

DIVISION AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2017

Meeting Called to Order at 7:43 p.m.

Pledge

Examination of Minutes—Correction: Spelling of Mrs. Addona. Filed as corrected.

Treasurer's Report—General Fund: Opening Balance--\$4,731.83, Expenses--\$525.95, Income--\$723.96, Closing Balance--\$4,929.84. Senior Award Fund: Opening Balance--\$5,323.26, Expenses--\$69.43, Income--\$736.00, Closing Balance--\$5,989.83. Budget Report Filed.

President's Report—NYS Convention--All of the resolutions presented in October, including the GMO resolution, were passed. The Book Fair on Dec. 9 was a wonderful evening. The Chorus and Chamber Orchestra performed, as well as the Dance troop. Students read stories to children and helped decorate cupcakes. The Art display was beautiful. Today we held a presentation on "Let's talk mental illness given by Hakeem Rahim from Uniondale HS. It was greatly received by the students and staff. The Nominations and Elections workshop will be on January 24, 2017 and the mental treasury Rap will be on February 2, 2017. If anyone is interested in attending please let me know as soon as possible. March 4, 2017 will be the Legislation Conference at Chateau Briand this year. There will be a panel discussion with legislators and education stakeholders, lunch, an advocacy workshop and a possible fireside discussion with the NYSED, PTA and legislators. It would be great to have representation - perhaps some of our student members would be interested in attending.

Principal's Report—Mr. Coscia—Six DAHS students qualified on Saturday for the State DECA competition in Rochester in March. Six additional students will most likely be attending the State competition as well. Mark Curtiss and Liz Hammer presented the transition workshop to the parents of 8th grade students. After our presentation was complete, Mike Grasso, Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance at Molloy College, presented the NCAA process to the parents. This was our first time having an NCAA speaker at the transition workshop and it was well received. He answered many questions from the parents. Approximately 200 parents were in attendance. Preliminary talks with John Avena at Wisdom about a more comprehensive 8th to 9th grade transition presentation at the end of the year. DAHS 10th grade student Zachary Martin, as part of his Eagle Scout project, decided to honor those Division graduates who served in our armed forces by creating a walkway surrounding Division's Memorial Garden, located on the front lawn, surrounding the flagpole. Zachary laid 200 bricks printed with the service members' names, branches served in, and graduation years. Danielle Mahn, a senior at Division Avenue, has been named a Semifinalist for the 2017 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. On December 14th, Division Avenue and MacArthur Journalism students joined together to attend Hofstra's High School Student Press Day. Dawn Kim, DAHS Senior, qualified as a NYSSMA All-State violinist, and Joy Kim, a Junior, will be the alternate. Hakeem Rahim gave a presentation on mental health awareness. Winter concerts on 12/19 and 12/20 were a huge success. The JV Lady Dragons Volleyball team was awarded the Sportsmanship Award presented by the Nassau County Volleyball Officials Association. Varsity Cheerleaders were granted a bid to compete in the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando this February, and they also held a holiday cheerleading clinic for the youth of Levittown. Winter sports are underway. Concrete for bleachers was laid before break and is complete. Second lock down drill was a success. Room 155 is in the preliminary stages of being transformed into a multimedia center. Regents makeup Testing will take place the week of January 23rd. Emmy night is January 30.

Guest Speaker—Heidi Felix, Business Development Officer, NEFCU, presented NEFCU mission, their products and scholarship/grant programs offered by NEFCU.

1st Vice President—Position Open

2nd Vice President—No Report

3rd Vice President—Liz Kirk—Faculty Meeting held January 3. Items discussed included proctoring schedules & exam location. No mid-terms for full-year courses and no benchmarks during regents week. Mr. Coscia sent out opinion survey regarding professional development. He would also like to form a teacher leadership team, comprised of one representative from each dept. It's purpose is to gather teachers' input to enhance overall experience at DAHS. Mrs. Addona, Special Ed. Chairperson and Alternate Assessment Coordinator, gave presentation "Understanding IEPs and CSE Meetings."

Corresponding Secretary—One sympathy card sent to the NYS PTA President, Grace and Russell Rosea for the passing of her mother. One get well card sent to Lynn Petrofsky and her daughter.

Student Liaisons—Zack Martin surveyed 10th grade students and class president, Gina McGough, and there were no issues to report. Student A.P. Government representative, Ravneek Kaur, shared student concerns about tablet usage. Mr. Coscia and Mr. Rusch said they will be used more and more as the transition to tablets is complete.

