

Levittown Council of PTA's
General Membership Meeting
January 15, 2015
Minutes

Call to order at 7:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – quorum was not established

Recording Secretary – the minutes from the October's and November'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 February.

President's Report – see attached

1st VP – no report

2nd VP – no report

Corresponding Secretary – no report

Treasurer – see attached.

Mary is under the weather and could not be here so the books will be audited at the next meeting.

Superintendent Report – went over to the PARP event at Gardiners, lovely event.

At the last Board Meeting – a budget of 1.7% increase was presented which is pretty low, the tax levy looks like it will be 1.7% but that is not definite waiting on the State, and other districts seem to be on the same page.

At the last Board Meeting Facilities and Transportation presented their budgets and they are now posted on the website.

At the next Board meeting Athletics and extra-curricular activities budgets will be presented and we will be honoring our student athletes, 4 students who won Patriots pen essay contest, elementary school kids as well will be honored.

School Calendar – was extremely challenging this year due to how spread out the holiday are – calendar is attached

Students from Division and MacArthur on June 11th will be jointly singing at CitiField. Seating will be behind 3rd base.

There are problems with geese particularly at Gardiners since they have a lot of open land. They have called the geese people to come in and help with the problem.

Wisdom had their production of Shrek. The performance was great and Ryan Daniels who played Donkey was really good.

MacArthur has been chosen for the next round for School of Opportunities Competition, still waiting to hear on Division.

Both MacArthur and Division are Grammy Award Finalists as well.

2 students from Division are Coca Cola Finalists'.

Salk/Wisdom Science Olympiads were today and were great.

Dr. McDonald wanted to clear up one thing that she misspoke about at the President/Superintendent meeting regarding the Math and a half. There are going to be two classes that will have double periods for remedial students. Debbie Rifkin will be presenting to the Board on January 21st on the Math program.

Questions for D. McDonald:

Q. Donna Waitkus – more of a follow-up from Dr. Grossane – Students being brought into the district without parent immigrants – unaccompanied minors – we were told we weren't getting any but during a recent conversation I heard otherwise.

A. Dr. McDonald – we have 2 in the entire district

Q. Donna Waitkus – student in the high school who has been arrested numerous times for drugs – lawyers are involved and student is still allowed in the building. Student keeps getting in trouble and is still allowed back. Was last told that student was suspended for a year in May but was back in school in September. What about the health and safety of our other students?

A. Dr. McDonald – needs to look into it

Q. Laura Brown – is there a reading specialist in the district?

A. Dr. McDonald – yes, there was one at Gardiners today. He has been going around to schools. His name is Chris Parker.

SEPTA – January 26th is their next meeting. The district transitional facilitator speaker will be discussing graduation requirements for children with an IEP. They are planning a recreation fair with their March meeting. On March 8th they will be having a fundraiser at Governor's Comedy Club and on May 3rd a Mets game.

Standing Committees

Arts in Education – see attached

Audit – no report – Dawn Tiemer, Linda Pereira and Krista Hill will be the committee.

Council Budget – see attached

Elementary Curriculum – see attached

Health, Safety & Environment – meeting on 1/29 and questions or concerns please email them

Legislation & Advocacy – Leg Ed conference, Lobby day is March 3rd, March 7th is the roundtable at Hofstra, invites will be coming from Nassau Region.

Procedures – no report

Secondary Curriculum – see attached

Transportation – they are in need of representation at meetings. Next meeting dates are 2/3, 3/10, 4/14, 5/11, 6/9 and meetings are held at transportation on Hunt Road at 9:30am.

Special Committee Reports

Budget – no report

Bylaws – no report

Honorary Life – no report

PTSA Senior Award – no report

Meet the Candidates – no report

Nominating – see attached – bylaws were reviewed and we do not need to hold an emergency meeting to vote on the committee.

Reflections – no report

Senior Award Dinner Dance – see attached

Liaison Reports

LSCS – no report – 1/28 there will be an executive board meeting

Food Service – see attached

Donna Waitkus mentioned that the muffins at MacArthur are a huge hit the kids love them.

GC Tech – see attached

Q. Donna Waitkus inquired is name is last in alphabet how can those children apply to the program?

A. Laura Brown – the applications are online and can be filled out before their guidance appointments.

LEADD – no report

Teacher Center – no report – next meeting on January 29th

Wellness – no report

Old Business –

New Business –

2/11 at 7:30pm PTA Council and Presidents will be acknowledged at the Board of Education Meeting.

