

DIVISION AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Pledge

Meeting Minutes for March were reviewed and will stand as written.

Treasurers Report: General Fund—Opening Checkbook Balance: \$3,569.73, Expenses: \$340.86, Income: \$288.23, Closing Checkbook Balance: \$3,517.10. Senior Award Fund--Opening Checkbook Balance: \$6,395.34, Expenses: \$2,239.55, Income: \$21,345.50, Closing Checkbook Balance: \$25,501.29. (Patty Genco stated that there's an additional \$1,000 to be deposited from Sweeps, and we should have about \$21,000 to give out for Senior Awards.) March books audited by Barbara Huckstadt. Treasurer's Report will be filed.

President—No Report.

Principal's Report: News—Aspirations in computing: There was an article in Newsday honoring Sejal Mehra and Danielle Mahn. Article will be posted about out "women in computing." Daniell Mahn, Sejal Mehra, Sisam Bhandari, and Maria Mancz are all pursuing careers in the computer science/cyber security. They have all participated in "Girls Who Code" and have already been accepted to very prestigious universities. Pippin—We had three showings of Pippin. The students put on a spectacular show in both the pit and performance, and we cannot forget the stage crew, who are also pivotal. Many thanks for the students' discipline, dedication and hard work and the time dedicated by Mr. Nolin, Ms. Logiudice, and Ms. Vanderburg to make this play such a success. On March 18th, Lobna Bayoumy and Salia Soenun-Thol had their art displayed at the prestigious Hecksher Art exhibit in Huntington. Salia Soenun-Thol received honorable mention. On March 12th, Camille Martinez was named a 2017 Art Supervisors Association Scholarship recipient at the Nassau County art exhibit at Farmingdale college. Katherine Aguilar-Caban, Eileen Cha, Lexington Mendez, James Genco, Steven Cuascut, Brianna Sullivan, Anita Witner and Lobna Bayoumy also had their art work exhibited. Pre-Prom Workshop—We had the Pre Prom Workshop on March 22nd . We had an excellent presentation regarding the dangers of substance abuse from LICAD presenter, Risa Berg. Fernanda Surey won the Long Island Safe tracks PSA competition and was also filmed for a commercial to air. On March 19th, the Varsity Wrestling team had their awards dinner. The seniors were honored and we said our official goodbye to Bob Bennett, who coached football for 30 years at Division Avenue. He is as a genuine person as you could meet and also was an incredible role model for our kids. The Division Avenue Science Olympiad team competed at the New York State Finals for the 9th consecutive year on March 10th & 11th at LeMoyne College. Leading up to the culminating event, these students tirelessly worked for months to prepare for the 25 Science Olympiad events. Students participated in numerous invitational competitions including Islip, North Pocono and Yale University. Our talented students earned medals in 20 out of 25 events throughout these competitions. At the recent New York State Finals, all four seniors on the team earned a state medal. Congratulations to our Division Avenue Science Olympiad team--10th Place in Towers - Annie Tao (12) and Dawn Kim (12). 10th Place in Herpetology - Sonia Inderjit (11) and Michael Mulqueen (11). 8th Place in Experimental Design - Laiba Ahmed (11), Danielle Mahn (12) and Melanie Singh (12). 2nd Place in Helicopter - Sonia Inderjit (11) and Michael Mulqueen (11). Both Sonia and Michael received a \$2,500 scholarship to LeMoyne College, if they choose to attend. From March 8th through March 10th, the Division Avenue High School DECA club, (Distributive Education Clubs of America), competed at the State Conference in Rochester, New York. 2,500 business education students from around New York State competed in various events and were graded on either their prepared presentation or a role-play scenario. The following students represented Division Avenue this year at the conference: Bhargava Arunachalam—

