

Levittown Council of PTAs
General Membership Meeting

October 17, 2011

Minutes

Call to Order 7:35

President's report- Report attached.

1st VP- Thank you for the support & help with the President/Supt. Meetings. Wisdom Lane Middle School Food Pantry has been changed to Levittown Pantry housed @ Wisdom Lane Middle School. Name change was due to making community aware the food pantry is for everyone in the community not just Wisdom Lane families. Thanks to all for the donations.

2nd VP- Council directory will be emailed to unit presidents.

Recording Secretary - Minutes approved from September 2011 meeting with a minor change. Audit committee member information updated.

Corresponding Secretary – Sympathy cards were sent to Marianne Britton and to the Mazza family.

Treasurer's Report- See Attached.

September monthly audit was conducted tonight by Mary Rickard & all was in found in order.

Council Dues are still due from Abbey, Lee Road & Summit.

Past President's Report: We are supporting "Adopt-a-family" again this year. Adoptions/donations are being accepted now.

Historian- No Report.

Superintendent's Report- Debbie Rifkin sat in for Dr. Grossane. She explained the outline of the BOE accepted Goals for 2011-2012.

Common Core standards will be in place starting September 2012.

Committee Reports

Arts in Education- East Broadway and Gardiners will hold anti-bullying assemblies to kick off red ribbon week. Robin is looking for A & E updates & information from the units. Reminder to fill out evaluation forms after each event.

Audit- The committee is in need of an alternate.

Council Budget- No Report.

Elementary Curriculum- See attached report.

Health, Safety, and Environment- No report.

Legislation- Convention is weekend of November 11 in Niagara Falls. No new resolutions this year but retentions & updates. Diane needs to know how each unit voted on these retentions & updates. She provided her email to gather this information. Emma Curran, Council Delegate will be representing Council at convention this year. All people are welcome to attend convention.

Procedures – No report.

Secondary Curriculum – See report attached. Still need representatives for Abbey, Gardiners, Salk-MacArthur, Northside, Summit & SEPTA. Presidents please give information if known.

Special Committees

Nominating: A sign-up sheet is being passed around, Esta is chairperson. Each unit President is usually on the committee with the Co-President as an alternate.

Reflections: Mailing went out to presidents. Please give to your representatives. The pick-up date has been changed to Tuesday Dec 13th. A workshop for Reflections will be at Fall conference.

Scholarship Dinner Dance: Every unit got a packet of information for the dance including sample letters. Your deadlines should be sometime in November so we move smoothly forward.

Liaisons

Capital Project/Bond Watcher : No Report

Dollars for Scholars A Zumba fundraiser was held in the LMEC gym on Oct. 14, 2011, it was very successful with a profit of over \$1,600.00. Committee was asked to have it again in the spring.

Food Service- Vending machines are in violation of wellness policy. It was brought to the attention of the food service committee & Dr. Grossane.

SEPTA- See report attached. Discussion was made as to why SEPTA's fundraisers are not made known to the general population of each school. Esta reminded unit presidents to use the school websites for all fundraising.

Teachers Center No report.

Transportation – Chairperson needed.

Wellness – 1st meeting on Wednesday 10/19.

New Business –

Esta reported the DAHS fundraiser on 10/2 – DAHS faculty vs. Harlem Wizards – was a huge success! Wizards also visited Wisdom Lane Middle school, Northside Elementary and Division Avenue HS. They spent time with the kids and the PTA was asked to have them back.

Maryann Lawless asked if the Connect Ed system could be utilized for school plays/musicals/concerts in each school to promote attendance and support within the district.

Any fundraisers that any unit is hosting & want everyone to know, please feel free to share at these meetings.

Note Upcoming Events on the back of the agenda.

Adjourned 8:38pm -

Minutes prepared by Eileen Petruzzo

President's Report for the Council Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2011 7:30 pm

I would like to thank Jane and Abbey Lane for hosting tonight's meeting. Our next meeting will be hosted by Division Avenue High School.

Please be reminded that our mtg. is being recorded. I ask that when you speak you use the microphone. Once they are approved our minutes will be online. Please check the school web site for updates and keep web site current with your unit information.

Thanks again to Patty Genco for running another successful and informative Pres/Superintendent Mtg.

I have some important reminders for your units that I would like to go over with you again tonight.