Kohl's is looking for Community Relations Programs – they will send 5 associates at an event and just for having them they will send a \$500 check. Every February corporate wide they participate in "Be Cool to Your School". The first two weeks of February and they will come as much as possible and each time they do the organization will receive a \$500 check.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36pm

Minutes prepared by Tina Bodkin

General Membership Meeting Agenda

January 15, 2015

***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 PTAs
Treasurer Report
November 20, 2014-January 15, 2015

General Fund

Opening Checkbook Balance:		\$7,913.52
Expenses:		
Bank Fee	\$2.00	
Total Expenses:	\$2.00	
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Closing Checkbook Balance:		\$7,911.52

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:		\$4,004.80
Expenses:		
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	
Income:		
CD Interest	\$4.01	
Total Income:	\$4.01	
Closing Balance:		\$4,008.81

Levittown Council of PTAs President Report - January 2015

Happy New Year and welcome to this evenings Levittown Council of PTAs General Membership Meeting. It seems hard to believe that we have yet again started a new year.

Hello Dr. MacDonald and thank you so much for joining us tonight.

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

Thank you to Robin and her Salk/MacArthur for hosting this evening. SEPTA will be hosting our next meeting in February.

Please remember that our meetings are taped. If you would like to address Council, please use one of the microphones provided.

It seems like so long ago since our last Council meeting, although we have not had a meeting, I know you and your members have been keeping very busy planning activities and holding your own meetings, as well as sporting events, musicals, parties and what I hope was a nice vacation. I hope you are all ready to jump back into what we do best - working together to make Levittown the best for our children. At our last President/Superintendent meeting Dr. McDonald gave us all a challenge and I want to pass that challenge onto you guys. Come up with a way/ways to promote the district in a positive light. This came up because in our discussion at the meeting it was mentioned that when parents seem to be upset about something they seem to be contacting

the news outlets much quicker this year than we can remember in past years.

I would like to give my heart felt thanks to all of you who participated in The Adopt a Family Program this year. I know many of you participated with many different groups and some even on your own, as well as with Council. It was the 6th year of the program and with your help, 202 individuals were adopted this year and over 1000 individuals in total.

Some Reminders and Information:

Wednesday the 21st is the next Food Service Meeting at 9:30 and in the evening is the BOE Planning Session

Thursday the 22nd is Nassau Region PTA Winter Conference in Floral Park, where there will be a President Rap, Treasurer workshop, along with Nomination & Election Workshop. Registration is at 6:30 and workshop begins at 7:30

Legislation/Education Conference 2015 : February 28-March 1, 2015 in Albany. Registration Deadline is February 8th. Don't wait - the registration information is on line at NYS PTA.

The next President/ Superintendent meeting is Monday February 2nd.

Our next Council Meeting is Thursday February 26th.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela List

Council Arts in Ed Report

January 15, 2015

By—Dawn Tiemer

Gardiner's avenue has had mad science and animal adventures.

Division Avenue High School had Janye Hitchcock on Nov. 26 <http://www.theteensage.com/meet-our-speakers/jayne-hitchcock> who spoke about the dangers of social media. As part of her program she "friended" 25 of our students under a false name/identity. 20 of the students accepted her with no problem only one asked who she was. This gave her access to all their photos, cell phone numbers, emails etc. She then described to the audience some of the things she saw, no names or actual photos used, but believe me if you were that student or knew them, you realized who she was talking about. She told them to carefully go thru their friend list and take out the people that they didn't truly know, to check their privacy settings and to remember that colleges and employer are checking this things too.

Abbey Lane has booked the cradle of aviation to come in on 1/30 to do a STEM program called I-Robot with the 5th graders. Also, for PARP week, on Jan 29, Abbey is doing: Story Faces - K-5

The Story Comes to Life on the Faces of the Audience

Christopher Agostino's StoryFaces is a very different kind of a show, a one-of-a-kind performance to inspire and delight any audience. Audience volunteers are brought on stage and face painted to illustrate the stories as he tells them, fully engaging the audience with a skillful spoken word performance combined with his unique visual art. The amazing face painting captivates the audience while they listen to traditional folktales and original stories

Lee Road On December 1,2 and 3 **Lee Road** students were treated to Mad Science Cultural Arts workshops. Each class had an individual push in workshop. Some of the topics were: Glow Show, Science of Toys, moon and Stars, Dry Ice Capades, Rocks and Minerals and Matter of Fact. The children loved learning about science and such a fun and interactive way.

