

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting

September 30, 2010

Minutes

Call to Order 7:28 pm

Esta Lachow : Request for donations for the Wisdom Lane Food Pantry, bring to next meeting or drop at Angela List's, Esta's or Ali Harrs' house.

President's Report- Esta Lachow- See Attached

May Minutes accepted as submitted and will be posted on website.

Correspondence-C. Mulz reporting for A. List. See Attached

Treasurer's Report-D. Nocella presented the proposed budget. Motion- I would like to make a motion to accept the budget as presented, Diane McPartland. Second, Discussion, Motion passed. Monthly report presented. Annual audit after closing for 2009-2010 school year completed with no concerns noted.

Guest Speaker- Ron Kister- Parent Portal by Power School. The district will not be printing progress reports or report cards, unless parents opted out in writing.

Debbie Rifkin- State Assessments- Parent reports should be received any day. Scoring of assessments was changed and passing grade became higher resulting in more children requiring AIS. Other changes are elimination of Social Studies test in grades 5 and 8 and the foreign language proficiency in grade 8. Raising of cut scores to determine whether a student is proficient ELA 3-8 and Math 3-8 and the elimination of buffer points if only one subgroup has not made AYP or Adequate Yearly Progress ie children with IEPs or ELL students. AIS- parents should have been notified if their child qualified for AIS.

Health and Safety- First meeting October 13.

Procedures- 3 proposed changes- See Attached

Secondary Curriculum- See Attached- next meeting October 21

Scholarship Dinner Dance- March 31 at Crest Hollow and \$60 per person.

Liaisons

Capital Project/Bond Watcher- See Attached

Food Service- See Attached

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

Prepared by Ali Harrs

Approved 10/21/10

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Welcome everyone to a meeting of the Levittown Council of PTAs. In order for our meetings to run in a timely fashion, I ask that you adhere to the follow:

- All members have equal rights to introduce business, make motions, and participate in discussions and vote.
Please note:
General Meetings: any member of an affiliated PTA/PTSA unit may participate in the meetings.
Executive Board Meetings: any member of the Executive Committee, Unit Presidents/Co-Presidents, and Chairs of Standing Committees, may participate in the meetings.
Executive Committee Meetings: any Officer (including the Immediate Past President), may participate in the meetings.
- The person making the motion /speaking on a topic has the right to speak first and should not speak against his/her own motion.
- No one can speak a second time until everyone who wants has spoken once.
- Only one person speaks at a time after being recognized by the chair.
- When speaking in debate, personalities should be avoided. The topic/motion can be attacked, but not the person.

(The NYS PTA Resource Guide, The Bylaws of the Levittown Council of PTAs and Robert's Rules of Order have served as resources for this information.)

President's Report September 30, 2010

I am thrilled to be sitting here welcoming you to the start of another exciting and successful school year. My name is Esta Lachow and I am your Council President. I started in PTA when my daughter was in Northside, continued thru Wisdom and now we reside at Division! I'd like to take a few moments and ask that we go around the room, introducing ourselves. Please tell us your name, the school that you represent and what position you hold (i.e.: Council Delegate, Officer, and Committee Chair).

I welcome each of you here tonight and thank the members of the Board of Education and Central Office that are here this evening.

Please join me in thanking the DAHS PTSA for hosting tonight's meeting. Next month's host will be East Broadway.

I'd like to start my report tonight by sharing some changes that have taken place over the course of the past year. Our minutes are now being recorded. Sometimes it becomes very difficult for the Recording Secretary to hear all comments, making the taking of minutes very difficult. I am also reminding everyone to speak into a microphone when addressing the group....either the one at the podium or the portable one. If you do not use a microphone, you will not be permitted to speak. Our minutes will be emailed to the Unit Presidents in draft form, for distribution to you, a few days prior to the next meeting. Please review them. If you see the need for corrections or changes, please bring them to the next meeting. Once the minutes are approved, they will be posted at our link on the Levittown Schools website. We are doing this for a few reasons: it allows everyone ample time to read the minutes while saving time at this meeting. It also cuts down on paper usage.

