

Levittown Division Avenue High School
PTSA General Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2016

At 7:43 President Laura Brown called the meeting to order. Pledge, quorum was established.

Treasure Report-Dawn Tiemer- Books for Nov. and Dec. were reconciled by Ann Johnson. All was in order. A motion was made to carry \$40 from Convention to Insurance due to a rise in the price of the insurance. The motion was seconded and it was carried.

President's report -Laura Brown- This morning all the PTA presidents met with Dr. McDonald and Mr. Pastore Re: budget planning. Council budget will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the proposed items. At the upcoming Board of Ed meetings different departments will make their presentations.

Principal's report- Mrs. Lorelli was proud to announce the students who had athletic signings to college. On Nov. 12 DAHS had the ribbon cutting of the new flagpole and remembrance garden. It was attended by many in the schools and community. It is dedicated to veterans, everyday heroes and those who perished in 9/11. The silver and blue luncheon for the class of '16 was held for the top 35 achievers in their class. The recent blood drive was a success. The Rohan Murphy assembly was an inspiring and uplifting experience. Winter concerts were very well performed. The HOBY award was awarded to Phillip Downes. It is for volunteerism, integrity, excellence, diversity and community partnership. Outstanding athletes were recognized on December 14th at the Crest Hollow Country Club by NYS AHPERD. Brynn McLaughlin and Anthony Anzano were recognized. Kristin Schmidt is a semi-finalist in the '15-'16 Coca-Cola Scholarship Foundation. It is for leadership, academic achievement and community service. Emmy Night was a huge success. Very funny and entertaining. Dragon Pride awards are awarded to 2 students from each grade for character and citizenship. Recipients for this quarter are Brandon Smith, Sabrina Manos, Melissa Rispoli, Sebastyen Suarez, Annie Tao, Justin Oh, Anthony Richard and Taranjit Parmar. Students are nominated by staff. NCAA Eligibility was discussed at length. DAHS will make more information available for parents and students that need more guidance with this. In the past there was not enough info for these students.

1st Vice President report- Bi-Laws have no changes to them but are coming up to vote on them. They are available to anyone who would like to go over them. The deadline for sweeps tickets is Jan. 5th. After that the ticket prices go up to \$7. The DAHS Honorary Life Award recipient is Mr. Ray Weidlein.

2nd Vice President report- Linda Pereira- 463 total members. 162 students, 88 faculty and 213 parents.

3rd Vice President- Liz Kirk- Last faculty meeting was Dec. 1st. Staff Christmas card was taken. Mrs. Lorelli went over the many DAHS student and staff achievements. Reading material was offered to review for personal development hours. Debbie Rifkin spoke about the new APPR 3012D updates.

Correspondence- Jennifer Benz- A thank you card was received from the Regan family and a get well card was sent to Lynn Petrofsky.

Student Liaison- James Lunetta – Senior Class Liaison spoke about Emmy night and what a tremendous success it was. Mr. Sherman is working on making a DVD of it. Business Honor Society sponsored Toys for Tots and collected many gifts. Yearbook is moving forward with a lot of work being done right now. The Apple watch raffle was a great fundraiser. Danielle Mahn was the winner. Spirit Night is in the planning stages and fundraising continues for other senior activities.

Delegate-Kristine Ekberg- Attended council meeting on 11/19. A few members of council attended NYS PTA convention in Niagara Falls and reported that it was informative. Council “adopted” a family in need for the holidays. SEPTA held SAFE (safe action for escape) on 11/30 Kick boxing and Ju-Jitsu techniques were introduced. A transportation study has been implemented for Salk McArthur and East Broadway. 11th grade regents will be held in Jan and June. Summer reading program discussed during secondary curriculum meeting. The bid for vending machines is coming up. The contract we have now will soon be up.

Arts in Education- Laura Brown- The Rohan Murphy assembly was on 11/25 and very well received by students and staff.

Communications-Laura Brown- Facebook has 469 regular followers. E-mails go out weekly and seem to be appreciated as a way of keeping up with all the news for DAHS and the district.

Septa-Liz Kirk- Meeting was held 11/30. Marsha Marino LCSW MSC was the speaker. She discussed the outrageous numbers of serious violent crimes committed against people with disabilities. They have an ongoing class called SAFE (special action for escape) that teaches disabled people to have a reflex of action instead of fear to escape.

Honorary Life-Mr. Ray Weidlein is this years DAHS recipient.

Reflections -Finalists were revealed today. Next month we will find out if they go to state.

Senior Award- Applications are online. They are due by 5/6. The student MUST be a PTSA member.

Elementary Curriculum-Nov meeting-The state requires 95% participation or they threaten to take away state aid. NYS has not enforced it yet but most of Long Island would be affected. NYS has a Common Core survey on line. At convention the new commissioner presented the benefits of mandating Pre-K but neglected to answer why kindergarten is not mandated and there is no push to mandate it. Math and ELA tests are a little shorter this year. A new company will be writing the tests next year. In class literacy block- a 30 min block for whole group instruction and 2 20 min blocks for small group with a second teacher push in. Dec. meeting—Michele Kelly the reading curriculum associate discussed the read to succeed program.

Elementary students log hours they read outside of school to earn a free pass to Six Flags. Current 4th graders will have a summer reading program. Looks like Common Core assessment will not be tied to teacher evaluations.

Secondary Curriculum-Nov. & Dec. meetings-- A Physical Education paper is no longer a requirement for graduation. A new AP course is going to be offered to 10th graders. “AP Capstone” is based on 2 AP Courses. AP seminar the first year and AP research the second year. Seminar is investigating real world issues from multiple perspectives and developing skills and Research deals with discipline to conduct independent research. AP Chem and AP Environmental Science are changing from double period to 1 & ½ periods next year. It gives students room for other electives.

Transportation- A traffic study is being done at all schools in the district.

New Business-DAHS blankets are once again going on sale for \$40. They are a lacrosse fund raiser.

Next DAHS PTSA Meeting: Monday February 1st

8:40pm-- Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ann Johnson, Recording Secretary