Wisdom Lane

PRISMATIC "LASER TEAM ANTI-BULLYING" SHOW was at WLMS on December 15th

Laser Team shows students that their school is a team, and the show gives students a fresh perspective on why engaging in bullying and cyber-bullying, or simply standing by while someone else is bullied, is so detrimental to others and themselves. The program reinforces the key character attributes that make for a successful team--Respect, Integrity, Generosity, Honesty and Truth (R.I.G.H.T.).

ROHAN MURPHY was at WLMS on November 26th

Rohan is a motivational speaker who teaches students to shoot for the stars and pursue your dreams, no matter what obstacles you think may be in your way. As a double amputee from infancy, Rohan far surpassed anyone's expectations by fulfilling his dream of becoming an all-star wrestler for Penn State University. Rohan reinforces to students that anything is possible, as long as you are willing to work hard, focus on what is important and to treat others as you would want to be treated. He taught students to choose role models wisely, and to take advantage of the mentoring they offer, whether they be a parent, teacher, coach or otherwise, for they will help you on the path to success.

Summit Lane had author and illustrator Angelo DeCesare for PARP week for grades K-2. He teaches the kids how to draw the characters from his books and encourages them to write and draw in their journals. He read one of his books about a character who hated to write in a journal and ended up using his imagination to create wonderful entries. The character ends up loving his journal in the end and cant wait to write more. Teachers and students really enjoyed this program.

Council reports 1/15/15

Council Budget:

Committee met with members on Jan. 7 to review the requests from all the buildings, SEPTA and GC Tech. As chairperson I organized all by department and sent emails to the proper personnel. After reviewing list and answers from some department, the committee has requested meetings with Asst. Superintendent of Instruction- Debbie Rifkin for Jan. 22 and Facilities Director Chris Milano, which I am currently waiting on a date for. I believe Asst. Superintendent of Business will also be in attendance at both the meetings. We are scheduled to present to the BOE on March 11, so the committee should be prepared to present to Council on Feb. 26.

GC Tech-

Open House is set for Jan. 29 from 6-8 PM all interested students/parents are encouraged to attend. The current students will have a competition on Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 PM. This is open to whole community, come on down and see our talented students show off their skills.

If your tenth grader is interested in being part of the program in September please discuss this with their guidance counselor, as applications have already begun to be submitted. There is limited space in some classes, so please have them submitted in a timely manner.

GC-Tech has been officially NATEF Certified which means the Automotive Program at GC-Tech will be nationally recognized on the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation registry. This certifies that GC-Tech not only meets but exceeds industry standards better preparing students for a successful career in the Automotive industry. Automotive students attending GC-Tech are also eligible to take the ASE exam further increasing their marketability in a competitive work force.

Elementary Curriculum 1-15-15

Parent Math Night is being held on January 28 at LMEC. All parents should have received a flyer. There are many workshops being offered to help your children of all grade level with math. We have extras up front. If you plan on attending, please return the slip to Central Office by January 21.

April 27th there will be no school for Elementary Students. We will be doing ELA Scoring in house. This will give our teachers an opportunity to see how our students are performing on the test.

Next meeting is February 9, 2015

Report 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 C.T.E. (Career Technical Education) or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

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 connect ed 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 Alegbra 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 – Alegbra 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

Regents Exams Required for a Regents Diploma

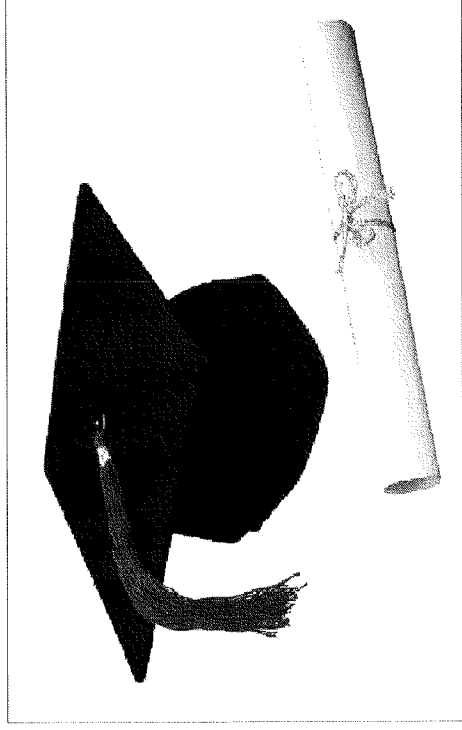
Current (5 exams)

