

## **Wisdom PTA Meeting 1/13/25**

- Zoom Meeting Scheduled for 7pm
- President's Report - Lauren Sica - report attached  
Good Evening and Welcome Back!  
Happy New Year!  
I just have a quick update on the National PTA's upcoming dues increase.  
As we discussed during our last meeting, the National PTA will implement a dues increase of \$1.00 effective July 1, 2025. This adjustment will result in our current dues of \$2.25 being raised to \$3.25. After extensive discussion with other units, the PTA council, and our executive board, we have resolved to increase our membership dues from \$10.00 to \$12.00. This change will necessitate an update to our bylaws, which will be presented at next month's meeting. The revised bylaws will reflect the adjustment in dues.
- Secretary - Faith Dermody Approval of minutes from November meeting. Stand as written.
- Principal Report - Mr. Avena - Welcome everyone!
  - Testing - This Wednesday is the ELA iReady exams and next Wednesday will be the math iReady. Delayed bell schedule and shortened periods after the test completion. The state has asked for us to do a computer based testing simulation, in one grade level prior to state testing in April. This will be on 1/24 for 6th grade in ELA class. Students cannot opt out of this.
  - The application for the "School of Distinction" is underway thanks to Mr. Arvelo-Shaw. It is all going very well, including the climate survey, we have gotten positive feedback. "This will help us keep our building a great school and place to be for many years to come" Mr. Arvelo-Shaw
  - The 7th & 8th grade science olympiad competition this past weekend went great. Wisdom was the highest placing public school in the state. Hoping to make the state competition for the 22nd year in a row.
- Presentation on E-sports from Karen (Levittown Mom that has advocated for e-sports for a long time).
  - Son is in college on a full scholarship for esports, it is a very big up and coming future for the students. There are so many colleges that have this as a competitive team and tournaments. They can be paid now and travel around the world for this, it is a very great opportunity that is out there. Please reach out to me for any questions or on how to get started.
- 1st VP - Janette Ruddy - No Report but reminder to Samantha Stanley you are the delegate for the next Council Meeting 2/4. Please send reports 2 days prior to the meeting.
- 2nd VP - Ronna Duarte - As of today membership is 227 members.
- 3rd VP - Yeliz Cipriano - Fundraising on hold until Spring
- Treasurer Report - Anthony LoPinto - Please see attached report - audit done through December
- Corresponding Secretary - Tara Reyes - Two condolence cards sent this month
- Honorary Life - Tara Reyes - Met recently with the committee, the anonymous letters were read by everyone and Dawn Feldman was chosen as this year's honoree. She was presented with flowers and her certificate and she was so surprised and honored! Invites will be out soon for the dinner on April 30th at the Coral House.
- 4th VP - Ms. Going - see attached report
- Delegate report - Needed from Delegate
- Curriculum - Given by Lauren - see attached notes
  - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conference Feedback Dr. Z shared the feedback about virtual secondary PT conferences. Overall, the feedback was positive. Virtual conferences will continue next year with some improvements as per the suggestions made by parents and staff.
  - School Climate Survey for Parents - Dr. Z shared that the district will be sending out a climate survey for parents in January. We ask everyone to take a few moments to complete it.
  - Therapy Dogs - Dr. Z shared that she will be including in this year's budget a partnership with Long Island Therapy Dogs to have a visiting therapy dog next year throughout the year at the four secondary schools.

- Course Catalog/Registration - Dr. Z shared that the updated course catalog is on the district website. The scheduling process at our secondary schools will be happening over the next few months.
- Career Exploration Follow-Up - Dr. Z presented an update on the new elementary career exploration program.
- Transportation - Yeliz Cipriano - January's transportation meeting was held via zoom at 10 AM
  - Meeting started with Mrs. Reeves, telling everyone about a Newsday article on December 22 regarding a bellmore/Merrick district bus student, wrote about his positive experiences with his bus driver over the years. It was a nice article displaying the positive impact that a bus driver can have on the students.
  - As for hiring, we have a new bus attendant starting tomorrow we have a new driver in training but we did have one bus driver retire on Friday so every time we hire one we lose one, so we are still understaffed with both bus, drivers and bus attendants
  - District is still using an agency to hire temporary bus attendants and they're hoping that they will get five new hires very soon from the agency which will help with staffing
  - The 4:45 late bus that we currently have does not have many students on it. It will continue for the rest of the year however, more than likely will go away in September for the next school year.
  - Next transportation meeting will be held on February 11 via zoom at 10 AM
- Reflections - Lauren Sica - so many amazing submissions, thank you to Mrs Specht who did a great job getting the kids to do projects and enter the contest. Two of them have advanced and I should hear something at the end of February about how those two submissions did.
- Nominating - Temporary Chair will be Karen Martinez letter went out for nominations for next years slate for the executive board
- Food Services - Eileen Lynch - report attached
  - I was asked why salads aren't offered anymore. Coincidentally, the student rep at the meeting said she was asked also by students. They said salads aren't pre-made but they can be made by the deli area, all the stuff for a salad is there. They said they would have the staff make it known salad is available.
  - Buffalo chicken quesadillas seemed to be a hit so they are offering it again in January
  - BBQ chicken drumsticks is a hit in the elementary schools so they are going to try it in the middle and high schools in January. The lunch comes with 1 drumstick, a few reps asked if they will only be given 1 like the younger children or more since they are bigger. We were told just 1, but they would look into it. They think with all the sides it comes with the 1 should be enough, some of the reps disagreed.
  - The grilled cheese and French fries were warm not hot. Chartwells is going to look into how the food is kept while serving, the food should be hot from the first person to the last on line.
  - I was impressed with the deli area. They can get a sandwich or wrap, choices of meat and cheese, lettuce, tomato and condiments.
  - The pizza was good and hot. They make some pizza well done and some not to accommodate everyone's taste
- High School - Division PTSA meeting is next week
- SEPTA - Dr Ippolito - Next meeting on Monday, 2/3 about secondary education. Paint Night fundraiser at Levittown Hall in two sessions, it was sent on Parent Square
- No Old business
- New Business - Lauren Sice makes a motion to use Class Act for pictures for next, non opposed, motion passed.
- Mr. Avena - 6/16/25 last day of classes and finals 6/17-6/24 for anyone that wants to plan a vacation.
- Meeting Adjourned 7:38

