

**Division Avenue High School
PTSA General Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 7:45pm.

Pledge.

May's meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report- The General Fund from May through August prepared by Dawn Tiemer was audited and was all in order. The motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Liz Kirk and seconded by Laura Brown. No opposed, all in favor.

Presidents report- Our President, Pat Genco was pleased to introduce the DAHS PTSA officers. The position of 1st V.P. is still a vacant position. 2nd V.P. is Linda Pereira. 3rd V.P. is Liz Kirk. Treasurer is Dawn Tiemer. Recording Secretary is Ann Johnson. Corresponding secretary is Jennifer Benz. The Council Delegates are Marie Adams, Kristine Ekberg, Stephanie Gannon, Betsy Baquet, Liz Petrofsky, Arlene Sotomayor, Dayna Ferriero and our past president, Laura Brown. Our President also wanted to welcome our new Principal Mr. John Coscia and new Assistant Principals Sam McElroy and Terence Rusch. She also introduced Special Education Chair Stephanie Addona and Social Worker Kerri O'Rourke. Pat also expressed how grateful we all are for the whole staff and our rapport with them. Pat shared where our membership dues go. Reflections, assemblies, LEADD, environment, health and safety, staff recognition, avocation and food services, to name a few. When we raise money through things such as BJ's membership, the upcoming paint party and plant sale is how we also fund these important things in our school.

Principal's report -Mr. Coscia was happy to introduce Mr. McElroy, Mr. Rusch, Mr. Turchiano, Ms. Addona and Ms. O'Rourke. Over the summer the Key Club worked hard to assist Assemblyman Dave McDonough with the pet supply drive. It was very successful. The varsity Lacrosse team participated in "Shoot out for Soldiers" that helps returning and homeless vets. They helped Long Island raise \$133,000. This year senior, Hunter Diamond attended the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Mass. This was helping him with his pursuit of neuro-biology. Senior, Sejal Mehra attended Microsoft Tech center. She was one of only 2 students from Long Island selected for this internship. In order to be considered for this program the students had to have worked for a non-profit organization. She worked for "Girls Who Code". This program teaches women to code so they can enter big companies to close the gender gap in that area. Sisters Dawn and Joy Kim were selected for NYSMA all state representing DAHS in Rochester Dec. 1- Dec. 4. There has been a very good start to DAHS sports this year. Next PTSA meeting we'll have much more information on the team's standings. This year there will be 2 benchmark tests. Nov. and March. Then the finals will be in June. There was a test for lead in the water in the entire school. There are a few drinking fountains that had

trace amounts and they are covered and will be replaced asap. There are now carbon monoxide detectors every 100 feet in the school. A cardio room is being put together in room 322 for phys. Ed. And athletic teams. Upcoming events: Mini college fair 9/13, Student ID pic. Day 9/14 & 15, 9th grade tablet distribution 9/15, marching band competition 9/18, Division and McArthur chorus is performing at Citifield at the Mets game on 9/20. Tickets are \$25. Mini college fair 9/21, Pep rally on 9/23 8th and 9th period. Financial aid evening 9/22 7pm. Homecoming 9/24 beginning at 11am. Marching Band competition at Copiague 9/25. Back to school night 10/6. ACT prep 10/8 & 9. Senior picture re-take 10/11. PSAT's 10/13.

1st V.P. - Fundraising- Position is still open.

2nd V.P. -Membership. Linda Pereira was happy to share with us that we already have 192 members as of this date. 90 parents, 68 students and 34 faculty/staff.

3rd V.P. – Liz Kirk told us about Dr. McDonald's welcome back to the faculty and staff of all the schools in Levittown. It was held in Division's auditorium. The keynote speaker was Mr. Flip Flippen, author of The Flip Side and founder of The Flippen Group. It focuses on how people in positive environments as opposed to negative environments have a more healthy hippocampus in the brain. He also explained how it can be corrected for those in negative lifestyles through safety, confidence and respect. He was an excellent speaker. Workshops and department meetings were attended that day as well.

Corresponding Secretary -A sympathy card was sent to the family of Frank Ward, a prestigious Board of Ed member who passed away and a Thank You card was received. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Linda Yearsley, a teacher of 30 years from Abbey Lane who passed away. A get well card was sent to Esta Lachow, past PTA Council President who had surgery. A thank you card was received from Nick Bongiorno for PTSA Scholarship Award. A thank you card was received from Donna Negri, Joy Impastato and Joanne Sussman for the food at Staff Appreciation.

Student Liaisons- Positions still need to be filled. Senior Bridget Johnson has offered to take the position but has not yet been installed.

Council Delegates - No report

Communications -DAHS PTSA has a very active Facebook page. There are 703 followers. Recently, the wonderful video of the football team welcoming home William Torres, who was recovering from a serious accident this spring, reached over 27,616 people through views and shares. There were many reactions and positive comments. There is a lot of information given on this page. DAHS events as well as district wide events, library events, team and club news and much more.

SEPTA -The Nassau County Advocacy workshops were held at Levittown Memorial on August 18th. The Special Education workshop or SEPTA board members was a great collaboration with other units and ideas on fundraising and increasing membership. The 1st SEPTA meeting will be on 9/19/16 at 8pm at Memorial.

Division Ave. Sweeps -40 scholarships were given due to this fundraiser. Discussion was had about students joining the armed forces rather than going to college receiving this specific scholarship. It is being spoken about and looked into at this time.

Plant sale -will be on 10/7

Reflections –“What is your story?” is this year’s theme. 11/07/16 is the last day to submit. More info to come from Mr. Rusch’s office and the teaching staff.

New Business – A clothing drive run by the Marching Band is taking place 9/19-9/29. There are boxes in the lobby of DAHS or items can be dropped at Kristine Ekberg’s home at 245 Blacksmith Rd.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm