

General Membership Meeting Agenda

November 20, 2014

***Please remember: our meetings are being taped by the Recording Secretary. In order to be fair to all members
-If you wish to address Council, please step up to the microphone to assure you can be heard.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call/Establish Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes – Recording Secretary
4. Executive Committee Reports:
 - A. President Report
 - B. 1st VP Report
 - C. 2nd VP Report
 - D. Corresponding Secretary
 - E. Treasurer
5. Superintendent Report
6. SEPTA
7. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Arts in Education
 - B. Audit
 - C. Council Budget
 - D. Elementary Curriculum
 - E. Health, Safety & Environment
 - F. Legislation & Advocacy
 - G. Procedures
 - H. Secondary Curriculum
 - I. Transportation
8. Special Committee Reports
 - A. Budget
 - B. By Laws
 - C. Honorary Life
 - D. PTSA Senior Award
 - E. Meet the Candidates
 - F. Nominating
 - G. Reflections
 - H. Senior Award Dinner Dance
9. Liaison Reports
 - A. LSCS
 - B. Food Service
 - C. GC Tech
 - D. LEADD
 - E. Teacher Center
 - F. Wellness
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Adjourn



Levittown Council of PTA's
General Membership Meeting
November 20, 2014
Minutes

Call to order at 7:38pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – quorum was not established

Recording Secretary – the minutes from the October's meeting were sent to the unit President's. Since there was no quorum minutes could not be approved and will be held to the next meeting in January.

President's Report – see attached

1st VP – no report

2nd VP – please send in your contact information for all officers and chair people for the directory. List is going around now.

Corresponding Secretary – no report

Treasurer – see attached.

The books were reviewed by Kristine Ekberg and were found to be in order.
However, due to a quorum not being established the report could not be filed.

Superintendent Report – none – Dr. McDonald was not present.

SEPTA – January 26th is their next meeting. The district transitional facilitator speaker will be discussing graduation requirements for children with an IEP.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – see attached

Audit – no report – looking for an audit chair

Council Budget – see attached

Elementary Curriculum – see attached

Health, Safety & Environment – see attached - Margaret Costa will chair the committee. No official dates for meetings have been set. Margaret will call and set up a meeting with district.

Legislation & Advocacy – all resolutions passed with little or no discussion at the PTA convention. Laura Brown spoke about getting new guidelines for Division Ave. regarding a safety zone.

Convention – see attached

Procedures – no report

Secondary Curriculum – see attached

Transportation – see attached

Special Committee Reports

Budget – no report

Bylaws – no report

Honorary Life – no report

PTSA Senior Award – sign in sheet is going around. Question regarding the application was asked and whether or not it is available. Answer – No, not yet, the application needs to be reviewed.

Meet the Candidates – no report

Nominating – see attached – committee was announced - committee needs to be voted in but since we don't have a quorum we will vote on it in January's meeting. Slate will be presented in February and voted on in March.

Reflections – see attached

Senior Award Dinner Dance – received all names but Salk, MacArthur, and SEPTA. East Broadway, Summit need to submit their bios. All money and seating arrangements are due by February 1st. Don't forget to purchase your pins.

Liaison Reports

LSCS – no report

Food Service – see attached

Donna Waitkus – Salk – green cafeteria the snack window keypad keeps breaking down so they keep closing the window and in the regular cafeteria it keeps breaking as well and they are asked to write their names in a notebook and it just stays out there for all to see. Patricia Genco will look into it and call Donna with an answer.

Laura Brown – Thought all of the P.O.S. systems were being replaced?

A. They are being swapped out.

Complaint on School Dude and lunch program with the Samsung Note phones. It is not working – Bill Pastore and the IT department is looking into it.

There is also an issue with the availability of water cups but due to not having a quorum a vote could not be taken.

GC Tech – see attached

LEADD – no report

Teacher Center – no report

Wellness – no report

Old Business – none

New Business –

Angela was contacted by the NY Jets He works with school districts like the Ducks, Islanders, etc and was asking if PTA council would like to sponsor a Fun Day for the district. The schedule for next season comes out in April or May.

Dawn Tiemer was looking online at different rewards programs and Walmart has a rewards program if people buy their supplies directly online at the website the schools will get an amount back. It can be brought up at the President/Superintendent meeting to see if this is something that can be done.