Council Delegate—No report.

Arts in Education—See president's report.

Communications—Laura Brown—Weekly PTSA email updates continue to go out (some still come back undeliverable). Please advise if you are not receiving emails. Facebook has 799 followers and is updated daily.

Hospitality—No report.

Legislation—No report.

Procedures—No report.

SEPTA—Meeting held on November 28. Julie A. Yindra from Hofstra University presented "Transitioning from High School to College," which included: differences between high school and college, parent's and student's rights in college environment, accommodations vs. services and academic expectations in college. Next meeting January 23, 7:00 p.m. @ LMEC.

Youth Issues—Still looking for a chair for this committee. See Patty Genco if interested.

Adopt-a-Family—2 students adopted by DAHS PTSA. Items collected included jeans, t-shirts, Target gift cards, hair and make-up items, food store and other gift cards.

Book Fair—Took place on Dec. 9. The event itself was a lot of fun, but only \$160 was raised. Considering the tremendous amount of work required and the school resources employed, it is not really worth the effort. Further, much of the student artwork that was on display was damaged or destroyed due to the store's mishandling of it. Therefore, Patty Genco recommends that we no longer continue to pursue the Book Fair at Barnes & Noble moving forward.

Sweeps—Sold Out! 500 seats have been reserved & sold. Dozens of donations have been confirmed and are still being accepted, and more raffle items will be purchased. Last year, DAHS PTSA awarded \$20,000 to graduating seniors moving on to college or the military. We need lots of volunteers for set-up, clean-up, hospitality baking, basket runners, etc. Set-up begins at 2:30. Please sign up! Mr. Coscia will see if students will volunteer. Donations are also still needed.

Honorary Life—This year's DAHS recipient is Liz Kirk. Dinner takes place on April 20 and RSVP and payment is due by March 17.

Nominating and Elections—Committee formed last month.

Reflections—Betsy Baquet—1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners selected in 4 categories. 1st & 2nd place submitted to Region. Nick Alvino and Natalie Mojica qualified as NY State finalists. Thank you DAHS staff! Showcase scheduled for February 6, 7:00 p.m. Certificates and invitations will be supplied by PTSA and distributed via DAHS Asst. Principal's office. Awards will be given at showcase.

Senior Award—Application will be available through guidance and is already available on-line. Be sure to follow instructions exactly as written. Students must be a graduating senior moving on to a college or the military, and must be a PTSA member to apply.

Staff Appreciation—No report.

Council Budget—No report.

Elementary and Secondary Curriculum—These two meetings were combined and held on December 20, 2016. Issues discussed: 1)Parent University Feedback results, all of which were positive. 31 out of 78 completed survey; 2)PE GPA/New PE Courses—New PE courses will be offered, PE GPA survey results—11 out of 17 districts do not include PE in the GPA. Doing so is under consideration. However, it would start with incoming 9th graders. 3)enVision Benchmarks—District not abandoning enVision, but comparing it to GoMath (not a significant difference). A specialist coming in—teachers need more instruction and support. Benchmarks—District will be moving away from computer module to paper and transition away from Pearson. January will be Math Academy. 4)Middle School Math Support—Extra help starting in January during lunch. Looking into bringing 6th grade teachers to elementary professional development training, and also considering having a math specialist push into middle school math classes. 5)Capstone—The last week of parents' nights was held in December; seminar is open to all. Possibility of 10th period offering was discussed. 6) English 12/College Writing Class—in 2017/18, College writing class will be offered in Spring of Junior year or Fall of Senior year. In 2018, English 12 will be revamped (waiting for NYSED approval). 7) FLES Updates—interviews being held. Should be able to start mid-year in elementary and in Fall of 2017 Introductory to Language in 6th grade. Next curriculum meeting January 19.

Food Service—No Report.

Heath, Safety & Environment—No Report.

LCC—No Report.

Wellness—No Report.

New Business—Fundraising programs at local restaurants was discussed, especially in lieu of the book fair. Various area restaurants, including Chipotle and Moe's, have contacted the school with fundraising proposals. Betsy Baquet made motion to have one restaurant fundraiser a week from the beginning of February through the end of March. Susan Massoni 2nd the Motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Baquet on behalf of Ann Johnson.