## Ms. Going Report for November

- Garden Club would like to thank everyone who supported them during the poinsettia sale, their annual plant sale will be in May just before Mothers Day.
- Kiwanis would like to thank Wisdom and PTA for their support at the December 18<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive ~ 45 units were collected. If you donated and or volunteered in any way it was greatly appreciated.
- Mean Girls Friday @ 7:30 and Saturday @ 2:00
  - Purchase tickets online (link on Wisdom's home page)
    - Adults \$13
    - Children \$10
- Chorus Winter Concert, Tuesday 1/21
- The Relay Race is set for Friday, February 7. 6th Graders are in the lead right now after their Food Drive win. The next event for points is Penny Wars which will run from January 21-24. Keep an eye out for a Spirit Week Flyer. This year, students will follow a special schedule ALL DAY full of fun, and the day will end with the relay race.
  - Class colors have been voted on —
    - 8th Grade is Red
    - 7th Grade is Purple
    - 6th Grade is Green

Students are encouraged to dress in the class color on this day..

- Science Research students competed at the Blue Dragon Invitational at Division Avenue HS on January 11th. At this highly competitive event we brought home medals in four events and placed in the top third of all teams, beating all the local regional schools that were also competing at the event. This event has motivated us to do even better at our Regional Competition that is coming up on March 8th at Kellenberg HS.
- Science Research students will be competing at the National Science Bowl competition at Brookhaven Labs on January 30th. A 5 member team will represent Wisdom in a round robin style competition answering questions in various fields of science and math.
- Science Research is sponsoring a sneaker collection of gently used sneakers. Any sneakers collected that are in usable condition will be repurposed through the organization "gotsneakers". Shoes too badly worn will be recycled. All sneakers donations can be brought to the bin in the main lobby by the end of the month.
- Yearbook sales are on going
  - Personalization of books and booster/ad deadline is February 8th! Space is limited for ads place them early so you won't miss out on space
  - Books can be ordered online through the end of April
- Ms. Neary and Mrs. Zeller will be doing a unit over the next 2 weeks that will involve a football theme leading up to the superbowl. Students should wear clothing to support their favorite teams. Email Mrs. Zeller with questions.
- Sewing Club is coming to WISDOM! Mrs. Zeller and Mrs. McLinden will hold 4 meetings (Twice in February and twice in March) on Tuesdays. See Mrs. Zeller or Mrs. McLinden for a permission slip to join the club.

Anthony LoPinto Wisdom Lane Middle School PTA Treasurer's' Report  
**Nov 1, 2024 - Nov 30 2024**

**Opening Checkbook Balance \$16,442.16**

Expenses: 0  
Total Expenses \$0.00

Income:  
Membership \$10.00  
School Pictures (net of refund) \$3,529.50  
Bank Interest \$3.32  
Total Income \$3,542.82

**Closing Checkbook Balance \$19,984.98**

Checkbook balance as of Nov 30 2024 \$19,984.98  
Bank balance as of Nov 30 2024 \$20,344.98  
Difference of - \$360.00

Checks Outstanding: Total: \$360.00  
1035 \$150.00 Council Fees  
1022 \$100.00 Personal Best - Alexis Arechiga  
1026 \$100.00 Personal Best - Madison Messina  
1032 \$5.00 Lazo - Picture Refund  
1033 \$5.00 Ghotra - Picture Refund

**Dec 1, 2024 - Dec 31 2024**

**Opening Checkbook Balance \$19,984.98**

Expenses:  
Staff Cookies \$150.00  
Total Expenses \$150.00

Income:  
Bank Interest \$3.42  
Total Income \$3.42

**Closing Checkbook Balance \$19,838.40**

Checkbook balance as of Dec 31 2024 \$19,838.40  
Bank balance as of Dec 31 2024 \$20,043.40  
Difference - \$205.00

Checks Outstanding: Total: \$205.00  
1022 \$100.00 Personal Best - Alexis Arechiga  
1026 \$100.00 Personal Best - Madison Messina  
1032 \$5.00 Lazo - Picture Refund