

Minutes from TZHS PTSA Meeting
October 29, 2015

- Meeting called to order: 7:35 pm

In attendance: Jennifer Amos, Rich Neidhart, Maureen Aitchison, Jennifer Sullivan, Ellen Galanter, Kathy Dellacava, Christine Brew-Mitchell, Christine Cusack, Barbara Sullivan, Kathy Mart, Sherese Loblanco, Qiong Li, Rosemary Pitruzella, Lisa Jacobs, Sharon Burke, Vicki Caramante, Rosemarie Cunningham, Gina Harris, Marybeth Shanley, Annemarie Uhl, Tricia McGee, Helena Bardusco

- Principal's Report (Dr. Jennifer Amos)
 - Upcoming student support groups at the HS. Students can attend during their lunch, open period or study hall during periods 5, 6 & 7 in room 112 on the following days Nov. 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th and 12th. An email went out about this today.
 - The high school presents at the BOE meeting – topic – respectful learning environment.
 - Guest speakers for grades 9th-12th.
- Assistant Principal's Report (Rich Neidhart)
 - Spirit week Oct. 26th- 30th going well.
 - The guidance department had workshops.
 - Acoustic underground - Oct. 9th was well attended.
 - Fall play November 6th and 7th.
 - Financial aid evening 7:00 p.m. TZHS cafeteria.
 - Parent/Teacher conferences 11/13 at 12:30-2:30 and 11/17 at 6-8 p.m... Sign up will be done on-lin. Conferences are five minutes per teacher.
 - TZHS Thanksgiving concert November 18^t at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.
- Treasurer's Report – Barbara Sullivan
 - Audit was October 8, 2015 it went well. The audit covered the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.
 - Balance on hand \$23,054.24
 - Total outstanding checks \$4,937.72
- Acceptance of June's minutes – Tricia McGee made motion to approve June's minutes and Dr. Amos second the motion.
- President's Report – Maureen Aitchison
 - Thank you to the Project Graduation committee for their outstanding work. Nicole Glazer and Mary Paul have sent a thank you – Maureen provided a copy. There was a great turn out at Project Graduation. They have already started planning for 2016. The first student meeting is in December.

- At the 2015 senior awards presentation, the PTSA awarded ten scholarships in the amount of \$350, thank you to Kathy Dellacava and Dawn Haughey for their dedication to this committee. Maureen has received thank you notes from the students.
- Meeting dates for 2015-2016 are 12/10/15, 1/7/16, 2/18/16, 3/17/16, 4/19/16, 5/12/16, and 6/9/16. Some of these meetings are joint with council.
- Drug panel presentation/forum – November 30, 2015, 7 p.m. in the HS library
- Maureen attended a workshop for PTSA's; these workshops are open to all members.
- Special presentation by Joanne Harpel an expert on bereavement and postvention on November 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the HS auditorium.
- Committee Reports:
 - Project Graduation – Nicole Glazer
Rescheduled the intuitive medium fundraiser for Tuesday, January 12, 2016 from 7-9 pm in the HS cafeteria.
 - Membership – Sherese Loblanco – 175 member's total – 43 students, 22 teachers, and 110 other. \$515. Was raised for fundraisers through the membership – money will be on a separate line for dues and fundraised.
 - Fundraising – Yankee candle still needs a chairperson. The baseball game fundraiser will be a Yankee/Red Sox game in May. There will be a raffle for four tickets
 - PTA Council– Theresa Costello – Council PTA met on October 5th. Important dates for council are We the People – A Multi Cultural Festival – March 12th, STEAM Expo – March 16th, Founder's Day Dinner – April 6th, Staff Appreciation Day – May 3rd., BOE Candidates Forum, if necessary – May 4th, Installations/Celebrations – June 13th, Next Council PTA meeting is Monday, November 9th. The high school has an opening for one additional rep on council.
 - Reflections – Lenora Mesibov – Deadline for submission has been extended until October 30th. The information has been posted on the PTSA website and in the daily announcements.
 - Scholarship – Dawn Haughey – will pass along volunteers indicated on membership form. The opening balance for 2016 is approximately \$700. The committee's first meeting is in January. Gather members for fundraising and judging (essay readers), select new chairperson to lead essay readers and scoring (Dawn has a senior) and plan fundraising activities (water sales, bracelet sales and donation letters).
 - Wellness – Lori Gallo - Have not met yet.
 - Curriculum Council – Qiong Li – First meeting of the school year October 15, 2015. Reviewed curriculum council procedures for 2015-2016 year.

- TZHS online Health course has been offered this year, and has been well accepted by students (28 students registered for this course). The course is designed to be start-early and end-early.
- 3rd grade instrumental music program update
 1. Cottage Lane program, was proposed in last school year. Provide early music education to 3rd graders.
 2. Assembly music program
 3. It has been started. 60% enrollment. Some TZHS students come over to tutor elementary student.
- Legislative Grant from Maker Space initiative
 1. Received about \$79,000 fund from Assembly Woman Jaffee's office for the 2015-2016 school year
 2. Fund has been allocated for budget including 3D printers. Student Space and Maker Space equipments.
 3. Reviewed the progress of Maker Space program.
- TZHS library update
 1. Renovated.
 2. Will be open after school. Integrated with Maker Space
- Curriculum maps update
 1. Reviewed the progress. Maps available for every course
 2. Enormous efforts from teachers and extensive coordination
 3. Ready to go public after minor changes
- New items
 1. Foster new environments to improve teaching and learning experience – next meeting may review the goals; everyone should be involved; survey to understand the results and efforts, etc.
 2. Discussed about annual SOSCD STEAM EXPO/Challenge
 3. Tri-State Consortium – reviewing science program
 - BLT – Maureen Aitchison –The first meeting was October 29th. Meeting dates were set and brainstormed ideas to address this year. District goal – Foster a respectful learning environment. The common core math regents, which is the final for Algebra Common Core Assessment. There is concern of negative effect on students' grade so they proposed lowering the Regents percentage from 16% to 10% of their final grade.
 - Technology – Joey Gottlieb –
- Nominating Committee – Form the committee early. Many of the current committees have students graduating June 2016.
 - Old Business – Follow up discussion from drug panel presentation. Will have a parent on the panel who is dealing with a drug problem with in their home.
 - New Business –
 - Project graduation – proposed to change the time of project graduation.
 - You can only access the portal through the website and not the portal app.

- National Honor Society – students can start accruing community service hours their freshmen year.
- Students can earn up to one high school for community service hours.
- Sharon Burke – spoke about AFS Exchange program – The agency contacts Dr. Amos when they have a student that wants to study at TZHS. A student from Japan is attending TZHS and being hosted by a family. There are scholarships available to study abroad – Japan for six weeks. AFS is looking for families to host students and TZ students also have the opportunity to study abroad. Sharon also spoke about a gap year program – after high school graduation students go abroad for a year before starting college. TZHS has three Italian students coming in January.
- Maureen is meeting monthly with Dr. Pritchard.
- Communication audit will start in December. BOCES will be assisting with the audit. Focus groups consisting of PTA, parents and staff.
- It was recommended that 9th graders are given information about the National Honor Society.
- Cassidy McGovern came in 32nd place out of 86 at the St. Charles Regatta October 18th.
- Emails sent from the PTSA will be bcc'd

Next meeting: December 10, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

- Meeting adjourned: 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Sullivan