If you check the website, Levittownschools.com, and follow the PTA link on top, you'll find that our Procedures and Bylaws are also posted there. We'll talk later about the directory. I will also remind each committee chair: if you are presenting a report at a meeting, please have a written copy of your report available to be given to the Recording Secretary for placement with the minutes.

I have placed a Parliamentary Procedures handout on the table for your resource. Please note: that although all of our meetings are open for all to attend; there are certain restrictions in who is allow to speak and participate in the meeting. There are also restrictions for voting. According to our Bylaws: The voting body of this council shall consist of the officers of council, chairmen of council standing committees, the president of each member unit, the superintendent of schools, the immediate past president of council and accredited delegates of the units. Anyone else is certainly welcome to attend but is not to be voting. If you are a Co-President or Co-Chair.....both people share 1 vote, so please....don't both raise your hands to vote, unless 1 person holds a second position such as delegate or chair of a standing committee.

Some of us sitting here wear many different PTA hats. We hold positions in 1 or more units, on council, on region perhaps even on the state or national level. It's often difficult but we each need to remember, when you are sitting here at a Council Meeting....you're here representing your unit. There are times when you'll be asked for your opinion. There will be other times when you'll be asked to present the opinion of your unit. Both opinions are valid but need to be separated.

If you are the Chair of a Special Committee and need some assistance; please contact our 2nd VP Pat Genco. If you are in a Liaison position and need assistance, please contact our 1st VP Cindy Mulz. If you are a Chair of a Standing Committee or a Unit President and need assistance, please contact me. While Council is not here to supervise you, we are available to offer assistance if you desire it. Remember, one of the roles of Nassau Region PTA is to help each unit. The Area Director (AD) for Levittown is Susan Contino. You can go to the Nassau Region PTA website and follow the links to help guide you to what you are looking for.

Each month we pass around the Share Binder. It is divided into 5 sections: PTA Resources, Thoughts to Share, FACTS, Workshops & Seminars, and Announcements. Please check the binder each month for changes. If you have something that you might like to share; you can send it to me and if it's appropriate, I'll gladly add it to the binder. I'll like to share these flyers with you now before putting them in the binder. **FLYERS**

Anytime you need to use school property (i.e.: for a committee meeting, Book Fair, PTA workshop); you must first fill out a Building Use form which is available in your school's main office or on the district web site. It needs to be completed and then forwarded to Lisa Vanderburg in the Department of Athletics here at LMEC. If you need to make copies for your unit you may not use the district copiers or paper. Try to limit the amount of copying you do since the unit will be faced with an expense for it.

If you need to make purchases for your committee, you can contact our Council Treasurer (Dawn Nocella) for a tax exempt form. Our Expense Forms and Remittance forms are available online. The expense form must be returned with receipts attached or you will not be reimbursed.

Another quick reminder: IRS Tax Time is approaching for our PTA units. Please work with your unit Treasurers to get your taxes filed on time. The instructions are online at the IRS website. Failure to properly file can result in the IRS following up with you. I'm thrilled to finally be able to report that according to my most recent conversation with the IRS; all of our tax year's filings have been straightened out and we are no longer accruing penalties. They actually have all been removed, but I am still waiting for paper confirmation.

I've been asked to let you know that the NYSED VADIR (violent and disruptive incident reports) have been submitted by district, to NYS. We expect to see the results in newspapers soon. Although there is a glossary of terms for reporting, there are poorly defined guidelines. One district may report every incident of cyberbully for example while another reports some of them. When you read the findings keep that in mind. One district may seem to be filled with violence while another may look quite peaceful.

I'd like to read a letter I received from Dr. Sirois regarding our enhancement of curriculum standards.

