

Minutes from TZHS PTSA Meeting
January 7, 2016

- Meeting called to order: 7:34 pm

In attendance: Maureen Aitchison, Jennifer Sullivan, Ellen Galanter, Christine Cusack, Lori Gallo, Rosemarie Cunningham, Jennifer Amos, Rich Neidhart, Sherese Loblanco, Tricia McGee, Vicki Caramante, Qiong Li, Dawn Haughey, Eileen Malora, Jeannie Dennehy, Susan Dreiss-Carroll and Colleen Meehan

+Principal's Report (Dr. Jennifer Amos)

- PSAT course available.
- Common Core Math and English regents – Algebra common core regents – the last two years, Geometry common core regents last year, Algebra 2 common core regents will be this year and English common core regents will be this year. The weighted grade percentage has been reduced from 16% to 10%.
- The peer leaders will push into the freshmen classes on 1/8/2016 and discuss how to prepare for midterms
- Dr. Amos spoke about starting a school based team and a dedication team comprised of students, teachers, parents, psychologists and guidance counselors. How to remember individuals that the school has lost.
- Guidance will be meeting with students individually to talk about next school years schedule. The curriculum guide has all the courses. The majority of recommendations for next school years classes come from the current teacher. Some students decide to go against the teacher recommendation for classes. After guidance meets with all the students a verification report is sent home for approval.

- Assistant Principal's Report (Rich Neidhart)

- The winter concert was a great show.
- Guidance workshop – January 14, 2016 8:15 am in room 951.
- Regents and Midterm Exams – January 25th-29th. The schedule is finalized and will be posted soon.
- Information for students will be provided about testing days.
- Midterm, transportation and make up schedule will be eblasted.
- 8th grade into 9th grade student/parent orientation is scheduled for February 3, 2016 – 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Snow date is February 10, 2016 – 7:00 pm in the auditorium.

- Treasurer's Report – Barbara Sullivan – Barbara Sullivan will be stepping down as treasurer. Maureen Aitchison made the motion to nominate Ellen Galanter as Treasurer; Vicki Caramante second the motion. All were in favor.

- Acceptance of December's minutes – Tricia McGee made motion to accept December's minutes and Vicki Caramante second the motion.

- President's Report – Maureen Aitchison

- Drug follow up presentation for the spring is in the works.

- Wellcore is having a presentation – The Perfect Storm – January 20, 2016 6:30 at the Pearl River Hilton. Flyer was passed out.
 - The communications audit has not been rescheduled. Met January 5th with Superintendent, Technology and Building Principals to go over inconsistencies on the website and in communications. This will be an ongoing discussion, so if you have anything to report let Maureen know.
 - Traffic around the high school – Jeannie attended the meeting on January 5, 2016. Guy DeVincenzo (president of the board of education) attended the meeting. Jeannie attended the meeting due to a safety concern. John Lennon from Dominican College said Battan Road is a county road. It was suggested that someone contacts Rockland County Safety Board and asks for a traffic study to be done. Jeannie will call John Lennon from Dominican College to move things forward and work on things collectively with them.
 - 8th into 9th grade student/parent orientation takes place on February 3, 2016 7:00 pm – need a few volunteers to sit at the PTSA table to answer questions for parents about PTA and the HS. Refreshments will be available.
 - A parent asked if the high school has assemblies for the students, yes they do.
 - There haven't been a lot of district wide emails going out. Daily announcements have been going out by email. Everyone was subscribed for emails from power school email.
- Committee Reports:
 - Project Graduation – Nicole Glazer
Intuitive Medium Fundraiser is Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Looking for an alternative place to have the fundraiser. Tickets are \$40.00 in advance (must pay by 1/8/2016) or \$45.00 at the door. This is open to the public and is for entertainment purposes only. Flyer available. Next student meeting on February 4, 2016.
 - Membership – Sherese Loblanco – 207 total members – 25 are teachers.
 - Fundraising - Yankee game May 7, 2016 – Yankee/Red Sox tickets for Saturday, May 7, 2016 1:05 pm game. The tickets will be the same cost as they were last year – 50% off or less. The Yankee/Mets game is only offered in August. Ticket sales will start in March.
 - PTA Council- Theresa Costello – December meeting was cancelled. Important upcoming dates for cancel are We the People – A Multi Cultural Festival – March 12, 2016 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. They have about 15 countries participating so far. In order to know whether you can run the event, confirmation is needed by December 31, 2015 from any participating country. Please email your name, email, home and cell number to Vicki Caramante at mvcaramante@msn.com if you wish to participate. STEAM Expo – March 16, 2016, Founders Day Dinner – April 6, 2016, Staff Appreciation Day – May 3, 2016, BOE Candidates Forum, if necessary – May 14, 2016, Installations/Celebrations – June 13, 2016. Next council PTA meeting is January 11, 2016 – HS has an opening for one additional rep on council. Council

meeting – a speaker will talk about reducing the use of bottled water across the district – bottle filling station. Next curriculum council meeting is January 21, 2016

- Reflections – Lenora Mesibov – No report.
- Scholarship – Dawn Haughey – Meeting will be in January. Volunteer names from membership forms were sent to Dawn. Possibly 12 new committee members. Dance Festival water sales needs volunteers dates are February 29, 2016, March 1, 2016 and March 2, 2016.
- Wellness – Lori Gallo – Wellness committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 3:30-4:45 pm at the South Orangetown Middle School. Liam Frawley is head of the committee. If you have any topics you would like to see discussed, please email Lori at lori_gallo@yahoo.com.
- Curriculum Council – Qiong Li –
- BLT – Maureen Aitchison – December meeting was cancelled; next meeting is January 14, 2016.
- Technology – Joey Gottlieb – Technology Committee Meeting 10/28/2015 report. Purchases: Despite the district applying for their IPA early the state approved it 2 weeks before the start of school. This created numerous issues and delayed the deployment of the technology that was purchased (such as Chromebooks). By using the IPA the district gets ~ 40-45% back through state aid. The connections between the schools have been upgraded as well as the backbone network switching – This gives better connectivity and there is now redundancy between the data centers. The project was delayed by the electrical project at the High School; the data storage has been doubled in the school data centers; Additional 3D Printers have been purchased. Projects: The 9th and 10th grades have received their Chromebooks; The WOS media Center is being moved; the new website is fully online. The contracted webmaster abruptly resigned 2 weeks before the roll out of the new site which caused some deployment issues. They are seeking a new webmaster through BOCES. For now the district staff is “figuring it out as they go”. Please remind everyone they need to sign up for daily announcements again from the TZHS announcements page. That does not affect the emergency notifications – those are done by the building. If someone has a change the building needs to be notified of any emergency notification changes. They are adding follow me printing. The plan is to not repair the classroom printers (with some exceptions) as they break and have centralized printing in the buildings. The staff will swipe their ID at any printer and be able to get the documents. They are also doing a printing audit. Nanuet saved ~ \$50,000 a year after their audit; 1000 students 3D printed a project last year. There is an on-going discussion about going to Chromebook racks in the classroom instead of one-to-one Chromebook assignments. They are doing pilots of this in several classrooms to decide if it is worth pursuing. This may be a grade by grade decision at some point. The initial data is that equipment is better cared for when it is assigned to a room as opposed to a mobile cart that everyone gets to use.

- Professional Development - Vicki Caramante – Professional Development in December. A way to measure to see if professional development is doing what it should be – measure the outcomes and incorporate it into the plan. Use a hybrid model for elementary levels goals based instead of 1,2,3,4. An article from Stanford University – Growth mindset proves neurologically better in math – growth and fixed mindset.
- Nominating Committee – Jeannie Dennehy volunteered at the last meeting. Sherese Loblanco and Lori Gallo volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Need 4 additional volunteers. The purpose of the nomination committee is to recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected leadership of the PTA/PTSA. The nomination committee members have the responsibility of bringing forward the name of the most eligible person for each elected position. In considering which PTA members are the best qualified to serve in the officer positions, the nomination committee must evaluate each nominee fair, ethical, and impartial judgment based on the nominee’s skills, qualifications, and the level of priority and commitment in the best interest of the PTA/PTSA unit. Open positions for next year are President, 2 VP’s, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Eileen Malora and Jeannie Dennehy will do another year. Jeannie will send an email out about needing 2 more people for the nominating committee and the open positions
 - Old Business –
 - New Business –
 - Our next meeting is combined with SOCES and SOMS. Judy Flagg and a local chiropractor in for a brief discussion of backpack injuries. Additional info will follow.

Next meeting: February 18, 2016, 7:00 pm (combined with SOCES and SOMS)

- Meeting adjourned: 9:20 pm – motion made to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Sullivan