

Levittown Division Avenue High School  
PTSA General Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2015

At 7:35 President Laura Brown called the meeting to order. Pledge, quorum was established.

There was a change to the minutes from the last PTSA meeting. Mary Rickard noticed the incorrect spelling of Lucas Rickard's name. It has been corrected.

Treasure Report-Dawn Tiemer- Books were reconciled by Marie Adams. All was in order.

President's report -Laura Brown-Today 11/9 was the monthly president's superintendent meeting. New trees were planted at Gardiner's Ave. and Northside. The new bleachers for Division's baseball field are held up in NY State in the planning. Hoping for the bleachers to be up in the spring. The new scoreboard WILL be up in the spring. The Sept. 2016 course catalogue is being worked on and includes New York City History and Social Studies, American Sign Language and 2 new courses at GC Tech, Landscaping and an over view of Construction. (Sheetrock, carpentry, etc.) Due to the challenges in the Common Core Trig, only 9 students, from both High Schools, have dropped the course. In the Geometry class only 8 have dropped the course. All the math extra help sessions can be found on the school website. Students can go to any extra help session, not just the session their teacher is running.

Principal's report- Mrs. Lorelli spoke about Career development students and their Best Buddies hosted the annual Halloween dance. 21 students and 51 best buddies had a great night. Students Gabe Berry and Nicholas Rigali, both juniors in Mrs. Crusco's digital media class, will be among the young filmmakers to have their original music video screened at the Gold Coast International Film Festival this Sunday 11/15. It's called Wasted Away and it was selected from over 100 submissions to be screened at the annual festival in Port Washington. They will get to meet other young filmmakers and talk to industry professionals. October 30<sup>th</sup> was the Mets 1<sup>st</sup> home game of the World Series and was celebrated with a spirited fundraiser. Decorations in the school and so many students and staff wore Mets apparel. For a \$1 donation, Mets hats could be worn for the day. The donations went to the Levittown food pantry. In recognition of LEADD week, the PTSA hosted a program called "A Message From Justin." The presenter was Jeffrey Veach who explored the truth behind his son Justin's overdose. For LEADD DAHS's social worker Joann Medina was the Grand Marshall and Cameron O'Keefe was the student Grand Marshall. October 8<sup>th</sup> the Girls Volleyball program organized a "Dig Pink" fundraiser by the Side-Out foundation for breast cancer awareness. The foundation was established in 2004 to unite volleyball players and coaches toward breast cancer awareness, education and patient services. They raised over \$2000.00. Kimberly Rodriguez, a junior won honorable mention and a \$250 prize for her poetry submission to the 2015 International

Ocean Awareness Student Contest. Her submission was selected from over 1,100 entries from 35 countries. Science research advisor Gerard Marzigliano urged Kim to enter. It challenges students to combine art, science and environmental advocacy to give our oceans a voice. The following music students were selected to participate in the nmea All County conference in January: Robyn Beeber, Joanne Chun, Joe DiPaola, Eric Oh, Matt Roux, Anna Yoo, Jason Eccles, Paul Klein, Jeff Luong, John Genzale, Subin Heo, Dawn Kim, Joy Kim, Michael Mahoney, Brendan Skillman, Anthony Anzano and Victoria Baquet. The girls varsity soccer team sponsored a t-shirt fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and raised over \$500. They also participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. DAHS AP Bio students conducted lab exercises at the newly updated LMEC outdoor learning center. It included 9 different activities that linked evolutionary and ecological concepts taught in AP Biology. The AP Bio class will return in the spring to complete their comparison study of seasonal change. October 20<sup>th</sup> was the 1<sup>st</sup> Team Captains Breakfast before 1<sup>st</sup> period. The fall sports captains were recognized for their leadership qualities and achievements. It was to remind them of the importance of being role models on and off of the field. The PSAT was administered to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders on 10/28. The district paid the fee for this administration, the first of its kind during the school day. The Marching Band traveled to Syracuse to compete in the State Finals on 11/1. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state in their category out of 14 teams and missed 1<sup>st</sup> place by only six tenths of a point. Congratulations to drum majors Michael Mahoney, Brandon Hoyt, the band, the color guard and Mike Bastone and company. Bobby Evans, a senior Science Research student became a semifinalist in the prestigious Siemens Competition. As the nation's premier competition in Math, Science and Technology, the Siemens Competition honors the best and brightest students for their accomplishments in Math and Science. Semifinalists were students who worked on the top 300 projects in the country. Bobby and his partner, who is from Ohio, spent the summer at Stony Brook University working on a biodegradable, flame-retardant polymer. Coming up: Marking period ends 11/13, Blood drive 11/19, Financial Aid night at MacArthur on 11/25 and PTSA assembly 11/25.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President report- BJ's and Tribune are closed. There was a \$530 profit from the plant sale. 250 seats have been sold for sweeps.