Kris Ekberg asked if we are participating in Adopt-A Family? – Council is adopting a family.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15pm

Minutes prepared by Tina Bodkin

Levittown Council of PTAs President Report - November

Good Evening and welcome to this evenings Levittown Council of PTAs General Membership Meeting.

Unfortunately Dr McDonald was not feeling well late this afternoon and is unable to attend the meeting. It was too short of notice to get anyone to fill in for her, but if you have any questions, comments or concerns, I will be more than happy to relay them to her and get an answer for you.

Welcome to the Board of Education members also in attendance this evening.

Thank you to Northside for hosting this evening. Salk/MacArthur will be hosting our next meeting in January.

I want to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a happy holiday season. There are so many things to be thankful this year. I am especially thankful for my family, my executive board, the mild weather we have had so far, for all of you and for our ability to be heard within the district. Whether we speak up at BOE meetings, speak at PTA Meetings, PTA Convention, participate in district committees, call or write our superintendents and BOE: we do make a difference for our children.

As we think of the many things we are all thankful for and many of us have children who are getting older and starting to drive— take a minute to sit down with your children and remind them of the dangers of texting and driving. A new law meant to crack down on texting-while-driving has gone into effect across the state.

For the first offense, drivers will have their licenses suspended for 120 days. If they are convicted of a second or subsequent offense within six months of their license being reissued, their license would then be revoked for a year.

All presidents should be receiving emails from NYS PTA (NYS PTA Advocacy Newsbriefs), they can also be found on the NYS PTA website under Advocacy - please take some time to share them with your executive committees and you unit members. There is a wealth of information in every email, as well as very informative articles. Novembers issue had a great article on Mental Health being Just as Important as Physical Health, Which is Why Mental Health Wellness Week is Recognized in November, Addressing Students with Disabilities and Bullying, Media and Young Children, A FAFSA Completion Challenge, DC Ebola Guidance

Some Reminders and Information:

Nassau Region PTA President/Principals dinner will be this Monday November 24th. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

The Adopt a Family Program is in full swing. Contact Esta Lachow if you are still interested in participating.

The next President/ Superintendent meeting is Monday December 2st.

We have no Council meeting in December.

Some of the schools are still in need of Turkeys, pies or gift certificates. If you can help out with a turkey, pie or gift certificate, contact the main office at your school.

On behalf of the entire Council Board we wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you for all you do for the children of Levittown.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela List

Levittown Council of PTAs
Treasurer Report
October 23-November 20, 2014

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance: **\$8,183.52**

Expenses:

President/Principal Dinner \$268.00

Bank Fee \$2.00

Total Expenses: **\$270.00**

Income:

Total Income: **\$0.00**

Closing Checkbook Balance: **\$7,913.52**

Senior Award Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance: **\$8,748.70**

Expenses:

Total Expenses: **\$0.00**

Income:

Total Income: **\$0.00**

Closing Checkbook Balance: **\$8,748.70**

CD Account

Opening Balance: **\$4,002.76**

Expenses:

Total Expenses: **\$0.00**

Income:

CD Interest \$2.04

Total Income: **\$2.04**

Closing Balance: **\$4,004.80**

Arts in Ed Committee Report

Council meeting Nov.20, 2014

Division Avenue--is having an assembly on Nov. 26 for all grades. Jayne Hitchcock will do a presentation on internet safety and privacy. This is a Nassau BOCES approved event. This comes from a company called the teen sage, which we used last year for Jacy Good, which was a distracted driving assembly.

Gardiners Avenue PTA-- is holding a Harlem Wizards Basketball Game this month.

MacArthur HS--Officer Paul Failla came to MacArthur to talk to the Juniors during LEADD Week about decision making. He discussed safety and awareness of positive and negative decisions associated with motor vehicles.

Salk--During LEADD Week the students had an assembly from Camfel Productions. The program addressed many of the core values of the Rise Award and Salk's character education program.

Summit Lane—Prismatic Magic Laser Show for Halloween Event. Students, parents, and staff had a great time at the music and laser lights show. PTA received a lot of positive feedback.

