

Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
October 21, 2013

1. Call to Order 7:30pm
2. **Introductions**
3. **Welcome** - Communication is a priority for us. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.
4. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Maureen Aitchison, Anne Schlinck, Tricia McGee, Denise Maguire, Bonnie Bello, Mary Paul, Mary Ryker, Ellen Galanter, Kathy Dellacava, Marta Rodriguez, Terri Dexter, Cindy Yee, Colleen Meehan, Amy Appell, Janet Dayson, Jennifer Amos, Marcia Murray, Nicole Glazer, Jeannie Dennehy
5. **Principal's Report** by Dr. Amos:
 - 9th Grade Orientation
 - Peer Leader Tours
 - Code of Conduct expectation discusses with each grade level.
 - There was a good turnout at Meet the Teacher
 - Guidance Workshop – Junior and Senior classes will attend
 - PSAT (11th) & PLAN (10th) were on 10/16/13
 - Senior Picnic – They had fun.
 - Keith Elias, running back for NY Giant was a guest speaker. Powerful message of making good choices and being aware of the influence of friends.
 - Freshman - Learner Sketch – Learner profiles were built for each Freshman. Goal is to show teachers and students the best way to learn.
 - Homecoming – Theme was “Magic Paradise”. Very high attendance - 525 students.
 - Later Start Time – Students are more awake & alert. The number of students attending school on time has increased.
 - Morning drop off is still problematic. Dr. Amos will re-address the procedure.
 - Junior Parking – There are only 15 spaces available to juniors. Dr. Amos will have a hardship committee to determine how to assign the remaining spots.
6. **Assistant Principal** Marcia Murray was introduced. She comes to South Orangetown from Nassau County. She was a social studies teacher and school administrator for over 13 year. Ms. Murray advised of the upcoming events:
 - 10/23 RCC College Night
 - 10/24 College Information Night
 - 11/6 Leo Club - Make Difference Rockland (Volunteer Opportunities in Rockland)
 - Volunteer Hours = Credit – If a student has 50 hours = ½ credit and 100 hours = 1 credit. (Elective Credit)
 - 11/6 Blood Drive
 - 11/8 1st Quarter Ends
 - 11/8 & 11/9 – Fall Play
 - 11/12 – Sports Banquet (Varsity Dinner)
 - 11/12 – 11/15 – Senior Portrait
 - General discussion on recent fights. It appears there were a few isolated incidents. Things have calmed down.

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7. **Treasurer's Report** – Cindy Yee

- No changes
- Motion to approve by Cindy Yee with a second by Colleen Meehan. All Approved

8. **Approval of Minutes**

- Mary Ryker made a motion to approve the June minutes with a second by Denise Maguire. All approved.

9. **Vice President's Report** – Maureen Aitchison

- Reflections submissions are due on November 11th. The theme is Believe, Dream and Inspire. Need more publicity for this event.
- Dr. Mitchell Meeting -
 - His recommendation is to repurpose TZE. During transition period 1st will stay at WOS and 2nd will stay at TZE. In Sept of 2015 there would be a K-2 school (WOS) and a 3-5 school. (CL)
 - In September of 2015 the anticipated start times will be 8:15am for the Middle and High Schools and 9:20am for WOS and Cottage Lane.
- NY Education Commission, John King, has cancelled immediate PTA forums on the common core curriculum and teacher evaluation system after a disruptive experience at an October 10th Poughkeepsie event. There should be further meetings scheduled in November. For your reference (and not a part of the minutes), here is a copy of a statement by King and the PTA.
 - "In light of the clear intention of these special interest groups to continue to manipulate the forum, the PTA-sponsored events scheduled have been suspended," King said in the statement. "My office will continue to work with PTA to find the appropriate opportunities to engage in a real, productive dialogue with parents about our students and their education."
 - The state P.T.A. said in a statement Tuesday that the group intended to facilitate a respectful dialogue, and expressed disappointment that the meeting ended up as a "hostile environment."

10. *Committee Reports:*

- **Membership** – Mary Paul advises we have surpassed last year. 105 parents, 44 students and 6 teachers plus an additional 28 members via PayPal and approximately 20 in the PTA mailbox not yet counted.
- **PTA Council** – The first meeting was October 7th Discussion included National PTA Slate, Space Utilization, Increasing Membership, Founders Day (2/25/14) – start thinking of nominees, Space Mission Competition - sending an experiment into space, SEPTA dissolved, bullying and cyber-bullying.
- **Fundraising** – No Report –
 - No Chair – need to fill
 - Stop & Shop Fundraiser - get residents to sign up
 - Discuss Antique Road Show at next meeting
- **Health & Safety** – No Report

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- **Health & Wellness** – No Report
- **Scholarship** – No Report
- **Curriculum Council** - No Report
- **BLT:**– Senior elective – Women Gender Studies in American Society. There was a discussion on the timeline for the college preparation process. A recommendation was made to start the process earlier for both parents and students. A student Volunteer form is being put together that will track all of the students volunteer hours.
- **Founders Day** – No Report
- **Technology Committee** – No Report
- **BLT** – No Report
- **Project Graduation** – Nicole Glazer provided updates on Project Graduation. 240 students attended which is an 80% participation rate. The graduates enjoyed a comedian, foosball, food, chocolate fountain, breakfast, raffles and prizes. Fundraising was highly successful. A thank you to South Orangetown Education Foundation and AllState for their support of Project Graduation. Mary Paul will co-chair the next Project Graduation. The date for 2014 is June 26th. Help will be needed for the 12am to 3pm shift.
- **Nominating Committee** – No Report

11. Old Business –

- Executive committee met to review the updated by-laws. No changes other than the quorum from 2 to 3 and \$5 Student PTSA membership charge.
- Bonnie Bello made a motion to accept and seconded by Amy Appell. All approved

12. New Business

- Parents at the High School are looking for information on Problem Based Learning. The PTA will look into having someone attend the December meeting that could speak about this topic.

Motion to Adjourn, 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannie Dennehy