2nd Vice President report- Linda Pereira- 454 total members. 158 students, 88 faculty and 208 parents. The raffle winners are, Student Jake McAleer with a \$25 movie card, Faculty Mrs. Savino, and Parent Joseph Tracey both with a \$25 target gift card.

3rd Vice President- Liz Kirk- The faculty meeting was on 10/6. Mrs. Lorelli went over students' academic achievements, the sports and band news and community news. She encouraged all to come to the games and band and club events. To provoke higher learning in our students, Mrs. Lorelli went over Costa's Levels of Questioning. She also went over Critical Thinking Skills. 11/3 was Superintendent conference day. All faculty members attended various meetings and conferences.

Corresponding Secretary- Jennifer Benz- A sympathy card was sent to the family of Mr. Kevin Regan, past school board president among many positions held in our Levittown community. Our heartfelt condolences to the Regan family. He will be greatly missed.

Student Liaison- Lucas Rickard- 10<sup>th</sup> grade – The on line text books are giving students a lot of trouble. There are errors with passwords, e-mails will not send, erasing or deleting sections prepared by students. Especially in the Spanish on line book. This will be looked into. In addition, the lunch monitors are not allowing students to leave the cafeteria until attendance is taken even when a student has a test or something pressing. They have been taking the attendance very late into the period which is causing difficulties for students that need to leave.

Delegate-Betsy Baquet- (Her report was sent and read by Laura Brown) Council has a Facebook page: Levittown Council of PTA's. Go and LIKE the page for updates on council events, meeting dates highlighted PTA events in the district and helpful PTA articles and links. Council also has a twitter account: @LtowncouncilPTA. Council can be e-mailed @ [levittowncouncilpta@gmail.com](mailto:levittowncouncilpta@gmail.com). Superintendent Toni McDonald discussed Adopt-A-Family which is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. Hundreds of families have benefitted. Council Audit committee needs 2 more members, Council Budget needs a chairperson, Pat Genco went over Social Media procedures, PTSA Senior Award Committee needs a council chairperson. Reflections needs a council chairperson. Council Nominating: committee will be voted on at November council meeting. Wellness: No meeting date set as of yet. Anyone interested in community who wants to join a committee should send a letter of interest to council.

Arts in Education- Laura Brown- The 1<sup>st</sup> assembly with Jeffery Veach was a great success. On 11/25 the 2<sup>nd</sup> assembly will be with Rohan Murphy called "No Legs, No Problem". He is very inspirational and a lot of the students have seen him at Wisdom Lane at other assemblies. He lost his legs due to an early childhood illness. He speaks of challenges and how he went on to be a college wrestling champion, paraolympic champion and Nike spokesperson.

Communications-Laura Brown- Weekly e-mails are going well. Facebook is up to 445 followers. Many postings get passed multiple times and are viewed sometimes by thousands.