Wisdom--has Rohan Murphy coming in on November 26th, He will discuss how he has overcome his disability & how he used it to gain an advantage in life & to achieve his highest goals. We have had him at the school before. He is amazing & I highly recommend him. He is BOCES approved.

Back on Nov 13th, we had PO Sharon Galvin come & speak to 6th & 7th graders about cyber bullying. She spoke on internet safety & how to make good choices & how when you make bad choices, they can affect the rest of your life. The children were very engaged & participated with great questions in the Q&A afterwards. This is a free assembly!

Council Budget Nov. 2014

I have gotten reports from Summit Lane, Wisdom Lane, Northside and Abbey Lane so far. Please forward me your concerns soon as I need to organize them to go forward. I have gotten many cosmetic concerns which is fine and will be brought to the attention of the Director of Building and Grounds, but see if there is any instructional, club or athletic concerns too.

GC Tech

GC Tech visited Salk and Wisdom 8th grade this week to show the students the courses they offer. The honor society raised funds and participated in the walk- Light the Night for Leukemia. Ohio Technical College representatives came and gave a workshop to the automotive students on airbrushing. GC Tech gave a report at the Nov. 12th BOE going over their success rate and proposing adding two classes in the future, a general contracting course, carpentry, electrical/plumbing type and a audio video technician system installer. This would encompass home theaters, alarms, video systems and more.

Elementary Curriculum Report
November 20, 2014

April 27th No School for Elementary students. This will be a scoring day for the ELA.
Math is still being scored by Educational Vistas, but we will be grading the ELA in house.

Parent Workshops on Common Core Math will be held January 28th.

6:30-6:40-Welcome

6:45-7:30-Session I

7:40-8:25-Session II

#1: K-2 Envision and Online Resources

#2: K-2 Math Activities for Home

#3: 3-5 Envision and Online Resources

#4: 3-5 Math Activities for Home

All parents will be able to attend 2 of the 4 sessions offered.

Applications for LAP and LAMP will be online only beginning next year.

Submitted by:

Mary Rickard

Levittown Public Schools

Memorandum:

TO: E & A Committee
FROM: Dajuana Reeves-Alston, Transportation Supervisor
DATE: October 29, 2014
SUBJECT: **E & A Committee Minutes/Meeting October 14, 2014**

"Success for Every Student"

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Present: Dajuana Reeves-Alston, Jackie Toborg, Linda Toron, Sherry Zinger

Absent: Monica Martins, Bill Pastore, Gina Portello, Karen Quinones-Smith,
Cathy Rust, Rosemary Winter

OLD BUSINESS:

SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

- Dajuana: I would like to welcome everyone back for another school year. We discussed briefly the speed zone cameras that were implemented over the summer. As probably everyone is aware, towards the end of the summer, Mangano retracted all the tickets that were distributed in the summer due motorists not being aware schools were in session. County Executives anticipate the school speed zone cameras to generate an estimated 25 million dollars a year. Mangano defended the use of the cameras against critics who have said the program is less about safety and more about generating money for the County. He still pleads the fact that it is for safety, not for revenue, but they do anticipate by the end of this month there should be a total of 56 cameras throughout Nassau and Suffolk County.
- Sherry: Gardiners Avenue has a photo enforced sign, and they don't have a camera; they have the possibility of a mobile unit which you said you saw.
- Dajuana: Right, according to press release information there is only supposed to be one camera per district. The ultimate goal is to put it in front of every school.
- Linda: Well, it's one per every district plus any stationed mobile units.
- Dajuana: It is going to be established at the zones where it's felt there is a high level of traffic, and would be most effective. I called the Town to find out what is the amount of feet where radar actually starts reading. I was informed it's where the sign is.
- Jackie: Do the private schools have them?
- Dajuana: Any type of educational based building where students attend is considered as a school. It is important for motorist to be aware of the time frame on the signs. Generally the time frame is 6 am - 6 pm or 7 am - 6 pm.

Sherry: There are signs over by Maria Regina on Jerusalem Avenue. I was wondering if any of those children walk to school if they live in the area, or are they eligible for transportation?

Dajuana: Yes. Transportation is provided according to District mileage requirements.

Sherry: Is Maria Regina in our District?

Dajuana: No.

