

**Division Avenue High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2013**

1st Vice President Laura Brown called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Pledge, quorum.

Co-presidents Report – Mary Rickard could not be here tonight due to a death in her family. At the President/Superintendent meeting there were questions raised regarding lice procedures. All students need to be cleared by the school nurse before returning. When a student is suspected of having a concussion they must get clearance from their personal physician before they can return to playing sports. There is NO smoking on school grounds; the 50 foot rule applies to the entire grounds. Our cafeteria has water refill stations. The food pantry is in need of donations. The greenhouse at LMEC produced 325 pounds of fresh vegetables for the pantry this summer. The biggest discussion was regarding Common Core and the Bloom system. When students take the ELA/Math assessments the district is required to send all information to state, once the district does this, it is out of the hands of the district what happens to this information. Dr. Grossane suggested that you should attend the NYS PTA Town Hall Meeting scheduled for October 15th in Garden City for more information. Commissioner King will be in attendance. We are in need of committee chair people. A list is being passed around if you are willing to chair a committee. Report attached.

Executive Committee Reports

1st VP- Laura Brown reported that tickets are available for the Bruins v. Islanders game on November 2nd. The price is \$45.00 (regularly \$59.00). At this point there have been no sales. The flier is on the website and on Facebook. Several flip flops/slides were sold at Back to School night and Homecoming. The school store suggested that we lower the price to \$15.00 so that they would sell better in the store. *Motion by Pat Genco to lower the price of the flip flops to \$15.00 to be sold in the school store. Second. Discussion – We paid for them last year at \$13.95 each. All in favor. Motion carried. Report attached.

2nd VP- Angela List reported that we have 314 members, 154 parents, 107 students, 48 staff and 5 community members.

Recording Secretary- Minutes of the September 9th meeting were accepted as presented.

Corresponding Secretary- Amanda Smithwick reported that sympathy cards were sent to Lisa Curran and Mary Rickard. A get well card was sent to Pat Genco and thank you cards were received from Emma Curran and Lisa Curran.

Treasurer- Pat Genco reported. The general fund had an opening balance of \$4,776.82, Expenses of \$2,867.27, income of \$2,705.00 and a closing balance of \$4,614.55. The Senior Award fund had an opening balance of \$1,600.53, Expenses of \$283.90, Income of \$175.00 and a closing balance of \$1,491.63. *Motion by Angela List to move \$100 from Health and wellness to cultural arts. Second. Discussion. All in favor. Motion carried. Report attached. The monthly reconciliation was completed by Angela List.

Student Liaison: 10th grade- James ~~Lunette~~ **Lunetta** reported that the sophomores marched in the homecoming parade, they had a nice turnout. Student Council held a car wash on October 5th with proceeds going to the American Heart Association. 12th grade-Christian Moody had a comment regarding the bathroom sink handles. When pressed the water only comes out for a minute and then turns off.

Principal Report: Mrs. Lorelli reported that Students participated in The Empower Solar Competition this past June and were recognized over the summer. The following students participated: Russ Tornabene, Libby Sudweeks, Jason Teimer, Krysten Garcia, Sara Pedroza and Joe DiPaola. Gabriela Pereira has been named as a National Hispanic Recognition Program. Savvas Papadopoulos and Stephanie Wagner have been named Commended Students in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship program. 84 students have earned AP Scholar Awards. Homecoming was held on September 28. Four grade assemblies were held to review the code of conduct and administrations expectations. Photo ids were taken by Lifetouch. Marching band is 1st place in the state. Tomorrow is Dig Pink Volleyball. Wednesday is wearing orange for Unity day which represents antibullying. The LEADD walk is October 27. Mallory Kundart will be the student Grand Marshall. Question regarding parents smoking E-cigarettes in the building at Back to School night. A request for Dr. Grossane to send out a letter regarding this issue. There was a reminder that no dogs are permitted in the building or on the grounds (unless it is a service animal). Question regarding Drivers Ed. Should students be allowed to text while another is driving? It was stated that students do not wear seat belts in the back seat.