- 1 Math
- 1 English
- 1 Science
- 2 Social Studies

Proposed (5 Exams)

- 1 Math
- 1 English
- 1 Science
- 1 Social Studies
- 1 Pathway Exam -- students select one of the following:

- 2nd Social Studies
- 2nd Math
- 2nd Science
- CTE
- Humanities
- Arts
- STEM



Regents Pathways

- Pathways engage students at all levels of achievement and offer students an opportunity to explore arts, humanities, science, technology, math and careers.
- Pathways are aligned to college and career ready standards, while also providing technical skills and work-based learning opportunities.
- Students many take an additional, approved exam within a pathway to fulfill part of the Regents examination graduation requirement.

Arts

- Students pursuing a pathway in the arts have opportunities to explore and demonstrate learning in the performing arts, visual arts, and technical arts.
- Pathways exams will be determined by a Blue Ribbon Panel on the Arts.

CTE

- Students in the CTE pathways have opportunities to explore a number of career and technical pathways that focus on work-based learning in career and technical fields.
- Pathways exams may include approved national certification or CTE exams.

Humanities

- Students pursuing a pathway in the Humanities may focus study in languages, social studies, literature, philosophy or other social studies.
- Pathways exams may include alternative assessments in social studies, literature or languages.

STEM

- Students pursuing a STEM pathway may focus study in the sciences, technology, engineering or math.
- Pathways exams may include alternative assessments in the applied sciences, technology, engineering or math.

Major Features

Comparison of the Major Features: Current SAT vs. Redesigned SAT		
Category	Current SAT	Redesigned SAT
Total Testing Time* *Redesigned SAT testing time subject to research	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
Components	1. Critical Reading 2. Writing 3. Mathematics 4. Essay	1. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Test ○ Writing and Language Test 2. Math 3. Essay (optional)
Important Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on general reasoning skills • Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts • Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued emphasis on reasoning alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness and success • Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact • Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required and given at the beginning of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional and given at the end of the SAT; postsecondary institutions

	<p>SAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 minutes to write the essay • Tests writing skill; students take a position on a presented issue 	<p>determine whether they will require the Essay for admission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes to write the essay • Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text
<p>Score Reporting*</p> <p>*Redesigned SAT scores subject to research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale ranging from 600 to 2400 • Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing • Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale ranging from 400 to 1600 • Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay • Essay results reported separately
<p>Subscore Reporting</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Subscores for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors</p>

Eight Key Changes

The redesigned SAT will test the few things that research shows matter most for college readiness and success. The SAT redesign is centered on eight key changes.

Relevant Words in Context

The redesigned SAT will focus on relevant words, the meanings of which depend on how they're used. Students will be asked to interpret the meaning of words based on the context of the passage in which they appear. This is demanding but rewarding work. These are words that students will use throughout their lives — in high school, college, and beyond.

Requiring students to master relevant vocabulary will change the way they prepare for the exam. No longer will students use flashcards to memorize obscure words, only to forget them the minute they put their test pencils down. The redesigned SAT will engage students in close reading and honor the best work of the classroom.

Command of Evidence

When students take the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Essay sections of the redesigned SAT, they'll be asked to demonstrate their ability to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources. These include informational graphics and multiparagraph passages excerpted from literature and literary nonfiction; texts in the humanities, science, history, and social studies; and career-related sources.

For every passage students read in the SAT Reading Test, there will be at least one question asking them to select a quote from the text that best supports the answer they have chosen in response to the preceding question. Some passages will be paired with informational graphics, and students will be asked to integrate the information conveyed through each in order to find the best answer.

