBM. T. Cushner is working with T. Cole to find out how we can approach. There is a foundation library (may cost \$25 to access) but someone has to go through it and see what criteria we could meet. McDonald's foundation is willing to help; Panera's provided coffee/cake for SEPTA meeting. Teachers should also be on this fundraising committee.

It was noted that in the past there was an issue with taking gifts from corporate sponsors with or without advertising signs. BOE is looking at guidelines.

PTA leadership training: If there is a real need, training could be arranged but the info is in the PTA resource book. If anyone doesn't have it, T. Cushner can email.

Forms were provided to register PTAs for raffles. These should be passed along to PTSA presidents. The point of registering is to protect the community. It is done through the town clerk. We should compare district PTA policy with district policy.

Gifted/Talented issue will be reviewed by the board in February (check website to verify date). A meeting with Florence O'Connor was recommended-open Q & A. Look into GT task force regarding parent representation (T. Ryan-O).

After-school activities: All four elementary schools to apprise district PTSA of current status. Will it be done in the spring?

It was suggested that all PTA minutes not use names of participants-perhaps just first initial and last names.

Question of PTA doing defensive driving in HS-ask Ms. O'Connor.

Meeting Adjourned