I would like to take a moment and stress to each of you the importance of training. There are many workshops offered that can assist you in the role you play within your PTA unit. The words..."well, that's how we've been doing it for years".....just doesn't hold up any longer. PTA has evolved so should we. This November the NYS PTA is holding its annual convention in Buffalo. I have always encouraged units to send representatives I hear many reasons not to go, with my favorites being...."it'll cost my unit too much money" and "we can use that money for the kids". Well, I'm here to tell you...what you learn at convention, can certainly be applied to the kids. In addition....what you learn may in the long run save your unit money! I ask each unit to make this the year of change....send a representative to convention. I

hope to join you if we can figure out how to get me leg on the plane!

One of my projects for this year is working towards improving communication within Council and its units and move towards being "greener". I am hoping all will join me...use email more and put information on the district website. I am also asking that if you have a problem or concern; speak first to the person who is involved in it. If you send someone an email or leave a phone message and you've had no response....follow up. It's always possible they did not receive the message. Let's work to avoid hurt feelings.

Another project that I have been working on, along with some other members of PTA and the district deals with the school lunch program. Some changes have been already implemented, some will be soon and others still need work.. I have been informed by members of our Board of Education (and confirmed publicly by them at the last regular meeting of the Board) that the condition of the DAHS kitchen is in need of renovation. The Board and Administration are currently working towards this goal with a target of summer 2011 for the project.

Speaking of the Board of Education, I want to encourage each one of you, to set a goal for yourself. That goal is to start attending Board meetings. There is a wealth of information you can learn first hand by being in attendance. It also enables you to understand some of the various processes needed to run our district. It also awards you the forum to speak directly to the Board.

On a final note, I'd like to thank you all for your patience during this lengthy report, and with each of you helping I know we'll have a successful school year.

Dollars for Scholars

Dollars for Scholars had our first meeting on 9/27/10. Fundraising ideas were the focus of this meeting since the golf outing will not be held this year. Fourteen scholarships were given out last year and we would like to give the same amount this year. Dollars for Scholars donations are down and new ideas are needed to raise money. Possible ideas were to send out our annual mailing earlier this year and think of trying to do the golf outing in May. School representatives are needed from all of our schools. We will meet again in November.

Submitted by Cindy Nug

Enrichment Report

Enrichment for 2010-2011

- Mr. O'Donnell is the District Coordinator for the Enrichment Program
- All second graders receive Enrichment services by Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Grubb as "push-in" lessons - or lessons in their own classrooms. Their lessons ~~are~~ are on the subjects each class is currently learning. But the Enrichment teaches a little deeper into the subject they are learning about.
- This is called SEM or School Enrichment Model.
- 3rd, 4th + 5th grade students can enter into the Enrichment Program based on 4 forms of criteria. Determination is based on
- School grades from last year, their past ELA score, their state math score and their score on the "CogAT" or Cognitive Ability Test.
- Children need to have 18 overall points to be accepted
- 161 children took the CogAT last spring, but only 50 children were accepted.
- Parents can appeal results by first contacting their child's school Principal.
- 3rd, 4th + 5th grade students are bussed to Summit Lane Elementary school approximately every 6th day, depending on schedules, for their class.
- Enrichment continues in the middle schools.
- 6th, 7th + 8th grade students have class every other day - alternating with usually gym or study hall.
- 6th grade covers cultures, 7th grade covers our law + justice system & 8th grade covers advertising + entrepreneurship.

LEVITTOWN

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Success for
every student!

[Quick Resources](#)
[About Us](#)
[Our Schools](#)
[Central Office](#)
[PTA SEPTA](#)
[Academics](#)
[Educational Resources](#)
[Computer Resources](#)
[Health & Athletics](#)
[News](#)
[Alumni](#)

Board of Education

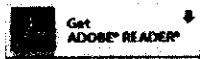
- Board of Education Goals
- Budget Information

Current Capital & Bond Projects

June 02, 2010

Uncompleted Projects

Superintendent	Facility	Funding	SED Number	Description	Project Status
Assistant Superintendents	East Broadway	07/08 Capital Budget	014-013	Classroom addition	Project is on hold
Directors					
Supervisors					
State Aid Lobbying					



All other Capital projects are completed

Secondary Curriculum Report

District hired 3 new teachers this year:

Chemistry teacher at Division Avenue, English/Leave replacement at MacArthur and Principal at Division Avenue.