Committee reports:

Standing Committees:

APPROVED

Arts in Education: Laura Brown reported that the PTSA is sponsoring Jacy Good – Hang up and Drive on October 30 for all grades. The speaker is the survivor of a distracted driving accident that killed her parents in 2008.

Communications: Facebook is going well, it is updated frequently. Please like us at Division Avenue High School PTSA. The first email letter was sent out today. She suggests that everyone watch the morning announcements on the school website. The PTSA website has been updated with all fliers and announcements. Comment regarding the morning announcements not coming over the loud speaker in the hallway and gym. Question asking if Club meetings be posted by the office on a bulletin board.

Legislation: Lynn Petrofsky reported that the NYS PTA Convention will be held in Saratoga Springs from November 15 – 17. There are 3 new resolutions that all originated in Nassau County. Next month we will vote on the resolutions.

SEPTA: Liz Kirk reported that their first meeting was September 25. The new Executive Committee was inducted. Lisa Careli-Lang was welcomed as the new Director of Special Education. SEPTA is having a Yankee Candle fundraiser. Packets are available. The next meeting is October 21 where the guest speaker will be Kevin McCarthy who will be speaking on homework strategies for all children. Report attached.

Youth Issues: Lyndsey Petrofsky spoke about a new synthetic cigarette liquid known as Blue Blossoms. It is available at most smoke and head shops. The liquid creates psychological effects similar to marijuana, Spice/K2 and Ecstasy when smoked through electronic cigarettes. Parents should be aware that teens could be doing this in their own home since there is no e-cigarette odor or smoke.

Special Committees:

Agenda Books: Laura Brown reported that they are almost sold out. Whatever is left will be placed in the school store.

Audit: Liz Kirk and Lynn Petrofsky volunteered to be on the audit committee.

Book Fair: Laura Brown reported that the paperwork has been received from Barnes and Noble finalizing the date of Saturday, December 14th from 12 – 2.

Bylaws: Lynn Petrofsky explained the proposed bylaws changes that were presented last month. *Motion by Pat Genco to accept the change in the bylaws adding alternates to the nominating committee. Second. Discussion. All in Favor. Motion carried. Lyn will send to the Nassau region bylaws chair once Mary signs the cover page for approval.

Division Avenue Sweeps: Lynn Petrofsky reported donations from Disney, Knights of Columbus, Elite Island, etc. Lynn has set a goal to contact 2000 businesses. Lynn and Dani Jeffers have already contacted over 1000. They are hoping for a very successful event. Flyers are available to reserve your table.

Levittown Tribune: Laura Brown reported that she has received 9 subscriptions so far. The deadline is November 4th.

Reflections: Debe Howe is chairing this committee. Mr. Coscia will be the faculty contact person.

Senior Award: The committee will be meeting to change the wording on the application.

Liaisons:

Elementary Curriculum: There has been some shuffling of staff with very little hiring and insignificant job loss over the summer. The new state assessments were based on the common core standards. As predicted the scores dropped 30 – 40%. The Committee that scored the tests asked to take it themselves, most of the teachers could not finish in the time allowed. The district will not be ordering any test prep materials; The Journeys Program is so comprehensive that test prep is not needed. The next meeting is October 15 at 9:30 am. Report attached.

Food Service: A representative is needed from Division to be approved by the Board of Ed.

Secondary Curriculum: There were questions regarding the English summer assignment. There was a miscommunication with the Curriculum Associate regarding the due date. Clarification was given regarding the Add/Drop policy. BOCES sent out the state scores. A comment was made regarding having an issue with the policy of withdrawing from classes, the children are being set up for failure.

Transportation: The custodian has been outside every morning and every afternoon to make sure that the buses have the area in front of the main entrance to park for drop off and pick up. A comment was made that there is a sign towards the end of the block that states drop off for buses, these should be changed.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 pm

Submitted by Lynn Petrofsky, Recording Secretary

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