Questions in the SAT Writing and Language Test will also focus on command of evidence. Students will be asked to analyze sequences of paragraphs to make sure they are correct, grammatically and substantively. In some questions, students will be asked to interpret graphics and edit the accompanying passages so that they accurately convey the information in the graphics.

The Essay will also require students to demonstrate command of evidence. Students will be asked to analyze a provided source text to determine how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience through the use of evidence, reasoning, and/or stylistic and persuasive devices and then to write a cogent and clear analysis supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the source.

Essay Analyzing a Source

The focus of the Essay section on the redesigned SAT will be very different from the essay on the current SAT. Students will read a passage and explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience. Students may analyze such aspects of the passage as the author's use of evidence, reasoning, and stylistic and persuasive elements. This task more closely mirrors college writing assignments.

The new Essay section is designed to support high school students and teachers as they cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing. It will promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing how authors do their work as writers.

The essay prompt will be shared in advance and remain consistent. Only the source material (passage) will change. The Essay will be an optional component of the SAT, although some school districts and colleges will require it.

Focus on Math that Matters Most

The exam will focus in depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, the Heart of Algebra, and Passport to Advanced Math. Problem Solving and Data Analysis is about being quantitatively literate. It includes using ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science, and career contexts. The Heart of Algebra focuses on the mastery of linear equations and systems, which helps students develop key powers of abstraction. Passport to Advanced Math focuses on the student's familiarity with more complex equations and the manipulation they require.

Current research shows that these areas most contribute to readiness for college and career training. They're used disproportionately in a wide range of majors and careers. In addition to these areas, the exam will sample additional topics in math, including the kinds of geometric and trigonometric skills that are most relevant to college and careers.

Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts

Throughout the redesigned SAT, students will engage with questions grounded in the real world, questions directly related to the work performed in college and career.

In the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section, reading questions will include literature and literary nonfiction, but also feature charts, graphs, and passages like the ones students are likely to encounter in science, social science, and other majors and careers. Students will be asked to do more than correct errors; they'll edit and revise to improve texts from the humanities, history, social science, and career contexts.

The Math section will feature multistep applications to solve problems in science, social science, career scenarios, and other real-life contexts. Students will be presented with a scenario and then asked several questions about it. This allows students to dig into a situation and think about it, then model it mathematically.

Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies

When students take the redesigned SAT, they will be asked to apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts. They will use these skills — in college, in their jobs, and in their lives — to make sense of recent discoveries, political developments, global events, and health and environmental issues.

Students will encounter challenging texts and informational graphics that pertain to issues and topics like these in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section. Questions will require them to read and comprehend texts, revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics, synthesize information presented through texts and graphics, and solve problems based in science and social science.

Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation

The U.S. founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have helped inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life. While the founding documents originated in the early American context, over time authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the

conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity. Every time students take the redesigned SAT, they will encounter a passage from one of the founding documents or from a text from the global conversation. In this way, we hope that the redesigned SAT will inspire a close reading of these rich, meaningful, often profound texts, not only as a way to develop valuable college and career readiness skills but also as an opportunity to reflect on and deeply engage with issues and concerns central to informed citizenship.

No Penalty for Wrong Answers

The redesigned SAT will remove the penalty for wrong answers. Students will earn points for the questions they answer correctly. This move to rights-only scoring encourages students to give the best answer they have to every problem.

FAQs

Why are you changing the SAT?

Our members, including admission officers, school counselors, teachers, and students, have called on us to change the SAT and go beyond assessment to deliver opportunity.

Less than half of the students who take the SAT are college ready, and that statistic has remained constant over time. Even among those who are ready, the majority of low-income, high-achieving students do not apply to the colleges within their reach. Among students who are ready for Advanced Placement courses, African American, Latino, and Native American students are less likely to take AP math courses than their peers.

Our goal is to support college readiness and success for more students and to make sure that those who are prepared take full advantage of the opportunities they've earned through their hard work.

Because a test alone can't change student outcomes, assessments such as the SAT must be integrated with rigorous classroom instruction, and through their results, propel students to greater opportunities. The redesigned SAT will reward productive use of classroom time and a focus on rigorous course work.

[Watch President Coleman's address](#) to learn more about the reasons behind the SAT redesign.

How will redesigning the SAT benefit students?