Excessed about 30 teachers, most have come back or have a job else where. When a teacher gets excessed they go on a call back list for 7 years, regardless of tenure or how many years they were in the district. For 7 years when a position becomes available in their area of specialty they have to be called and offered the position, even if we know they are employed else where.

District in instituting a new program -6th grade English Language Arts called spring board. Teaching them different research skills, writing skills and critical thinking skills- more skills to prepared hem for college.

All 6th grade and Special Ed. are training on this -Oct 18, Nov 1 and Nov 2nd. The curriculum was purchased from College Board and students will be bringing home a workbook the end of October.

Changes in ELA scores (raising the bar of mastery level) is causing more student to be put into AIS (Academic Intervention Services), a letter would have gone home if your child would be getting this service. AIS does not mean your child will be pulled out of class for the service; it can be done through progress monitoring. A parent can not "opt-out" of AIS, they can give input regarding their child, but it is ultimately the decision of the principal and teacher.

Spoke about Parent Portal: All progress reports and report cards will be viewed on line. Everyone should have received a letter home in the summer with their students ID to set up the parent portal. You can opt-out by going to LMEC. There is now a link for the schedules. A parent asked about viewing grade information for students who graduated in 2010. Their information is no long there. Debbie is going to speak to Ron about this

State eliminated the 5th ^{+8th} grade Social Studies exam and the 8th grade Foreign Language assessment-which if the student passed the Foreign Language assessment they would earn a credit for High School. It appears that local districts will be allowed to develop their own test and continue to receive the credit. Possibly be able to work with other Nassau school districts and BOCES to develop a test.

Next meeting is Oct. 21st.

Angela List

Levittown Council of PTAs
Food Service Liaison Report
September 30, 2010

The first meeting of the Food Service Committee is scheduled for October 6th.

The Board of Ed is looking into renovating the school cafeterias.

Submitted by: Lisa Curran

Honorary Life Scholarship Dinner Dance

9/30/10

(HLSDD) The HLSDD will be at the Crest Hollow March 31st.

All units will be e-mailed a copy of the deadlines, guidelines, sample letter, pin form.

The next deadline to me is Nov 18th - By then you need to have already selected a nominee, and sent me their bio & passport photo & Ordered the Pin from NYSPTA.

Sheet going around for chairs names & numbers

Pins 2 choices see form

to be given to J. or myself
as soon as you
can.

Check for corsage or boutonniere at Nov mtg. Will e-mail you cost before meeting.

Debe Howe & Diane McPartland

Honorary Life Scholarship Dinner Dance Council Chairs

\$60 Cost

My Fancy Report

Reflections - Danielle Calderon

- Theme is "Together we can"
- Drop off is 11/30 + 12/1 to 8:30pm
must have all paper work COMPLETED
- Please read through your packets
please come see me.
- Must receive your reflection packets
by now. If not Please see me.
- Please make sure all rules are
followed.
- Oct. 14th reflection workshop^e ^{conference} ~~workshop~~ fall please
send your reps.

Elementary Curriculum

9/21/10

Submitted by: Melissa Coene

New Teachers

New Librarian- Lauren Fazier

There were three new teachers at the teacher orientation

New Programs

-There is a committee that is working on the Spanish program for grades 1 & 2. They want to integrate the program with the special area teachers.

-Social/emotional learning (SEL) meeting- looks at the whole child

-6th grade English Language Arts- Springboard- developed by the College Board.
Pre-AP curriculum- Skill sets learn to produce end result such as essay.

-Enhanced curriculum-6th through 12th grade.

State Test Data

-State hasn't sent them back yet. They will be mailed by September 30th. NYS decided to change the cutoff score (last year 650; this year it changes for every test) therefore we have more students have a 1 & 2 (based in a 4 point scale). For this year only we can offer AIS to students with a 650 or less. At the elementary level we can service all 1 & 2 students. For the upper grades we can service most of the 1 & 2 students.

