

Minutes for
Tappan Zee High School PTSA Meeting
TZHS Library - May 12, 2011

1. Call to Order - 7:35pm

2. Approval of Minutes

1st Motion -Amy Appell; 2nd Motion - Kathy Mart. Vote: Approved.

3. Principal's Report

- Honors 9th gr-de placement. Involved process including 1). Review of Recommendations, 2). ELA & State Assessment Exam Scores, 3). Entrance Exam. Acceptance for 11-12:
English: 90 applications - 56 Accepted, in two sections
Biology: Over 50 applications - 28 Accepted, in one section
History: _ applications - _ Accepted, in three sections.
Each year the honors group depends on pool of applicants, space, etc.
Acceptances and denials went out together after spring break. (Other notification letters for course selection to 10th - 11th graders went out before break.
- Principal Amos wants feedback on how honors process worked?
Response from Judy Hurban with relation to special ed students is - that often Annual Reviews are not complete by the time evaluations for honors classes are being done. So language in letter should be adjusted to say something like acceptance "pending"; or "currently being evaluated"; or "You have met the criteria for honors, decision pending review of annual review.". Feedback wanted from score of honors test before class schedules.
- Applied Music - Students who are eligible need to have taken music lessons for more than one year. How do students know about this option? - It is on the course selection sheet, it is in the curriculum guide and music teachers know about the option. However, if you are a student NOT currently in the music program, you may not know it is an option. Suggestion: Place the option in the "outside-credit" section of the curriculum guide with community service, driver's ed, etc.
- Old business: Principal Amos spoke to librarian regarding last PTA meeting's discussion about library being closed for various reasons. School recently formed a "Redesign" committee. They are looking at other county libraries in county and took photos. Trying to create isolated classroom space, redesign with quiet study space, group study space. Librarian to set up a "wiki-space" to ask for suggestions. 3 students to be on committee. However for the moment, can we try to address overflow of students when library closed - suggestion: Can a teacher be placed in a class for overflow?
- Parent asked: are there blocks on the school computers? Is Facebook blocked? Principal Amos reported that there ARE blocks, however students find ways around them. There are program searches on computers to detect offenders, and if found students are disciplined. One suggestion to limit using banned media during school hours is for parents to have texting turned off during school hours.
- Discussion on Science Research course from SUNY Albany. It is for 3 years (soph yr to senior yr). 10 students were in it this year. Only 7 for next year - so class is not being held next year. Some say it is a lot of work, and feeling was that the teacher was not "vested" in it.
- Thank you for the Teacher Appreciation breakfast. PTA received some e-mail thank you's and some written thank yous from teachers and guidance.

4. Assistant Principal

- Ms. Silverman gave out a list of upcoming dates for rest of the year.
- Geometry regents is during moving up. Ensure the exam is not on the side of the school that they will be distracted by the band.
- Test packet to come out in the next two weeks. Will be posted on-line and sent home.
- Question about drinking on the Europe trips. Advisors were questioned. They did not see it happening. Were students asked to sign any code of conduct? A: The Spanish trip was required to sign something.
- Bullying Conference to be given at Rockland BOCES on May 31st. Open to all interested.

5. President's Report

Vote for 2011-12TZHSPTSA Slate:

- o Trish Bakker & Mary Paul- Co-Presidents
- Amy Appell- *Vice President*
- Connie Carroll- Vice President
- Kathy Mary - Treasurer
- Open - Recording Secretary
- Laura Neuendorf - Corresponding Secretary

Motion to Vote to approve the slate as presented: Made by Jane Casey Seconded: Amy Appel
Vote: Unanimous approval

6. TZHS Athletic Hall of Fame

Denise Jensen has been nominated to receive a TZHS Sports Hall of Fame award. Liam Frawley asked if TZHS PTSA would sponsor the plaque for a donation of \$300. Motion made to pay for the plaque: 1st: Mary Paul, Seconded: Laura Neuendorf. Vote: Unanimously accepted.

7. Budget Vote:

Anyone who has signs, please put them up. Mary Paul has extras that can be picked up from her house if anyone wants to post one on their lawn.

8. Council Postcard Approval

TZHS PTSA gave approval for the message on the reminder postcard to vote on May 17th.

9. Health & Safety

- Tornado warnings were taken very seriously recently at schools all across Rockland County, due to the severity of tornados across the country.
- Does the district have a policy about cleaning (disinfecting) sporting equipment in gym.?

10. Senior Car Wash

Seniors made \$261. at car wash

11. Project Graduation

- Town of Orange town making \$1,500 donation this year. However, have made note that they may not be able to donate anything at all next year.
- Verizon: They would donate in accordance with how many hours Denise Jensen would work through a volunteer program. Does anyone know anything or anyone that can get the same benefit from Verizon?
SOMS PTA to lend TZHS PTSA gaming stations for event.
- Committee needs white paper and projectors for the wall.
- Committee considering purchase of an X-box or Play station game in memory of Denise Jensen. Discussion to come.
- Discussion of Senior parents working event. Yes, there are senior parents that will be there, however they are parents that are, and have been actively working on the committee, or are the chairs of the committee and need to be present for the evening to function properly. If there is any question on a senior parent being allowed to attend they should address the Chairperson of the event - Nicole Glazer.

12. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, ~ "IP \. \

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