The redesigned SAT will ask students to apply a deep understanding of the few skills and content areas most important for college and career readiness. The questions will be more familiar to students because they'll be modeled on the work of the best classroom teachers. And the College Board will be open and clear, taking the mystery out of the exam and providing a full SAT blueprint before the first administration in spring 2016. Free test preparation is also on the way.

How is the SAT changing?

The redesigned SAT will be more focused on the few things shown by current research to matter most in college and career. When students open their test books in spring 2016, they'll find questions asking them to support their answers with evidence, vocabulary they'll use long after they've taken the exam, an essay prompt asking them to analyze a writer's argument, and multistep problems requiring them to apply math in real-world contexts. [Learn more about these changes and others.](#)

What will be tested on the redesigned SAT?

The redesigned SAT will require students to:

- Analyze and use reasoning to comprehend challenging literary and informational texts, including texts in science, history, and social studies.
- Revise and edit extended texts across a variety of academic and career-related content areas to improve the way ideas are developed, organized, and expressed using Standard Written English conventions.
- Show command of a focused but powerful set of skills and understandings in math and use them to solve problems in science, social studies, and career-related contexts.
- Make careful and considered use of evidence as they read and write.
- Analyze data, including data represented graphically, in reading, writing, and math contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of vocabulary in context and how word choice affects meaning and tone.

[Get more detail on test content.](#)

When will the redesigned SAT be given for the first time?

The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in spring 2016.

How long will the redesigned SAT be?

The redesigned SAT will be 3 hours long with an additional 50 minutes given for the Essay. Please note: Precise timing is tentative and subject to research.

How does the redesign of the SAT affect the high school graduating class of 2015?

The high school graduating class of 2015 will take the current SAT. These students should continue to visit the [SAT website](#) to register for the test and to get and send their scores. And we have good news: The College Board is partnering with Khan Academy to expand and deepen the free instruction, review, and practice resources available on the SAT website. [Find out what to expect.](#)

What free test preparation will you provide?

We will provide students with free tools that support the focused review of relevant knowledge and skills as well as authentic practice with actual SAT questions. We're partnering with Khan Academy to develop world-class practice programs that are individually targeted at students' biggest areas of need. And we'll continue to provide full-length practice exams and other materials to help students familiarize themselves with the exam.

A limited set of practice materials for the current SAT are already available. Practice materials for the redesigned SAT will be available in spring 2015. Get more information on practice resources for the redesigned SAT.

What's the best way for students to prepare for the redesigned SAT?

Rigorous course work will be, more than ever, the best preparation for the SAT. As test day approaches, students can use free College Board resources to get to know the exam and to build on their preparation with targeted review and authentic practice.

Will accommodations be available for students with disabilities?

Yes. The College Board is committed to providing assessments that deliver equity and access for all students. To learn more about special accommodations, please visit our website for Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).

Will the SAT still have an essay section?

Yes. Students will be asked to write an essay analyzing a source document. The essay prompt will be shared in advance and will remain consistent; only the passage will change. The Essay section will no longer be required by the College Board. However, many school districts and colleges will require students to complete the Essay. Learn more about the Essay.

Why is the essay optional?

There are two main reasons behind the decision to make the essay optional on the redesigned SAT. The editing work students do in the multiple-choice Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section is deeply predictive of college success. However, one essay alone has not in the past contributed significantly to the overall predictive power of the exam. Furthermore, feedback from college admission officers was split; some of them found the essay useful while many did not.

Can students use calculators on the redesigned SAT?

A calculator will be allowed on one of two sections in the redesigned SAT Math Test. Calculators are important mathematical tools, and to succeed after high school, students have to know how to use them effectively and appropriately. But the no-calculator section makes it easier to assess students' fluency in math and understanding of math concepts. It also rewards well-learned technique and number-sense.

Will colleges still require the SAT?

College entrance exams like the SAT are an essential part of the admission process for the vast majority of colleges in the United States. The SAT is among the most rigorously researched and designed exams in the world. In nearly all validity studies, high school grades and SAT scores in combination are shown to be the best predictors of college success.

The redesigned SAT will be an even stronger tool for college admission. We've had hundreds of conversations with experienced admission officers and have listened to their feedback. We've studied the latest research and focused the exam on the skills and knowledge shown to matter most in college. And we are testing new questions to sustain the SAT's predictive validity.

How will the redesigned SAT help colleges make admission decisions?