Septa-Liz Kirk- The meeting was held on 10/19. Rich Cirillo announced that the SEPTA Honorary Life Nominations will accepted until 11/12<sup>th</sup>. The guest speakers were from the School for Language and Communication Development. SLCD/ABLE (always an acronym!) is a not for profit organization that provides services to adults and children with developmental disabilities, which provides vocational services and employment to

students after high school. The reps also went over Medicaid Waiver Services, Transitioning to Adult Services and provided Day Hab information. They also shared great examples of how their students have thrived in the work place.

Honorary Life-Today was the deadline.

Reflections- This year's theme is "Let Your Imagination Soar". There are 6 categories of art, including a new visual arts 3D option. There is also a "Special Artist" division for special needs students that includes all 6 categories. It is very important that students and parents read the entry rules for each category. The student entry form and rules can be found at [http://www.nyspta.org/YourPTA/YourPTA\\_Reflections.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/YourPTA/YourPTA_Reflections.cfm), under :Step 2: Promote Reflections." Failing to meet criteria's regarding dimensions, format, length of entry, etc., can eliminate an entry before it is even judged. Please read the rules for the category your child is interested in. Keep in mind that entries are not only judged n artistic value but on creativity. All DAHS entries will be recognized. Entries are due to Mr. Coscia no later than 11/30. They will be judged at the DAHS level by 12/18. Students can inquire about entering with art teachers, Photography, English, Music or Dance teachers or Mr. Coscia.

Senior Award- Applications are online.

Elementary Curriculum-Social Studies director Steve Costello discussed teaching students to analyze social studies documents. Primary sources are used on the ELA so this will help students. There is a Social Studies website that the teachers analyzed and re-ategorized by grade level. It is on the district intranet. Science director Kevin McDermott said the district is focusing on engineering. STEM kits are being used in classrooms. State has modified science standards to develop NYS Science Learning Standards for grades K-8. Tour of Outdoor Environmental Learning Center was given. Classes are beginning to use the center for field trips. There is a possibility for a summer reading program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Math workshop was on 10/27. Next meeting is 11/17.

Secondary Curriculum- District math workshop had a good turnout. (70 people). Handouts are avail on the district website. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade college planning workshop is being scheduled. Middle school reading program was a big hit. Changing the weighting of Regents. With elimination of mid-terms. Regents or final exam will now count as 10% of the grade. 4 quarter averages will count as 22.5% each. A survey was sent to surrounding districts to see what they are doing. English regents will be given to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Jan. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> administering of the common core regents for our district. They will be encouraged to take it again in June to improve the grade. The higher grade will count. Students not taking the regents will have a separate final. Algebra 2 is proving to

be different from old algebra2/trig. CC regents on June 1. Between June 1-19 there will be sessions to catch up on traditional regent's material. Students have the option to take both. Most likely there will be summer school for all 3 math courses. Superintendent conference day- middle and high school departments met. 5<sup>th</sup> grade had a consult on STEAM. The rest of the week the consultant came into 5<sup>th</sup> grade to teach a STEAM lesson. The mandate is to be below 2% of class time for testing. We are nowhere near that. Our APPR waiver was approved. Staying with old regulations until March. Discussion of Senior Phys. Ed papers being returned was discussed. A huge discussion regarding the Math Curriculum was discussed at length; Mary Rickard will revisit the topic at the next secondary curriculum meeting. State Ed department has an online survey about common core. Available on the district website. Next meeting 11/24.

Transportation- Abbey- Dismissal schedule has been adjusted and the busses are moving better. Northside-Transportation will be part of the Kindergarten Orientation. Summit- Parents are not on the bus stop to pick up their children. They have asked that the parents be there to get them. Wisdom- Overcrowded busses have been fixed. Buses are arriving on time.

New Business-Adopt-a-family- DAHS PTSA will once again be adopting a family. Donations can be made, money or specific items once we know what our "family" needs. Laura Brown has offered to receive the donations at her home.

Next DAHS PTSA Meeting: Monday January 4th

8:50pm-- Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ann Johnson, Recording Secretary