

Minutes for  
Tappan Zee High School PTSA Meeting  
TZHS Library - December 5, 2011

1. Call to Order - 7:20pm

2. Principal's Report

Principal Amos discussed the change in Teacher's office hours. Moving forward, office hours are not going to be scheduled for a specific hour and/or day. Office hours are at discretion of the teacher. Teachers must do 6 hours each month. Can encompass Parent Meetings, student meetings, work on powerschool or extra help. Students CAN attend another teacher's office hours, however they need to talk to their teacher to find out who has office hours available. Teachers inform their hours to the students, who can relay info to parents. Parents can also e-mail teachers directly to inquire when hours being held.

Solar Car Club request to become a club is going the School Board for approval.

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

Discussion of use of laptops during school hours. Desktop stations are used first. When all desktops are being used, then laptops are pulled out to use. Students are good about signing them out. There is no alarm if they are stolen out of the library, which is infrequent, but has happened.

3. Assistant Principal

- Distributed calendar dates
- Announced Pie Sales
- Italian Honor Society induction set for tomorrow, 12/16
- National Honor Society, next Tuesday 12/13
- Choir invited to sing at Radio City Music hall on Wednesday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at the 4:45 show.
- Basketball "Tip-off" Tourney to be held at TZHS Dec 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Monday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> will be the Winter Concert. In-school concert held Fri. 12/16<sup>th</sup> during 2 periods.
- 12/23 will be an "emergency dismissal" time, 20 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time.
- Tues. 12/13 school re-opens from Holiday break.
- Mid-Terms start day following Martin Luther King break (week of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>) Regents exams to be held following week. Students taking regents will be pulled out of class for their exam(s). Exam weeks don't coincide because NYS originally was discontinuing January Regents, SOCSO announced the exam schedule, & then NYS reinstated the Regents. It was too late for SOCSO to adjust.  
English Regents will be large group - approx. 100 students. Global studies smaller - approx. 20 students.
- Next PTA meeting is 1/9 at 7pm. The Principal's chat will precede the meeting from 6-7:00pm.

4. Librarian's Presentation

Excited about Library Catalog going on-line. It is a reliable, and rich resource. It has citation tools to aid students with citing for essays. At-home passwords needed. A sheet was given out with home passwords.

On-Line Databases have much to offer: World Book @ Home.

See Hidden passwords. Hidden is "students" section.

The library is thinking of getting electronic readers. Barnes & Noble is interested in working with school district for fundraisers.

~5. Treasurer's Report

Clothing Drive total: \$536.

\$105. Added - membership

6. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved: Motion: Kathy Mart, Seconded: Denise MaGuire.

7. President's Report

- Reported some Thank you cards that were received from staff for the "Welcome Back Breakfast" held on Supt. Conference Day.
- Proposed' 12-'13 Calendar given out. It is on the website also. Shortened Feb break next year. Discussion of multiple Supt. Conference Days each year. This led into discussion of Staff Development: requires 35 hours per year. Per staff member 175 hours in 5 years. Variety of ways to get it.
- Dr. Mitchell President's meeting. Supt's Meeting to see implications.
- Next meeting 12/21 - Liam Frawley to attend. Any issues. Heroes/Cool Kids - discussion as to why repeat kids in program need additional training if they already had it last year?
- Scholarship meeting - Thursday at 7:30. New committee members.
- Reflections Program now over - judging was last week. Award ceremony to be held at "We the People" since the theme this year was "Diversity". It will also showcase the "Reflections" program to people that may not have been exposed to it previously. Not many entries at all this year. Suggestion: Give teacher's the theme early in the year to give them a chance to include it in their curriculum. Strongly encourage teachers to embrace and find a way to have their students do an entry as possibly an assignment for their classwork.
- Membership: No new members this month. Total 189. Cards given out. "Just Between Friends" e-ma will be generated to NYS PTA members. It will ask the member if they want to join, which will create points and generate funds to individual PTA unit.
- The District Health & Safety committee needs a High School Representative.
- Project Grad - 1st Student meeting on Dec. 14th. T-Shirt contest in March.
- BLT: 10:45am at SOMS
- Need a nominating Committee Founder's Day.
- District Survey is on-line. Please take the time to fill it out.

Parent Comments

- Would like teachers to devote time to teach kids **how** to study. Talk to students about how to start and work in Study Groups. Teach specific study skills, i.e., study cards; highlighting text, etc. Also would like teachers to instruct on **how to take tests**.

Adjourn

Next meeting: January 9, **WV** ~1 1.....