

Minutes from TZHS PTSA Meeting
February 5, 2015

- Meeting called to order: 8:03 pm
- In attendance: Maureen Aitchison, Joey Gottlieb, Qiong Li, Dr. Jennifer Amos, Christine Cusack, Jennifer Sullivan, Colleen Meehan, Kathy Mart, Lisa Jacobs, Jeannie Dennehy, Theresa Costello, Mary Paul, and Barbara Sullivan.
- Open the floor to 8th grade parents – Questions or concerns for administration/parents – One 8th grade parent felt the 8th grade orientation was well done. She felt the presentation was to discourage students from taking honors classes. Dr. Amos said the presentation was to help individuals make informed decisions about taking honors classes and not to discourage them. Dr. Amos also stated the team leaders advised parents if your child isn't at the honors level they could work up to the honors and AP level. Another 8th grade parent stated her child was overwhelmed from the 8th grade orientation. This parent already has another child in the high school so they have some prior knowledge of classes. They commented that in the middle school the students choose their own classes. Dr. Amos advised parents that the 8th grade teaching teams at SOMS review the list of regents and honors classes for each student and gives input.
- Principal's Report (Dr. Amos)
 - Dr. Amos said the presentation was to help individuals make informed decisions about taking honors classes and not to discourage them. Dr. Amos also stated the team leaders advised parents if your child isn't at the honors level they could work up to the honors and AP level. Dr. Amos advised parents that the 8th grade teaching teams At SOMS review the lists of regents and honors classes for each student and gives input.
 - A parent asked what the weighted percentage for certain classes was Dr. Amos advised regents are 3%, honors are 5% and AP is 10%.
 - Mid-term week was scheduled for Mon., Jan. 26th– Thurs., Jan. 29th, but due to weather it was extended. The regents exams that were scheduled for Monday, 1/26 and Tuesday, 1/27 were administered on an alternate day (approval was given to administer on a different day). Last midterm exams were administered on Tuesday for about forty students.
 - There was some discussion that a few parents felt too much instructional time is lost during the scheduled days off for midterms. A parent stated that some schools have done away with midterms and wanted to know the purpose of midterms. Dr. Amos stated the regents have to be done and a high school teacher said the midterm's show what the students remember long term and also have the experience of sitting for a two hour exam.
 - The Rockland Read In is scheduled for Friday, 2/13/15. Someone asked how this is done at the high school level. We were advised the teacher decides if the class will participate in the read in, English class is usually for the entire period and the other classes spends the first 10-15 reading. Each teacher will record the amount of time reading. It was also mentioned this was too much of non instructional time.

- Treasurer's Report – Barbara
 - Council dues need to be submitted in the amount of \$700. Anne has some membership checks and Gale has some Yankee candle checks.

- Acceptance of December and January minutes.
 - December minutes – motion made by Maureen Aitchison 2nd by Jeannie Dennehy and Barbara Sullivan.
 - January minutes – motion made by Maureen Aitchison 2nd by Theresa Costello and Mary Paul.

- President's Report – Maureen Aitchison
 - CHR winter conference is 2/11 at Suffern Middle School 6:00 pm, the cost is covered by the PTSA. Regional PTA Board meeting is Monday 3/2 at Suffern library 7:00 pm. Food Allergy workshop is 3/1 at Hommock Middle School in Larchmont. Staff appreciation is 5/5/15 – a coordinator is needed – Mary Paul volunteered for this position. Maureen provided Mary with a list of volunteer bakers and set up/clean up volunteers. Lisa Jacobs volunteered to help with the clean up.
 - Maureen provided a revised 2015/2016 school calendar.
 - 8th grade orientation went well. Obtained 7 emails from 8th grade parents interested in the high school PTSA. All 8th grade parents were invited to attend the PTSA meeting tonight.

- Committee Reports:
 - Project Graduation – Had a meeting with 7/8 students at the meeting they discussed the first six choices of the entertainment for the night. Letters go out next week to the community and businesses for fundraising. Designs for the tee shirt are being accepted. There is no size restriction for the design, but project grad and school is wanted on the shirt. You can't use any licensed characters on the shirt. Needs volunteers for upcoming fundraisers. Call Nicole at 845-641-1054 or email her at projectgrad@tzhsptsa.org
 - Membership – Anne Schlinck
 - Fundraising - Gale Henry Flynn – Has check for Yankee candle. Yankee game tickets orders begin 2/27; game date is 4/24/15. Flyer will be posted.
 - Red & White Club – Mary Paul –
 - PTA Council- Theresa Costello – February meeting was cancelled. Founder's Day – has three recipients and no nominee for the high school. We the People is scheduled for March 8th at SOMS from 11-2 – Vicki Caramante is heading it for this year, STEAM Expo takes place on march 24th at TZHS from 6:00-8:00 pm and STEM is being rescheduled. Next meeting is January 12th. Looking for We the People and STEAM Expo volunteers. Please let us know if there are any topics you would like to see addressed.
 - Reflections –
 - Scholarship – The Dance festivals are taking place March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at TZHS gym. Need coordinator to contact those who volunteered to sell water.

- Wellness –
- Curriculum Council – Qiong Li – Mr. Rotjan, Mr. Rossi and Mr. Yassky attended the curriculum council meeting to present the plan of extending the instrument program to the incoming 3rd grade students at Cottage Lane. Mr. Rotjan presented the benefits of having students start with instrumental music at a young age. He showed a video explaining how playing instruments help students with their brain development. There will be 243 3rd grade students. Juliet Gevargis, the assistant principal presented the new courses that will be offered at the high school – Oceanography, Explorations in Advanced Computer Programming, Intro to Gaming and Advanced Sculpture. All the courses are approved to be scheduled and are on the course option sheet. Next meeting is 2/12/15 4:00-5:30 at SOMS.
- BLT – Maureen Aitchison – Met on January 20th. George Brady presented technology plan for Chrome book initiative, as well as integrating. A survey for the students on how they are using the Chrome books. Not all the 9th graders want to carry the Chrome book around. 240 out 280 students picked up their Chrome book. It was mentioned English and Social Studies use the Chrome books a lot in class, Math doesn't use, and Science may use a little bit.
- Technology – Joey Gottlieb – The Chrome books go on quickly. Login to their gmail accounts. Even when the students are using the Chrome books at home it runs off the school proxy. The Chrome operating system has a resilient operating system. Joey mentioned a telephone scam going around offering tech support for your computer.
- Founders Day – Jeannie Dennehy - Date is February 24, 2015. Reservations for Founder's Day are due next Friday. Raffle tickets are available. TZHS had no nomination. Council is honoring Mary Paul, SOMS is honoring Mike Ryan and SOCES is honoring Willy Sullivan.
- Nominating Committee – Volunteers
- Old Business – 8th Grade Orientation took place February 3rd. Thank you to Kathy Dellacava, Mary Ryker and Eileen Malora for volunteering to sit at the sign up table and set up refreshments. Drug forum will be in the spring – still working on confirming a date.
- New Business – Discuss what to use our funds for. Suggestions – PTSA sign and sound system improvements for the auditorium – Joey Gottlieb volunteered to look at the system. Mary Paul made a motion to use the money for a sign for the PTSA – Colleen Meehan second.
- Positions needed for next year – corresponding secretary and membership.

Next meeting is March 19, 2015 at 7:30 pm in the HS library. Budget presentation by the Superintendent Mr. LeFevre is tentatively scheduled.

○ Meeting adjourned: 9:26 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Sullivan