Parent Portal

Check in

Report Card- only available on website unless parent fills out a form to opt out.
Student schedules

*If problems occur with the Parent Portal than you should contact the computer department,

Greenkill

We are going back to Greenkill this year.

Changes and concerns were made

The teachers liked Greenkill better

The trip will remain 3 days and 2 nights

Parent Involvement

The following is a list of committees that have parent involvement:

RTI- Response to Intervention

Report Card Committee

Social/Emotional Learning Committee

Next meeting: October 19th

Subject: Council Meeting

From: Angela List <angnalex@verizon.net>

Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2010 23:03:34 -0400

To: Esta <el3ral@optonline.net>

CC: Ali Harrs <Aharrs4@aol.com>

Esta,

I will not be at the Council Meeting on Thursday. I am in Texas watching my sister graduate from Air Force Basic Training.

Attached is my Secondary Curriculum Report for this month, along with blank committee sheet. Could you please pass it around to all of the presidents so that I can get the names and emails of each Unit Committee Chair.

 Corresponding Secretary report is as follows:

Cards were sent over the Summer to;
Sympathy card to Kristen Goldman-Northside Co-President
Sympathy card to Tonie McDonald
Get well card to Patricia Genco
Sympathy card to Susan Hendler
Sympathy card to Jill Stevens
Sympathy card to MaryLynn Borst

We received a Thank You card from Alexis Granger for the PTA Scholarship she received.

Angela

"

Pat Genco

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 9.0.856 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3164 - Release Date: 09/28/10 02:34:00

Secondary Curriculum Report-sept 10.doc

Content-Type: application/msword

Content-Encoding: base64

1011chairs.xls

Content-Type: application/vnd.ms-excel

Content-Encoding: base64

**Levittown Council of PTAs
Budget 2010/2011**

General Fund:		Projected	Actual	Projected
		2009/2010	2009/2010	2010/2011
Starting Balance		\$9,122.68	\$9,122.68	\$8,748.00
INCOME				
Membership Dues		\$1,300.00	\$1,621.20	\$1500.00
Other		0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME		\$10,422.68	\$10,743.88	\$10,248.00
EXPENSES				
Administrative Functions		\$250.00	\$205.77	\$250.00
AIDS Awareness		\$200.00	0	\$200.00
Carry Over		\$5,672.68	\$8,748.00	\$6348.00
Convention		\$1,200.00	\$460.00	\$800.00
Health & Safety		\$600.00	0	\$500.00
Historian		\$100.00	0	\$100.00
In House Training		\$1,000.00	\$356.81	\$600.00
Installation		\$50.00	\$29.40	\$50.00
Miscellaneous		\$350.00	\$135.19	\$350.00
Office Supplies		\$150.00	\$76.71	\$150.00
Pres/Prin Dinner		\$300.00	\$240.00	\$300.00
Publications		\$50.00	\$82.00	\$100.00
Workshops/Conferences		\$500.00	\$410.00	\$500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$10,422.68	\$10,743.88	\$10,248.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND:		Projected 09/10	Actual 09/10	Projected 10/11
Starting Balance		\$6,459.37	\$6,459.37	\$7,212.72
Dinner Dance Income		\$25,500.00	\$23,039.00	\$25,000.00
Total Income		\$31,959.37	\$29,498.37	\$32,212.72
Dinner Dance Expenses		\$24,088.37	\$18,285.65	\$21,000.00
PTSA Scholarship Awards		\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4000.00
Total Expenses		\$28,088.37	\$22,285.65	\$25,000.00

Procedure Report 9/30/10

There are 3 proposed changes to our procedure:

#1 Nominating committee(Page 26) (Special Committee)

The addition of the word "temporary" before Chairperson of this committee is the Immediate Past President

2 As each school runs their own Blood Drives we no longer need a council chair therefore we can delete the procedure entirely. *PAGE 17*

#3 We do have a council chair for Transportation (Liaison Committee) but no procedure therefore we need to add procedures that will read exactly as the ones for the enrichment liaison (see page 21)

Leadwonderberg
9/30/10