

Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
January 13, 2014

- Call to Order 7:35pm
- Welcome and Introductions
- In attendance: Maureen Aitchison, Anne Schlinck, Cindy Yee, Colleen Meehan, Gina Ironside, Mary Ryker, Richard Neidhart, Jennifer Amos, Kristin Distante, Frances Duffy, Kathy Mart, Jeannie Dennehy, Marta Rodriquez and Terri Drexler
- Assistant Principal's Report – Rich Neidhart
 - The winter concerts were successful.
 - Midterms are coming up on Jan 27-30th
 - Testing schedules are being finalized. Tests in the cafeteria, gym, etc. will have teachers available at these test sites.
 - State Exams - Teachers cannot grade their own exam. They are also considering not being able to proctor own student's exams
 - Question about some tests prior to Jan 27th - This occurs with classes that have year-end Regents. They are using the mid-terms to mirror the experience. The objective is for the students to be better prepared for the final test.
 - A question about junior parking during midterm week - what happens if you don't have a permit? The parking hardship committee met and it was decided that they are allowing them to park in the south (tennis court) lot. Likely the same scenario for finals.
 - They are trying to avoid the situation of a student having two tests at the same time. However, there are instances when

Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
January 13, 2014

this does occur. They will take one test with their class and then go to the conflict room for the 2nd test.

- At the last School Board meeting a number of students were honored for helping with Orangeburg fire. Attendance was stellar – no seats left in the house. The volunteers were thankful for the recognition. Thank you to Maureen for making the suggestion to honor the volunteers.
- Extra-Curricular – Model UN missed the initial sign up for Columbia conference. They were wait-listed and able to attend the conference. There was parental concern that TZHS students were not staying at the primary venue, Times Square Marriot. As there are mid-night conferences there is concern about the students getting from the upper West Side to the Marriot. Principal Amos will research this situation but believes the alternate location was utilized due to costs.
- Principal's Report – Jennifer Amos
 - PowerSchool
 - 1191 students – 1100 logged in (92.3%)
 - Total number of sign ins to the portal sign was 74,366
 - Signing up for automated emails –
 - Many parents are taking advantage of the email notifications of grades, attendance and assignments. This can be done on a weekly or monthly basis.
 - 467 families are signed up for power school email notifications.
 - The evacuation due to the recent gas leak has handled well by staff and students. The students complied with the request to wait until the buses left prior to leaving the student parking lot. The ER practice pays off during a real emergency.

Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
January 13, 2014

- Treasurers Report –
 - Collected money from PayPal and paid fees for PayPal. Not much activity.
- Approval of December Minutes
 - Coleen Meehan make a motion to approve and 2nd by Mary Ryker.
- Vice Presidents Report
 - PTA Advocacy on the Common Core - Vicky Caramante is very active in this area. There has been a push by PTA Council to join with Ossining's request of a delay in the Common Core implementation.
 - Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Culot have agreed to have a joint meeting on the Common Core, with a briefing of the Common Core agenda. This will be an open forum meeting.
 - The Legislative Breakfast will be on January 25th at BOCES Kaplan.
 - The by-laws expired on 12/31/13. TZHS PTSA sent updated by-laws for approval. We are just waiting for final approval/stamped copy from the NYS PTA.
 - Copy of the proposed 2014-15 School Calendar distributed.
 - PTA Winter Conference will be in Suffern, NY. The cost is \$10 for attendance. A copy of invitation distributed.
 - Committee Reports:
 - Antique Roadshow is scheduled for February 10th at 6pm, just prior to the PTA meeting. R.Z.M Fine Arts & Antiques, Inc. is the firm hosting the event.
 - NY Yankees Fundraiser – tours of stadium or group sales. This is a districtwide PTA fundraising initiative that is being considered.
 - Founder's Day is February 25th.
 - TZHS PTSA Membership is 241.
 - We need to get more people involved. What can we do to get more parents involved? Think about & chat up attending the monthly meetings. Time to start putting together the nominating committee for 2014-15.

Minutes for TZHS PTSA Meeting
January 13, 2014

- New Business
 - Board of Education Retreat
 - VPs & Presidents attended and discussed various issues.
 - Dr. Mitchell noted that teacher membership fluctuates between the PTA units. If all units had the same teacher member price they could automatically deduct it on an annual basis from their payroll, similar to union dues. There was also discussion that Monday was not the best day of the week for a PTA meeting as it conflicts with other district meetings. Maybe a survey monkey to membership to determine the best day of the week for the PTA meetings. A suggestion was also made that an email is sent to parents outlining all of the areas where PTA makes a difference. Gina Ironside is willing to work on putting together an information sheet.
 - Student recognition at the Board of Ed meeting.
 - BLT was working on Student Achievement Recognition outside of school, similar to what the Board of Education did with the volunteer firefighters. More information to follow.
 - Items from the floor –
 - There was discussion on the recent suicide of a teen that had ties to the SOCSO. The district identified any students who may have been directly impacted. All those directly impacted were called into guidance to discuss this situation. Teachers are mindful of behaviors and are on alert of changes.
 - Motion to adjourn 9:03pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannie Dennehy