By better reflecting rigorous, useful course work, the SAT of 2016 will, more than ever, help colleges form a complete picture of each applicant. This will include a new, more robust score report that will provide greater insight into students' strengths.

What are you doing to ensure that the SAT continues to be a strong predictor of college success?

We are committed to sustaining or improving the SAT's predictive validity. We will build on the careful and expert work of statisticians to create a redesigned exam that continues to be a strong predictor of college success when considered in combination with high school grades and other factors.

The redesign of the SAT is based on current research that tells us which skills and knowledge matter most in college, providing a solid foundation for content validity evidence. We have already begun testing the technical quality of item types, exam questions, essay prompts, and test forms, and we are learning from the results. Get the details on the College Board's plan to sustain the predictive validity of the redesigned SAT.

How will colleges compare scores on the redesigned SAT to scores on the current SAT?

The College Board will provide colleges with a concordance that shows how the two sets of scores compare.

How will SAT scores change?

The redesigned SAT will be scored on a 400- to 1600-point scale. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section will each be scored on a 200- to 800-point scale. Scores for the Essay section will be reported separately. Another important change is the move to rights-only scoring: There will no longer be a penalty for wrong answers. We'll also introduce an enriched score report that provides more insight into students' strengths and areas for improvement, helping teachers and students focus.

Will wrong answers still lower SAT scores?

Wrong answers will no longer be deducted from a student's score. The redesigned SAT will use rights-only scoring. Students will simply get points for the questions they answer correctly. Rights-only scoring encourages students to give the best answer they have to every problem, without risking a penalty for trying their best.

Can students take both the current SAT and the redesigned SAT and see which score is higher?

When the College Board switches over to the redesigned SAT in spring 2016, the current SAT will no longer be offered. However, some students will take the SAT before that time and then take the redesigned SAT later. Because the exam and score scale are changing, we recommend that these students send all scores, allowing colleges to use those that are most favorable to the student. Keep in mind that some colleges require students to send all scores.

Where can I find an in-depth discussion of the new content on the redesigned SAT?

Master teachers discuss how the redesigned SAT connects to classroom learning. [Play videos and read articles in Instruction.](#)

How does the redesigned SAT connect to classroom instruction?

The strength of the redesigned SAT is that it is inspired by the work great teachers do every day to engage students in deep learning. No single assessment can reflect all the rich teaching that takes place in high school classrooms, but when students open their test books, they will find questions informed by the reading, writing, and math tasks integral to excellent instruction.

Will fee waivers still be available?

Yes, the College Board will continue to make SAT fee waivers available to the students who need them. In fact, we are working with higher education institutions to ensure that every single

income-eligible student who takes the SAT can apply to four colleges for free. College application fee waivers are just one part of [Access to Opportunity™](#).

What can I do to help students get in to and succeed in college?

Whether you're an educator, a parent, or a community organizer, you can help underrepresented students make the most of the opportunities they've earned. Learn about the goals of the [Access to Opportunity](#) program and connect to resources.

How will you help campuses implement changes related to the redesigned SAT?

We've formed dedicated teams to support campuses nationwide as they get ready for the redesigned SAT. The top priorities for [operational implementation](#) are to release — as quickly as possible — the file format for new score reporting; to develop concordance tables; and to collaborate directly with leading IT vendors.

Who has provided feedback on the SAT redesign?

The plans for the redesigned SAT have been built on feedback from a diverse group. We've had hundreds of conversations with experienced admission officers, college professors, and leaders in higher education. We also listened to school counselors, K–12 leaders and teachers, students, and parents. Learn more about the [higher education collaboration](#).

Is the PSAT/NMSQT changing too?

Yes, the PSAT/NMSQT will change together with the SAT and is planned to launch in October 2015. This schedule will allow students to take the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT before the redesigned SAT. As with all work on the assessment redesign, quality is of paramount importance. We are working closely with our cosponsor, National Merit Scholarship Corporation, to release an assessment and scholarship resource that ensures students are recognized for and take advantage of the opportunities they have earned.

Why will it take two years to launch the redesigned SAT?

The College Board and its members have agreed to work as quickly as possible to deliver the redesigned SAT while ensuring that everyone involved has time to prepare and to make this a positive experience for students. We will conduct extensive research and testing to create a redesigned SAT that continues to be a strong predictor of college success. At the same time, colleges will embark on the significant preparations for receiving and using new score information effectively. High schools also need time to understand the redesigned SAT so they can best serve their students and parents.

