

**DIVISION AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Pledge.

Audio recording of Levittown Chorus was played singing National Anthem at Shea Stadium.

Review of September 12 meeting minutes—Filed as written.

**Treasurer's Report,-Dawn Tiemer (given by Pat Genco):** General Fund—Opening Balance: \$4,165.37, Expenses: \$1,665.92, Income: \$3,377.62, Closing Balance: \$5,877.07. Senior Award Fund—Opening Balance: \$5,257.82, Expenses: \$781.66, Income: \$273.97, Closing Balance: \$4,750.13. Paid back Senior Award Fund for the purchase of magnets, which means all proceeds from magnet sales moving forward will go into general fund.

**President's Report, -Genco:** Good evening. Thank you all and thank you to Mike Pappas for attending, who was in attendance as a Board of Education representative. DAHS Homecoming Parade and Football game was a big success. Back to School night was a great success—orchestra performed in the main lobby and many of the clubs were set up in the cafeteria to introduce themselves to parents and sell their fundraising merchandise. DAHS has hosted some excellent and informative workshops on FAFSA, writing college essays and I even attended a student loan seminar hosted by Sen. Kemp Hannon in partnership with NYS Dep of Financial Services at Levittown Hall on student loan forgiveness, different repayment options and consolidation. Parent University Expo—Nov. 9, hosted by District, with workshops on Social Media Safety, Digital Footprint Impact, Heroin/Drug Awareness, Mindfulness and many more. Register at [levittownschools.com](http://levittownschools.com), follow the link [https://forms.levittownschools.com/Lists/PU\\_Enrollment/NewForm.aspx?Source=Confirmation.aspx](https://forms.levittownschools.com/Lists/PU_Enrollment/NewForm.aspx?Source=Confirmation.aspx). The LEADD walk—Oct. 30, LMEC, 10AM. DAHS will host the pumpkin booth again this year. There will be prizes awarded for the best costume. The Long Island Youth Safety Coalition will be hosting a conference at Hofstra on December 9th, 2016 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. It will focus on youth and substance abuse and feature Dr. Stephen Dewey. Wednesday night will be the Board of Education recognition at the BOE meeting at LMEC. This is where the community gets to thank the board members for all they do for our children and community; it is also Nassau Region PTA's Fall Conference. Thursday, Oct 20th, 2016 will be our first "Paint Party". Doors open at 6:30pm. Our membership continues to grow every day, and your membership dollars go toward so much. New resolutions for adoption, updates, retentions and rescissions will be presented at Convention. Committees such as Health, Safety and Environment, Food Service, Elementary/Secondary Curriculum are how we advocate for our children here in Levittown and at Division. We are still looking for individuals to chair those committees. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets for details. If anyone is interested in attending the Unit and Council President's Rap, please let me know. You do not have to be president to attend. You can attend because you are interested in getting more involved in PTA. Rap takes place Oct. 27.

**Principals' Report- John Coscia:** Levittown Chorus sang a National Anthem at Citifield. Kristina Spano received Youth Recognition Award. East Coast colleges and universities distributed information at DAHS at three college mini-fairs, where students could speak with representatives and ask questions about admissions process and other issues. Four students named as National Merit Scholarship Corporation's Commended Students—Dawn Kim, Danielle Mahn, Nicholas Motschmann and Faraz Tajammul. DAHS Marching Band finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sachem competition. State Championship competition takes place in Syracuse on Oct. 30. On Sept. 17, players from DAHS softball, LAC, Island Trees and Hofstra softball participated in the first annual Batting to Beat Childhood Cancer fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital. Homecoming was magnificent. Jamie Alvino and Steven Reilly were crowned Homecoming Queen and King. The Dragons won

the game against New Hyde Park 21 – 6. Fourteen students were nominated for the HOBY Awards, and interviews will take place the week of October 26. DAHS English teacher Ms. Strizl, was selected as a University of Chicago as Outstanding Educator Award winner, and was nominated by 2016 valedictorian Jessica Vasseghi. Forty Key Club members, along with their families, attended the Light the Night Walk, benefitting the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. On Sunday, several DAHS teams, Cheer, Kickline and Key Club participated in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. DAHS Science Research student, Shivani Sharma, conducted independent research at Winthrop University Hospital, focusing on the connection between diabetes and cholesterol metabolism. DAHS Science Research student, Annie Tao, was accepted to the Partners for the Future Program located at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and will be conducting independent research alongside PhD's on mutations and gene expression in worms. DAHS had 98 students who have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams. PSATs were held at DAHS for approximately 200 students on Oct.15. A student from Johnson and Wales University presented during Consumer Science class and made students a one-bowl pasta dish, while discussing the experience at Johnson & Wales and the program he was involved with. Mr. Coscia went over latest sporting events results. Cheerleading team will be hosting a program at the DAHS vs. Plainedge football game where students in grades K – 8 can be a DAHS cheerleader for a day. Rutgers cupholders will also be honored at that game. Seasons are coming to a close and post season awards will be announced shortly after. Building Updates—Cardio Room is complete; athletics field—new windscreen behind bleachers, dragonheads on columns, D flags on poles; concrete for the bleachers should be poured shortly. Mr. Coscia went over upcoming events—10/18 Newsday Marching Band Festival, 10/21 CD Halloween Dance, 10/25 Dig Pink Volleyball Tournament, 10/28 Pink Out Varsity Football Game, 10/29-30 Marching Band Phoenix & State Competition at Syracuse, 10/30 LEADD walk and fair, 11/4 Emergency Sheltering Drill, 11/5 SAT I & II exams.

