

**Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
November 18, 2013 TZHS Library**

1. Call to Order: 7:05

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. IN ATTENDANCE: Maureen Aitchison, Mary Beth Carley, Jennifer Amos, Richard Neidhart, Kathy Mart, Mary Paul, Terri Drexler, Anne Schlinck, Mary Ryker, Kathy Dellacava, Bonni Bello, Elayne Armaniaco, Cindy Yee, Nicole Armaniaco, Sharon Russo, Tricia McGee, Nicole Glazer, Ellen Galanter, Mark Berling, Rosemary Pitruzella, Joey Gottlieb, Qiong Li, Rachel Appell, Amy Appell, Becky Rasmussen, Emily Danz, Siobhan Monaghan, Nicole Papalambros, Brianna Yee, Dylan Kelly, Chris Oettinger, Danielle McIntee, Dominique McIntee, Reuben Mulholland, Mrs. Russo

4. Principal's Report Dr. Amos

-Support requested for COVE student's collection of items for victims of typhoon in the Philippines, flyers were passed.

-Stop and Shop fundraiser has been set up on the website and we're requesting that everyone with a Stop and Shop card sign up, and the money rec'd will be used for the students.

-Traffic flow has improved slightly, e-blast helped with drop off procedure

-Prom date was announced and is taking place on 6/25/14. Discussion lasting approx. one hour ensued involving students, parents, alumni, and administration about the pros and cons of the new date. Administration listened to concerns and will get back to attendees with a response.

5. Assistant Principal's Report – Mr. Neidhart

-Parent Teacher conferences will take place 12/6 from 12-2 and 12/10 from 6-8, sign ups will be online once again.

-Fall Play held two weeks ago, well attended and successful

-Make a Difference day was held on 11/6 with over 80 not for profits and entities sharing their mission and advertising student opportunities to perform community service

-Thanksgiving concert to be held 11/19/13

-Students remained on task during the fighting of the fire on Clausland Mtn. Some students and teachers took part in the emergency efforts, and the school offered a great big thank you to all.

6. Approval of October Minutes – Amend to reflect:

-Dr Mitchell's recommendation is to REPURPOSE TZE and not close it.

-Thank you to Allstate and South Orangetown Education Foundation for their support of Project Grad.

-Curriculum council had no report in October

-BLT report was mislabeled as Curriculum council report

October minutes Mary Paul motion to approve
2nd Anne Schlinck

7. Treasure's Report (Cindy Yee) – Paid NYS membership dues of \$732, and new membership monies recorded

8. Vice President's Report (Maureen Aitchison)

- Dr. Mitchell's Blog – Withdrawl from RTTT, InBloom data concerns
- Brian's new blog on curriculum and instruction, great resource for parents
- December meeting save the date, Speaker on PBL, flyers passed
- Attended principals/presidents dinner, speaker spoke on engaging parents, innovative ways to find new volunteers
- Each year the district has focused on one of these goal areas to review the set of actions that have been put in play. In 2013-2014 we will be closely studying the goal to address the diverse needs of learners. TZHS presented to BOE about meeting the diverse needs of learners (presentation is on BOE webpage)

9. Committee Reports

- Membership – Mary Paul, Current membership stands at 231, need more membership cards. Membership drive will be done at Parent Teacher conferences.
- PTA Council – NONE
- Fundraising – NONE
- Reflections – 4 submissions sent to Lenora last week
- Health and Safety – NONE
- Scholarship - NONE
- Curriculum Council – Elayne Armaniaco
 - SOCSO Curriculum Council Meeting - October 17 discussed Common Core Standards and Leadership Teams presented about meeting three times per year. These meeting help to improve articulation and monitor progress in many areas--implementation of Common Core and remapping curriculum.
 - Engage NY (www.engageny.org) is a resource for Common Core implementation for teachers and parents. Parents who are not aware of this website will find it informative regarding the Common Core. The Elementary Parent Workshop on October 22 will present an overview of these CCSS resources.
 - NYS is about to vote on the National Science standards. Nine states have already adopted these, and it is anticipated that by January, NY will decide on this. These standards include an engineering and climate literacy component across K-12.
 - The RTI Leadership Team will meet on October 24th, December 5th, and TBD. The team will focus on the RTI process, growth versus fixed mindset, and the neurodevelopmental constructs for looking at student's strengths.
 - Course Proposal from Tappan Zee High School: Women and Gender Studies in American Society. As another way to meet NYS graduation requirements for Social Studies education. Pending course requests of 23-25 students, we will run this course next year. Staffing would shift from one section of "Issues in American Society" to support this addition of "Women and Gender Studies in American Society." Semester only. Concept was generally well received by committee.
 - New York State Education Data Dashboard, As a part of a state-wide initiative to provide data to parents, students, and teachers, three vendors were awarded a contract to provide services to school districts who MUST choose from one of these three options. Late August, the first presentation of these systems was available. As a district, we are looking closely at SchoolNet, a Pearson product that would integrate well into PowerSchool. Years 1 and 2 are at no cost to school districts. Year 3 must be fully funded by local school districts, an estimated \$25,000-30,000 per year. SchoolNet would allow for curriculum planning, assessment integration and RTI data. Intention is strong, but the implementation is problematic--the data will not be timely

since parents and students will see current information from PowerSchool and then see "old data" regarding grades and attendance in SchoolNet. Another example of an unfunded mandate by the state

-Upcoming Board of Education Presentation, presentations from each school regarding how we are addressing the needs of diverse learners.

-Proposed Regents Research Paper, Committee reviewed the draft proposal for students to write a research paper to fulfill a graduation requirement. The document proposes a 1,250 word paper on any topic to be written preferably during grades 11 or 12. 5 typed pages exclusive of citations, etc For students first entering grade 9 in Sept 2014 (Current 8th graders)

-Review of Procedures and Norms set by Curriculum Council, last refined in 2010, this document outlines the charge of this committee and procedures for making formal recommendations. The committee agreed to review this document further at a later meeting.

-Questions regarding Learning Institute at TZHS, they are available to help support students preparing to retake Regents exams in January and June. It was asked if there would be learning institutes available this fall/winter for those students taking a regents make up who did not pass the regents in June The answer was that it could be arranged if there was enough interest.

•Founders Day – NONE

•Technology Committee – Cindy Yee

-Grant from Senator Carlucci allowed for SOCS D to provide Google Chromebooks, low cost mobile devices, to SOMS entire eighth grade.

-Revamping district website, ideas requested for updates that are needed

-Mindcraft is being used at the elementary level for developing Math skills using gaming technology

-Looking to implement Goolge apps as the standard for teacher websites, since as of now they use many varied sources

•BLT – NONE

•Project Graduation – Nicole Glazer, new fundraising idea to run and Antiques Roadshow.

Taking place at the February 2014 PTSA meeting, will promote and if it proves to be popular, will schedule another session

•Nominating Committee – NONE

10. Old Business – Stop and Shop fundraiser now in place, PBL speaker set for December's meeting, Senior only parking allows for 15 Junior hardship spots. So far 3 of the 15 have been designated and additional information about the other submissions was requested.

11. New Business – Contact was made for a DASA speaker, looking for a date in 2014 (maybe April)

Motion to adjourn, 9:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Aitchison