- The Nassau Region web site is a very useful reference and tool. www.nassaupta.org. Our AD, Susan Contino is available to help. Let me know if you need her contact information.
- This Thursday, October 20 is Nassau Region's Fall Conference. It is not too late to register for this very informative workshop. You can register at the door @ 6:45. The location is South Side Middle School in Rockville Centre, \$15 at the door. All members are welcome (especially new officers)
- All new presidents should consider attending the Presidents Rap on Oct. 27 @ Nassau Boces 71 Clinton Road, Garden City
- Remember to check you unit bylaws to see if they need to be updated. Check the Nassau Region web site for the link.
- It is IRS time!! Please file your taxes on time. Your Unit will file a 990EZ or a 990 form. Again checkout The Nassau Region link.

- Your first membership payment is due to NYS by October 31.
- Presidents/Principals' Dinner is Monday, Nov. 21st @ The Crest Hollow Country Club
- On Wed. Oct. 26 we will recognize our Board of Education, thanking them for all the work they do for our school district. This year we will continue to do what was done last year. We will present the board with certificates of thanks and make a donation on their behalf to the Wisdom Lane Food Pantry. \$100 budget line will be used to purchase much needed food items for the pantry.
- Please continue to support the food pantry throughout the year.

We look forward to continue to work with and support our Board of Education. Our goals are the same, to do what is best for our schools and most importantly our children.

Thank you again to everyone for all that you do for our children. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Please keep the lines of communication open. I know together we can accomplish whatever we set out to do for our children.

And...please feel free to contact me with your concerns and hopefully no worries.

10/17/11

Corresponding Secretary Report

- A sympathy card was sent to Marianne Britton.
- A sympathy card was sent to The Mezga Family.

Levittown Council of PTAs
Treasurer Report

September 20, 2011 to October 17, 2011

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:	\$8,898.66
Expenses:	
Total Expenses:	\$0.00
Income:	
Total Income:	\$0.00
Closing Checkbook Balance:	\$8,898.66

Scholarship Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:	\$9,224.77
Expenses:	
Total Expenses:	\$0.00
Income:	
Total Income:	\$0.00
Closing Checkbook Balance:	\$9,224.77

LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

GOALS 2011-2012

Goal 1: To utilize a team approach to review and evaluate programs, curriculum, instructional strategies and assessment tools at the elementary and secondary levels.

Objective 1: To examine the Common Core State Standards for grades K-12 and to provide teachers, parents, and students with an awareness of these standards while beginning the process of directly implementing the new Common Core curriculum.

Objective 2: To develop and implement the concept of Literacy Centers at the elementary level to provide weekly instruction in reading in support of the Common Core curriculum to model best practice and differentiated instruction.

Objective 3: To evaluate the delivery of English Language Arts at the middle school level to increase student proficiency with achieving the objectives of the Common Core curriculum.

Objective 4: To examine the effectiveness of Regents level classes at the high schools to ensure that the instruction is engaging and differentiated appropriately to support all students in not only achieving proficiency, but mastery of concepts and skills as demonstrated on Regents examinations.

Goal 2: To review and evaluate current research in effective models of supervision, evaluation and staff development.

Objective 1: To examine the new requirements for Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) as it applies to Levittown Public Schools teachers and administrators and to select evaluation rubrics for implementation in the 2011-2012 school year.

Objective 2: To provide staff development to teachers and administrators to support the implementation of the selected evaluation rubrics.

Goal 3: To increase the use of technology as an enhancement to student learning and as an information tool for increased communication with constituent groups.

Objective 1: To promote the expectation that all classrooms will utilize effective technologies to enhance student learning including Smart Board technology, website development and other appropriate technologies.

Objective 2: To increase communication with parents and students via the Parent Portal and modifications and updates to the district website.

Objective 3: To develop a plan to purchase and implement the most current technology throughout all classrooms.

Objective 4: To undertake a financial and technical audit of the Technology department to insure greatest efficiencies in use of resources, purchases and management of technology capital, and financial policy and procedure.

Goal 4: To ensure that the practices and policies of the district support the efficient use of funds to support our educational goals.

Objective 1: To re-organize the functions of the business office to maximize productivity and efficiency.

Objective 2: To modify and develop the strategic five year financial plan in relation to the needs of the district and the 2% tax levy cap.