**1<sup>st</sup> V.P.:** Position still open.

**2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. - Linda Pereira:** 479 total members. Thank you to Mr. Coscia for running staff membership raffle.

**3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. - Liz Kirk:** Mr. Coscia held faculty meeting 9/20. BEDS' reporting for teachers was discussed, which is teachers' website containing rosters, etc. He also went over Term Grade Weights, Benchmark Exams, hall passes, cell phone policy, upcoming events, PTSA membership drive, Sunshine membership, Dress Down Fridays, emergency plan updates and mental health information.

**Corresponding Secretary- Jen Benz (given by Pat Genco):** Sympathy card sent to Betsy Baquet for recent death in her family. Get well card sent to Lynn Petrofsky for recent illness. Thank You note was received from Judith Steinberg from Payroll Dept. for the flower arrangement that they purchased from our fall plant sale.

**Student Liaisons:** Emily Glynn and Drew O'Mara attended meeting. Student issues—Senior portraits for yearbooks are very expensive; also requested that the pictures be taken later than they currently are. Cell phone policy was discussed. Students would like to be able to use their cell phone for the "Remind Me" app. since it sometimes provides class locations and recent updates they need that day. Mr. Coscia responded by stating the policy of no cell phone use other than in cafeteria and said the policy is for safety reasons.

**Council Delegate-Stephanie Gannon:** Mary Rickard, Council President, opened the meeting. Treasurer Report included Budget reviews from the summer months. Audit took place in August and was filed. Proposed Budget for 2016-2017 was passed. Reminder was given for all units to file their taxes. PTA Regional Conference is Oct. 19. No Standing Committee Reports, as they have not met yet. Chairs needed for the PTSA Senior Award Committee (4 awards given last year to each high school). Senior Award Dinner Dance—April 20, Crest Hollow. In need of representatives for Food Service Committee. LEADD—Oct. 30. Parent University—Nov. 9 (Council will set up a table for snacks). Old Business—Jets Game being sold for Sunday

after Thanksgiving. New Business: Linda informed the committee that Syosset BOCES offers an ARTS program that includes, dance, music, theater technology (admission process includes audition and references). She will be assisting them in establishing a PTA.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arts in Education:** Cultivate Kindness on Oct. 24—two assemblies. Testicular Cancer Awareness assembly for senior boys on Oct. 25 and senior girls will be attending the Breast Cancer Awareness assembly. On Thursday, Oct. 27 Junior and senior students will be attending the Texting Awareness assembly.

**Communications- Laura Brown:** The weekly emails have begun. If you have not received an email and believe you are a registered member please contact Linda Pereira to check your status. Several email addresses have bounced back, so we may have your email listed wrong. Facebook page continues to grow, we are at 737 followers. Laura Brown tries very hard to post what is important to DAHS, including club, sports, academic, fundraisers, alumni, district, school and educational news. Please feel free to contact us to add photos or news that may fit the purpose of the page.

**Hospitality:** No Report

**Legislation:** Proposed Resolution Checklist distributed and Pat Genco went through Resolutions. Votes were collected, and a motion for a Vote of Confidence was made by Susan Massoni so that Pat Genco and Linda Pereira can vote on the unit's behalf at convention. Dayna Fereiro 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the motion was passed.

**Procedures:** No Report

**SEPTA- Liz Kirk:** Meeting held 9/19. Guest Speaker, Dr. Susan Izeman, PHD, BCBA-D, LBA, from Kids Learning Loft, spoke about yelling at children and why it doesn't work. She presented a 3-step process for helping children learn new skills and improve behavior. Next meeting is 10/24 @ 7:30 p.m., which will be a Fall Family Fun Night, with entertainment provided by New York Nights Entertainment.

**Youth Issues:** No Report

**Agenda Books:** 21 in stock and available for purchase.

**B.J.'s:** 37 memberships sold—\$185.00.

**Bylaws:** No Report

**Sweeps:** Committee has begun planning. 82 paid guests already and 85 on hold. Many prizes already secured. Looking for volunteers to continue soliciting.

**Honorary Life:** Official Letters going out in November.

**Tribune:** Eight subscriptions sold—\$102.40.

**Nominating:** Susan Massoni volunteered as general member. Need one more general member and one alternate.

**Plant Sale:** Proceeds were a little shy of last year's sales. Didn't order extras for sale this year.

**Reflections:** Student entry deadline is Nov. 7. Mr. Rusch is coordinating with PTSA.

**Senior Award:** See Unfinished Business.

**Staff Appreciation:** Looking for volunteers.

**Council Budget:** Need Chair.

**Elementary/Secondary Curriculum:** Need Chairs.

**Food Service:** Waiting for approval from the board on representative.

**Health, Safety & Environment:** Need representative.

**LCC:** No Report

**Wellness:** Need representative.

**Unfinished Business:** Senior Award—Motion made by Liz Kirk to add military enlistment to application and update criteria, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dani Dwyer, motion passed.

**New Business:** Adopt a Family letter going out soon. Gifts are due 12/9, wrapping 12/12. Motion made by Jane Martin for DAHS PTSA to adopt a family, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Brown, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.