Food Marketing Series, Jacquelyn Devaney—Apparel and Accessories Marketing, Matthew Evans—Hospitality Tourism Professional Selling, Amanda Jakubiak—Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan, Ian Kavanaugh—Professional Sales, Alex Montoya—Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan, Kayla Olivieri—Job Interview, Katherine Oswald—Restaurant Food Services Management, Shannon Pousson—Decision Making – Marketing, Matt Sochinsky—Automotive Services Marketing, Nick Weinert—Visual Advertising, Jamal Zafar—Automotive Services Marketing. Congratulations are also in order to Amanda Jakubiak for winning a medal for a top 10 exam finish in the Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan event and Bhargava Arunachala for winning 2 medals in the Food Marketing series event. Amanda reflected on her DECA experience, “DECA is a great learning experience even if you do not want to go into business because it gives you practice public speaking, and you create a lot of friendships and relationships along the way. The skills learned from participating in DECA will help me in my college classes in the future.” Nine students in Mr. Engel’s Digital Media Productions class were recognized for their outstanding work. Students were asked to create a public service announcement focusing on the negative impact drugs has on people’s lives. Gabriel Berry, whose PSA focused on prescription drug use, shared, “I have extended family that has been involved with drug related incidents, so I made the PSA to help spread awareness and prevent any future incidents.” On Friday, March 17th the Division Avenue High School Career Development Program hosted their first CD Science Fair. The science experiments were part of the CD 3 science curriculum led by Ms. Negri. The CD program is instructed by Ms. Donna Negri, Ms. Eileen Nelson and Ms. Eileen Savino. The students created each of the science experiments together in class. Students chose an experiment that interested them to present at the Fair. DAHS students and teachers were invited to visit the Fair, view the experiments, and listen to the presentations. CD 3 students and Science Fair presenters included: Nicholas Baggia, Michael Benenati, Alexander Bruno, Antonia Campione, Lauren Foders, Brittany Gendels, Jonathan LaDesso and Kaitlyn McGlone. Prom Boutique was held and was open to both DAHS and MacArthur students. 83 dresses, along with accessories, were given away. Mrs. O’Rourke and Ms. Medina were very happy with the turnout. Sports—Mr. Coscia said spring sporting season has just begun, and gave a quick sports update (more to come next meeting). Building report—The Bleachers are completed and look great! We are having our ribbon cutting ceremony April 5, before the 1st pitch, at 4:15. The third lockdown drill was completed with success. Upcoming events—Night of Honor 4/5, Senior portraits for the class of 2018 4/24-4/27, National Honor Society induction ceremony 4/27.

Guest Speaker—Bill Pastore, Asst. Superintendant of Business and Finance: Proposed budget was reviewed several time by administration and BOE and has been adopted. Budget vote takes place on Tuesday, May 16. Please call the District Clerk at 516-434-7002 if you have any questions about voting and voter registration. To see if you are registered, or to find out your polling place, go to <http://www.levittownschools.com/boe/voter-info/>. Complete details of the entire budget, including the four propositions, can be found at <http://www.levittownschools.com/boe/budget/> and click on link for 3/29 Revenue and Review of Final Budget. Please vote on May 16! A discussion was had about parental concerns about adults, not from the area, playing on the soccer fields at night. There were reports of damage to the field and nets. Pat Genco requested that Mike Pappas and Bill Pastore bring this issue to the BOE for some sort of security solution.

Student Liaison Reports: Some students have expressed concern, particularly athletes, over the small portion size of lunches and would like to see options for larger portions. Bill Pastore stated that because we are part of the National School Lunch Program. Being part of the National School Lunch Program provides many financial benefits to the school and district, but restricts our options based on calorie count, nutritional value and overall health. Bill Pastore will bring their request up with Chartwells to see if there are some “grab and go” or snack options that students can make use of before going to after-school activities. Another concern from students is about being allowed to wear sashes they have earned from different honor societies at graduation. Mr. Coscia said he would be

happy to hear any proposals that a student committee may have and will make a decision based on what the majority of students would prefer.

1st V.P.: Position Open—Chipotle fundraiser made \$157. Calda Pizza fundraiser made \$117. Firehouse Subs closed after our fundraiser and did not give us our money. Due to the disappointing outcome with Chipotle, it was suggested that we try Moe's instead.

2nd V.P.: Total membership 508.

3rd V.P.: All faculty meetings for April 4th are cancelled. We will be having faculty meetings as part of the April 17th Superintendent's Conference Day.

Corresponding Secretary: Thinking of you cards were sent to Linda Pereira and Ann Johnson. A thank you card was received from Terry Bruno for Sweeps. Two sympathy cards sent—one to Mr Coscia for the passing of his Grandmother, and the other to Lynn Petrofsky for the passing of her mother in law.

Council Delegate Report: February report—Tax cap and improvements were discussed, as well as the property situation with the Salk Triangle and traffic concerns. Elementary and middle school opt out letters went out. The nominating committee is going to meet. Cultural Arts programs were presented. Books were audited and found to be in order. Summer Science Camp was discussed. Virtual Lobby Day discussed. Food Service discussed Wisdom's change over from electric to gas and answered questions about that; Summit got new fridge and milk box, along with safe can openers.

Arts & Education: Pat Genco attended open house and wants to discuss with Mr. Coscia a presentation by a para-olympian who gives motivational speeches.

Audit Committee: Have not yet been able to perform an audit yet due to not enough volunteers. We need volunteers to avoid a very long audit in July.

Communications: No report.

Elementary Curriculum: Discussed district website. Looking for ways to make the website a more effective tool and more user friendly. Our PTSA suggested that Laura Brown work with district on this initiative. Mr. Winch is looking for any recommendations he can give for improving the website. Camp Invention was also discussed. This is the first year it will be run, and if successful, it will be continued for years to come. There are 100 seats available.

Secondary Curriculum: Discussed district website again. Adding a SAT prep course on-line and is available now. The middle schools each got a greenhouse, and they will be setting them up and working with them. Gold Card program discussed. Hall of Fame has approximately 20 nominees. The committee met last week and is looking over those applications. Awards will be presented at the Homecoming Game. History Day—Five DAHS students attended History Day at Hofstra. Math extra help—A math help line has been requested in the past for on-the-spot questions, so the district is looking into a homework help line.

Legislation & Advocacy: No report.

SEPTA: Meeting was held on March 13th. Our speakers were Dawn Wang, CSE Chairperson, and Elizabeth Hammer, Guidance Chairperson from MacArthur High School, who presented: What parents need to know about Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities. Next month's presentation will be hosted by Levittown SEPTA and N.S.A.S.A.—Nassau Suffolk Autism

Society of America, proudly presenting Author and Media personality “Autism Daddy” “Things No One Ever Tells You After Your Kid Is Diagnosed with Autism.” SEPTA is holding a Mets game fundraiser! Join Levittown SEPTA and the NY Mets for Autism Awareness Day at Citi Field! Sunday, May 21st , Mets vs. Angels at 1:10PM.

Youth Issues: No report and need a representative.

Budget: No report.

By Laws: No report.

Honorary Life: April 20. Tables are set.

Nominating/Elections: Nominating Committee met and we have a full slate for next year. Nominated positions are as follows: President—Linda Pereira, 1st V.P.—Betsy Baquet, 2nd V.P.—Dawn Tiemer, 3rd V.P.—Mr. Terrance Rusch, Treasurer—Maureen Williams, Corresponding Secretary—Kris Ekberg, Recording Secretary—Stephanie Gannon. No nominations from the floor were received. All positions were voted in and all positions are now closed.

Reflections: No report.

Senior Award: Application is on line and deadline is May 5.

Plant Sale: Orders due April 7.

Staff Appreciation: May 23—Summer theme. Sign-up sheet for donations and help made available.

Council Budget: No report.

Health & Safety: No report.

LCC: No longer exists. It is now being handled by YES.

Wellness: Sections of our Wellness Plan were reviewed and they are establishing new nutrition standards. Our Food Service Director made some revisions, and the Wellness Committee agreed to forward their completed draft to the BOE for review. Members also questions whether vending machines were meeting our district nutritional guidelines.

Unfinished Business: Liz Kirk thanked Pat and Laura for their work on Sweeps.

New Business: Paint Pallet Night—May 12. Received some reservations already. Please spread the word to support our Cultural Arts programs. Deadline to register is April 28.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Baquet