

Levittown SEPTA Minutes

January 25, 2021

Minutes written by Recording Secretary Jackie Michelli

- Meeting called to order by Amy Hoffman, President at 7:02pm, quorum present 28 participants.

Recording Secretary- Jackie Michelli

- Jackie asked if everyone could review the minutes from November 9, 2020 meeting and see if any changes/corrections needed to be made. Since no correction/changes, she approved the minutes and they will be filed as written.

Treasurer's Report- Jen Messina

- \$1018 was made from the lanyard fundraiser. Thanked all who participated

1st VP Report- Membership Michelle Gartelman

- 200 members currently
- There is a big push for membership in February from NYS PTA. SEPTA programs are for all parents, not just those with children with special needs, as tonight's presentation is beneficial for all parents. Please join SEPTA if you haven't already.
- Please type name and school in chat

3rd VP Report- Fundraising Susanne Gallina

- Cards for A Cause Fundraiser- February 1 to February 12 – fliers coming soon

President's Report- Amy Hoffman

- Congratulations to Dr. Leigh Rust for Honorary Life
- We need members to be part of the Nominating Committee. If interested, put your name in the chat.
- At the meeting, Cheryl Denecke said she was interested in being part of the nominating committee
- We need members to be part of the Scholarship Committee
- Cheryl Denecke and Gina Pagnotta said they were interested in the scholarship committee at the meeting
- Next meeting will be Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7 P.M.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Farber

- Congratulations to Dr. Leigh Rust
- Annual Reviews are coming up now, and information will be emailed/mailed with dates for meetings. Begins end of January/beginning of February and goes until mid-May

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- **Thursday, February 4** is the Annual CPSE to CSE Transitional Meeting from 10am-11am via Zoom. Any questions, ask Rocco Ognibene, CPSE Chairperson
- **February 24, 2021**- BOE Meeting at 7 p.m. – will go over Special Education Budget
- Congratulations to Andrea Mortillaro at Wisdom Lane for receiving the Nassau BOCES Educator Award. There will be a virtual video on April 13
- Congratulations to Ms. Going for receiving a \$500 Grant for their Garden based educational project for the 12:1:1 Life Skills Program at Wisdom Lane
- Introduced the guest speakers tonight, Evanthia Mamtsadoris and Raquel Dash. They will be teaching strategies for good behaviors using PAX Tools. Pax is being implemented in some schools, especially in 2nd grade.

Guest Speaker Presentation- PAX Tools

- Misbehavior has increased 20% in the last 1- years. Even more challenging due to the pandemic
- Some things we are seeing now: change in routine/lack of structure, increasing behavioral issues/aggression, restlessness/boredom, isolation, anxiety/fear of the virus, depression, lack of education, financial burdens on family, loss of motivation
- What do children need? Nurturing environment
 1. Increases psychological safety and flexibility
 2. Decreases or minimize toxic influence
 3. Richly reinforces pro social behavior
 4. Limits problem behaviors
- PAX Tools are evidence based and trauma informed
 1. **Shared Vision**-clear expectations, specific, children are part of the discussion, adults and kids talk about what they want to see more of, see less of, hear more of, hear less of, feel more of, feel less of, do more of, and do less of
 - Make a visual chart. Praise desired behaviors. This helps to reduce conflict – same page with expectations, child driven conversation, with parent offering guidance, ensure the more outnumbers the less
 2. **Low-Emotional Responses**- adults provide instantaneous, neutral, non-verbal feedback without embarrassing the child or interrupting the activity. Use at first sign of unwanted behavior.
 1. Select/demonstrate non-verbal cues
 2. Explain using cues to send message (thumbs down, thumbs up)
 3. Model some behavior that may require the cue
 4. Praise

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Increases attention for desired behaviors

3. Beat The Timer (visual timer)- allows focus to stay on task and to finish and block out distractions

1. Select activity that causes conflict or often goes unfinished.
2. Provide clear instructions
3. Short amount of time
4. Remind child of goal and set visual timer
5. Praise good performance

4. Random Sticks- good to use at home when children feel things are unfair or that adults are playing favorites.

1. Create stick for each child or task
 2. Draw for turns or to assign a task
 3. Replace
- Builds, improves, and maintains trust
Reliable, predictable, fair
Helps children cope with disappointment

5. Mystery Motivators -

6. Kudos Notes

7. PAX Breaks

8. PAX Amends

9. PAX Focus

- **Additional Resources**
 - PAX Tools App
 - PAX Tools Youtube page
 - PAX Tools Facebook page
 - Your ax Resource Guide
 - Offer workshops- Next one is February 10 at 7PM on PAX Vision
 - 516-799-2302 EXT 224
 - [-EMAMTSADERIS@YESCCC.ORG](mailto:EMAMTSADERIS@YESCCC.ORG)
 - [-RDASH@YESCCC.ORG](mailto:RDASH@YESCCC.ORG)
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 P.M.