Jackie: It's Plainedge.

NEW BUSINESS:

DRILLING

Dajuana: The drilling that was being done by the US Navy and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation did not affect transportation. We evaluated all areas of concern, and Lawrence Road and Harriad Drive was the only area that required alternative transportation.

Sherry: Years ago they found that the ground was contaminated by the gas tanks leaking on the school property. The fuel went about 50 yards across to where the houses start on Dunhill Road. Wells were dug and capped.

MEETINGS AT SCHOOLS

Dajuana: My annual meetings in the summer with all the building principals were conducted. All concerns and issues presented by Transportation and the E & A Committee are discussed in order to find remedies to continue providing efficient transportation.

BUS ASSEMBLY

Dajuana: At Gardiners Avenue this year, Transportation was part of their Bus Assembly. You would be surprised at how much these students really comprehend. I had an open forum about conduct with them. It was just the busing students including the special education students. I asked questions, and they were very responsive. We addressed "if you see something, say something" whether it is bullying, or you see somebody not abiding by the rules. One student asked, "What if the Bus Driver is not doing the right thing"? It was overall a productive assembly.

Jackie: You only did this at Gardiners?

Dajuana: Gardiners is the only school that mentioned this type of assembly.

Jackie: Can you start it yourself at the other schools?

Dajuana: I could inquire from the Building Principals about implementing it.

Jackie: It seems like it would be a very good idea. It sounds very interesting.

Dajuana: It was very informative for the students, and it was very informative for me to know that between the literature we send home and with the Transportation Staff the children do comprehend. The goal is that everybody is aware of what the rules and regulations are. It was a very positive experience.

NYAPT POSTER CONTEST

Jackie: Do you still do the poster contest?

Dajuana: Yes, but last year only East Broadway participated.

ALTERNATE STOP

Jackie: I know we discussed this once before, but it seems like it is coming up a little more often. Students that have notes to go home on another bus, I remember you said only in an emergency.

Dajuana: It has to be approved. They can't automatically get on.

Jackie: When MacArthur students miss the bus, they want to ride on with Salk students.

Dajuana: Generally that is not accommodated, but based on reasoning and explanation it is determined for approval on an emergency case basis.

TRANSFER POINTS

Sherry: What about the transfer buses later in the day, do they all go back to Wisdom and split up?

Dajuana: Yes.
Those are all the subjects I have to discuss.

Meeting adjourned. The next E & A Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12th.

DRA:sb

Cc: William Pastore, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

NYS Convention Report
November 2014

We had a great convention full of really interesting workshops and general sessions. We all attended workshops by different speakers, addressing many different topics from helping your kids with assessments, to trends in technology to bullying, to internet safety to underage drinking and drug use. Each one was informative and gave us a lot to think about. I was particularly inspired by a few things I heard in the workshop about assessments and how to help your kids through them. Learning is meant to be challenging and we should celebrate what the speaker called “cognitive discomfort” that moment when there is silence when a difficult question is posed. It is in those moments that our children stretch and grow the most. That discomfort is a good thing and not something we should try to protect our kids from.

We voted on all the retentions, updates and new resolutions that we voted on in our unit meetings. After some spirited debate on the new resolutions, they were all passed. It is really interesting to see true parliamentary procedure in action on the floor of the convention, complete with a dedicated parliamentarian whose sole job is to make sure Robert’s Rules are followed carefully and he is consulted frequently throughout the process.

Meryl Tisch, one of the NYS Board of Regents, gave the key note address, talking about things like Common Core and its implementation and the state’s desire to see UPK standard across the state. The questions about the new pathways to diploma in NYS and the lack of a diploma option for our special ed students were also addressed. A new executive board was elected and Bonnie Russell is the new NYS PTA president.

All in all, it was an educational weekend and I want to thank council for allowing me to be our representative.

Submitted by:

Mary Rickard

Secondary Curriculum Meeting 12-9-14

Multiple Pathway – NY State is putting into effect, vote will take place in January and will go into place for the Fall.

Algebra I, English, Living Environment or Earth Science, only 1 Social Studies and the second will be a choice between 2nd Social Studies, 2nd Math, 2nd Science CTE, Humanities, Arts, or STEM.

Still requires students to take 2nd year of Global.