What's the best way to stay up to date on redesign news?

To get redesign news as it becomes available, [sign up for updates](#) on topics like SAT cost, registration, score release and reporting, and other College Board exams.

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

Honorary Life Dinner Dance Report 1-15-15

This year's dinner will be held on April 30. The theme is "One Sweet Night". All money and seating is due to Chairpeople by March 20th. Please remind attendees that no refunds will be given after April 1st.

Every unit must have money and seating to either me or Linda Pereira by March 27th. Do not interoffice money. Everything should be collected and verified by your chairperson and then they should make arrangements to deliver all money and seating to us personally. Remember all tables seat 8-10. If you don't adhere to this guideline yourselves, we will make changes to your table arrangements as we see necessary to fit everyone in the room.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!!

Report submitted by:
Mary Rickard

Food Service Report

Submitted by Patricia Genco 1/12/15

Council

- We met on December 17th, 2014. Discussion regarding Bob Howard leaving the district, Bill Pastore and Kim Volpe will be running the meetings going forward.
- Cups for water will be available for students upon request.
- New chicken nuggets have been accepted at most schools one school has had many complaints regarding the new nuggets. That school will continue to have the old nuggets.
- Breakfast cart has been introduced at Salk to see if there will be an increase in breakfast participation.
- A lengthy discussion took place regarding the bus arrivals in elementary; where and how the students would be able to purchase grab and go breakfast on the way to their classrooms as well as an in depth discussion regarding student allergies. How would students with allergies be monitored when other students would be eating breakfast in the classrooms?
- We discussed running dollar days at the middle and high schools to increase lunch participation.
- Aramark will do a presentation at ~~January's~~ ^{Feb} BOE meeting.
- Notices regarding the availability of breakfast have been sent out to families
- All of the representatives reported on lunches at their schools; Student representatives from Salk, Wisdom, Division and MacArthur were present.

The Wisdom representative discussed that they had a Substitute from the East Meadow school district and she was only giving 4 nacho chips per student. This was corrected. He also stated that students do not eat the fruit or vegetables- they throw them out.

The Mac Arthur representative stated the salad bar is very popular; however, the diced chicken is not good. Seems fake.

The Salk representative discussed the unfairness of being charged for the water.

The DAHS representative stated that the students seem to be trying new things. The new chicken nuggets are good. The new shape threw people off but they like them. The French fries are either over cooked or undercooked.

- Menus were reviewed; no changes were made.
- Parents should be urged to Kim Volpe at LMEC in order to put any note on the students' account.
- Please let students know that if they have any concerns regarding their lunch, they should speak to the head cook in their cafeteria.

The committee meets again on January 21st, 2015 at 9:30am in the large board room.

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints you can contact Jennifer Bayer at 516-434-7377 or Pat Genco at 516 735-0136 or kpngen@aol.com.

Levittown Public Schools

2015 2016 School Calendar

This calendar has 182 student attendance days and two teacher conference days.
There are two contingency snow days (May 27 and May 31)

August (0)							September (17+1)							October (21)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1			1											
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			
November (17+1)							December (16)							January (19)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
February (16)							March (20)							April (16)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	5						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	29						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
May (20)							June (18)							July (0)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23		25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Superintendents Conference Day - No School for Students

September 1
November 3

No School for Students

September 7 Labor Day
September 14 & 15 Rosh Hashanah
September 23 Yom Kippur
October 12 Columbus Day
November 3 Election Day
November 11 Veterans' Day
November 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Recess
December 24-January 1 Holiday Recess
January 18 Martin Luther King's Birthday
February 15 Presidents' Day
February 16-19 Winter Recess
March 24 Holy Thursday
March 25 Good Friday
March 28 Easter Monday
April 25-29 Spring Recess
May 30 Memorial Day

If only one (1) snow day is used, there will be no school on May 27. If no (0) snow days are used, there will be no school on May 27 and May 31. If three (3) or more snow days are used, additional school days will be scheduled as follows:

April 29 Snow Day #3
April 28 Snow Day #4
April 27 Snow Day #5
April 26 Snow Day #6

Approved: January 14, 2015