Objective 3: To assess the status of the physical plant structures and prioritize capital projects in a five year plan in conjunction with the Board of Education, building principals, head custodians, and central administration.

Objective 4: To undertake an audit of the transportation department, including but not limited to the reassignment of routes under clarification of law allowing for the elimination of the requirement of a seat for every assigned student.

Goal 5: To review and update the policies of the district.

Objective 1: To review and update the existing policy manual to be in compliance with NYSED law.

Approved: September 14, 2011

Elementary Curriculum Meeting

(and for other reasons)

Miss Ritten gave report

The first Elementary Curriculum meeting was held on September 28. At the meeting several items were discussed. Because we received the results from the State Assessments late, the district ^{would like to} will be implementing a new system called Northwestern Education Assessment (NWEA). ^{They can be} They will be having the assessment done 3 times a year. With this system, a teacher will be better able to see where a child is throughout the year and will be able to them some guidance on what the child will need quicker than waiting for the State Assessment results. The district is hoping to start this in January. They will probably start with the 3-4 grades. Parents will also receive a parent report to tell where their child is.

Also, discussed at the meeting was Common Core Curriculum. New York State has changed the learning standards. With this new curriculum the student will be receiving a deeper understanding on few topics. The district will be preparing the students for the new curriculum in May and June of next year. Starting September 2012, the new curriculum will need to be in place.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18 @ 9:30 a.m. in the small boardroom at LMEC.

Ginny Cwil

Secondary Met Sept 21, 2011

Regents.

- Originally elim. Jan regent - now have funding to re-instate Jan. regent this year.
- Eliminated FL assessment last year in gr. 8
- Regent eliminated in Foreign language this year

Common Core Curric.

04/05 state revised standards. now NYS going towards standards similar to rest of nation.

There is a shift in standards
Thought used to be mile long - inch deep
now teaching less, but more in depth.

Next school year (2013) ELA + Math be based on new common core Curric.

Looking at a new assessment

NWEA - assessment given 3x year on the PC - Sept - mid year - June gives assessment of how well a student is progressing.
get results right away + group students together w/ same problem areas or those who excel in same area - gives suggestions how to help the students who are ahead or behind would begin possibly gr. 4-5-6.

Went over state Assessment scores.

spoke at length regarding APPR - which
is a new teacher evaluation - and the
Rubenic of evaluation

Grade Book will be up + running ~~in~~
3rd quarter - MS + HS.

Angela Holt

--SEPTA--

Scott Haas

At our last meeting on September 26th, the new Special Ed Director (Mr. Keith Squillacioti), and the new Assistant Director (Ms. Tracy VonEschen), introduced themselves and spoke about their experience and outlook.

Our next meeting is Monday, October 24th at 7:30p.m. here in the large boardroom. After routine business we will be hosting an informative seminar that addresses BOTH the legal and financial preparations crucial to safeguarding assets and benefits for your special needs child. All are welcome to attend!!

We have been running a Yankee Candle fundraiser which was very successful last year. The orders taken that are guaranteed for delivery before Thanksgiving have been closed out...but we are still collecting orders for a delivery not guaranteed by Thanksgiving. If anyone would still like to place an order, please do so. You can find the information about the fundraiser on the SEPTA webpage on our school district website.

Thank you!

Levittown SEPTA



Special Education Parent Teacher Association

“How to protect your child legally and financially”

Join Andrew Cohen, Esq. and Mitch Weisbrot, CLU for an informative seminar that addresses the legal and financial preparations crucial to safeguarding assets and benefits for your special needs child.

Andrew and Mitch are fathers of children with disabilities. Their personal experience and professional expertise enable them to help other parents navigate the confusing and emotional aspects of estate planning to best serve the interests of each special needs child.

Topics of Discussion:

- Government benefits for individuals with disabilities
- How to accumulate and preserve assets without disqualifying eligibility for benefits
- Establishing guardianship
- Estate planning and wills
- Special needs trusts – how they work and why they’re useful
- Strategies for funding trusts

WHEN: Monday, October 24, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.
(presentation will follow routine business)

WHERE: Levittown Memorial Education Center
150 Abbey Lane
Levittown, NY 11756

Visit the following websites for more information about the speakers:

www.financialguide.com/Mitch-Weisbrot
www.amcohenlaw.com