SAT – changes – see handouts

Parent Workshop in January for College planning, flyers will be mailed home and a connected message will follow the flyers up.

New Courses for next year – board hasn't reviewed it until the budget meeting in February. All courses are pending board approval and budget passing. 17 or more students needed to run a course.

Studio and Media – learn art and design through digital media Grades 9-12 – full year course.

Science – AP Physics 2 – alternating every other day with lab

Science – assigned to take Living Environment then Earth Science. Reason is Living Environment is a much easier course and accelerate them better.

Business – Senior experience Course – every other day full year course. There will be criteria for the course. The first half will be working on interviewing skills, how to get an internship, etc. 2nd half will be bringing their after school internships experiences back to the classroom.

Chinese 1 – will be dropped

Math – changes Algebra 1 – last year big challenges with all math courses – an extra period every other day will be implemented. Extra help is poorly attended to they are working it into their schedules. This does not apply to accelerated students. A student cannot accelerate into Math if not in it from the beginning.

Also looking to change the name “accelerated” into “Honors”

2 new courses – Algebra II essentials

Geometry II essentials – this will allow students to work on skills. Students pass class fail regents – students go into Geometry and take Alegbra regents in January so teachers can help build skills to help pass regents.

Next meeting will be on 1/22/15 at 9:30am in the small board room.

Submitted by Tina Bodkin

MEMO

TO: THE LEVITTOWN COUNCIL OF PTAS MEMBERSHIP

FROM: THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to select nominees for positions on the Levittown Council of PTAs executive committee for the 2015/2016 school year.

We are seeking your input to be considered by the Nominating Committee during its deliberations. Your suggestions and supporting information will be an advisory aid to the committee. It is necessary to sign your name, all information will remain confidential.

Return the nomination forms in a **SEALED** envelope marked Attn: Nominating Committee to Levittown Council of PTAs, 150 Abbey Lane, Levittown, NY or you can drop them off in person to LMEC – superintendent's office, no later than Friday, March 6th, 2015.

The envelopes will remain sealed and will only be opened in the presence of the entire nominating committee. Your suggestions and recommendations are very important in helping to decide the slate for 2015/2016. The nominating committee will present the proposed slate at our general meeting on March 26th, 2015. Elections will proceed after the presentation.

Members of the Nominating Committee for 2015 are:

Gaby Herbert; Alternate-Stephanie Gannon. Laura Brown; Alternate- Mary Rickard.
Lisa Muro; Alternate- Michelle Catura .Carmella Logozzo; Alternate- Julie Casey.
Marguerite Lieb; Alternate- Tara Carr .Kristine Ekberg; Alternate- Krista Hill.
Robin Cammarata; Alternate- Eileen Pertrulo. Dawn Santorufo, Alternate- Cathy Politi.
Dawn Tiemer; Alterenate- Henry Chiu. Lindia Pereira; Alternate- Betsy Baquet.

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance with this important task.
The Nominating Committee

Levittown Council of PTAs Nomination Form

Please submit nominations by March, 6th, 2015

The Levittown Council of PTAs elections will be held at our general meeting on March 26th, 2015. Officers will assume their duties on July 1st, 2015.

Please indicate the position you are making a nomination for. Only one nomination per sheet.

I would like to nominate _____ for the position of: (check one)

☐ President

☐ 1st Vice President

☐ 2nd Vice President

☐ Recording Secretary

☐ Treasurer

☐ Corresponding Secretary

Nominee Phone #: _____ Cell#: _____ E-mail: _____

Give a brief summary of why you think this individual would be good for this position:

Your Name:(print) _____ Date Submitted: _____
Signature: _____

Send your signed nomination letter to : Levittown Council of PTAs at 150 Abbey Lane Levittown NY 11756
Attention: Nominating Committee

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY: 3-6-15

Reflections Committee Report

Council meeting Nov.20, 2014

Reflections entries must be submitted on either Tuesday, Dec 2nd or Wednesday, Dec 3rd from 6:00-8:30pm right here at Levittown Memorial.

Reflections buttons, pins, and award certificates must be ordered by Monday, Dec 1st. If you need an order form, you can email me at dtzapper@aol.com or go to Nassau region pta website.