

# PTHS PTSA

MEETING MINUTES –SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

19 in attendance

**CALL TO ORDER/OPENING – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Mary Pat DeRienzo at 9:21am

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARY PAT DeRIENZO**

Welcome all to first PTSA Meeting. A lot happening already. We have a football concession stand that is run by the PTSA. Money earned is donated back to the school. We need volunteers. If you can donate hours or baked items, we would appreciate your help. We are hosting two Seton Lasalle games. The next one is Saturday, October 1st at 7pm. Peters games start at 7:30pm. We start setting up at 5pm. Thank you all for coming this morning. Please reach out if you have time, and please get involved.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT – KATHY LaBELLARTE**

Minutes from the May 12th, 2016 meeting was approved as submitted.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT – TRACY MELOGRANE**

Audit was done over the summer and completed. Motion to accept made first by Jodi Hannah and seconded by Laura Spernak. Motion passed. Motion to approved budget made first by Jodi Hannah and seconded by Cathy Vargo. Motion passed.

## **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – REPORT GIVEN BY MARY PAT DeRIENZO**

Open House Recap. Good attendance last night. Thank you Lorie Strennen for coordinated the cookies and water in the cafeteria with the National Honors Society students. Thank you Jan Trombitas, Mary Lou Bulseco, Gina Wells, and all the ambassadors that helped. Reflections theme this year is "What Is Your Story?". Thank you Mary Lou Bulseco.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – LORI PAVLIK**

- Open House was great. Ambassadors were actively seeking people out to help. I am proud of them. Positive start to school year. Late start but kids ready to come back.
- New staff in building...Carly Devine, guidance counselor; Jacob Orend, Biology teacher; Mark Schrier, Social Studies teacher; Laura Donahue, special education teacher; Sara McCarthy, Math teacher; Patricia Trunzo, English permanent substitute teacher; Stephen Talpas, English substitute teacher; Lauren Frey, Chemistry teacher.
- Faculty and students went over the policy and procedure goals for this year, and conducted ALICE drill, conducted first cafeteria evacuation. We feel confident that if there is a crisis, the kids are ready to go. The more we practice, the more we are prepared.
- Student theme this year is "Think Possible". Focus is on pushing themselves. Targeting kids who aren't taking any honors or advanced placement classes, nor doing activities. Goal is to get exposure to college level work while at PTHS. They can do the work and do it well. Theme for teachers as well. Embrace those students. Academic classes to prepare all kids to make that jump into more deeper thinking. That is our focus. Kids have responded well. We do have kids that are over extended. We talk to them. We are pushing for college and career readiness for all students.
- Partnerships coming up with STEM. Big announcement coming soon.
- Partnership with University of Pittsburgh has new classes with cyber STEM. Students can earn college credit with those courses.
- There are two new advanced placement courses this year; AP Environmental Science and AP Computer Science Principles. Innovation activity being done. Designing prototype then on paper. Students highly engaged in the activity. Kids loving it so far. Cool things happening in the building. Building critical thinking skills.
- Ninth graders making leap up into honors courses between ninth and tenth grade.
- We encourage teachers to give students work in advance when an absence is coming up.
  
- Mrs. Ragland gave a NMSI update. Starting to see one of main goals achieved. Exposing more students to AP courses. Seeing new faces. Upon graduation, we want to have them take at least one AP course. Saturday study sessions locations and dates are Chartiers Valley High School on November 19th, January 7th, and March 4th; PTHS on February 25, March 18th, and April 22nd; West Allegheny High School on February 4th, March 18th, and April 1st. Study sessions are from 8am to 12:30pm. Snacks are provided. Sessions are shortened but have same amount of instructional time. In addition to Saturday study sessions, students can apply for monetary incentive for scores of 4 or 5. \$50 for a score of 4 and \$100 for a score of 5. Checks distributed at end of next week. Lisa Anderson suggested that during Open House night, to have a NMSI session during the lunch period because teachers don't have time to talk about it. Mrs. Ragland stated she liked the suggestion of Open House night.
  
- Mr. Lesnett said thank you to everyone who helped with the Rally For America. It was an awesome event! It was volunteer driven. Thank you to Michelle Szewczyk, Margaret Rauscher, and Mary Pat DeRienzo.
- Ambassador program thriving. Positive feedback from parents from Open House night. Ambassador role is important. It creates personal interaction. I am proud of our ambassadors. Beautiful collaboration with the PTSA and ambassadors.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – LORI PAVLIK (continued)**

- CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Test) is given twice a year and is an online assessment. Yields good data. Done within classrooms in Biology, English, and Algebra. It is not graded. Gives data to teachers and will be presented to students. Level is set to where the student is. If correct answer given, a higher level question will be chosen.
- Mrs. Pavlik and Mr. Lesnett talked about Keystones. There is a lot of false information out regarding Keystones. State legislature has delayed Senate Bill 880 decision to 2018 for whether Keystones are to be a graduation requirement for students of Pennsylvania. Keystones are a Peters Township School District graduation requirement. PA removed the state graduation requirement. The state is investigating why kids are not performing proficiently. It does not make sense for PTSD to retract our Keystone policy and then add it until the state settles the decision. Policy 217 states students to demonstrate proficiency. Retesting and remediation classes offered.
- Be proud of Peters Township School District. Options here are so great! Institution that looks out for students. Positive place for them to come to everyday. Produced students that have gone on to do amazing things. Call us if there is an issue. We appreciate all the support from the PTSA.

**GUIDANCE REPORT: HEATHER WAWRZENIAK**

- Heather welcomed and introduced Carly Devine. We are excited to have her! We made adjustments to case loads. Mrs. Pavlik stated that the realignment was because counselors needed number of students evened out. We wanted to keep the same counselors for the seniors. Mrs. Laux's seniors go to Carly Devine. We are doing a teaming approach with the seniors so they have equal time. Further discussion took place on the transition of counselors with students. Form for seniors to fill out for Mrs. Devine to get to know them in order to write letter of recommendation for students. Counselors converse with students to get idea of what to write. Naviance updated its dashboard. Students can electronically request them. Teacher submits it and send electronically. Naviance shows drop down menu and you can check schools that you want letter to go to.
- Introducing students to Naviance goal setting.
- We are a Caring Place school. Will be making big mural downtown for Light Up Night.
- College Fair at Bethel Park High School on October 4th at 6:30pm. BPHS hosting this year.
- Five National Merit semi-finalists. Information displayed on the District website.
- PSATs October 19th. Ninth graders will take the PSAT 8/9. Tenth and eleventh graders take practice SAT. Eleventh grade scores can qualify for scholarships. Test is taken during the school day. More information is coming.
- Invitation for juniors and their families to talk about colleges will get mailed.
- Sign up through Family Connection to get a pass to visit a college. Naviance and morning announcements has information about colleges coming in to PTHS.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – CINDY CHAPMAN**

- Student Pictures will be taken on September 26th. Retake day is October 26th.
- Send in volunteer forms from first day packet. Thank you Cheryl Mushala for helping again this year.
- The Character Counts Rally for America was very nice. It might be broadcasted. Next meeting is October 4th at McMurray Elementary at noon. Everyone is welcome. See what's going on in the community not just school. Lunch will be served.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – SERENA KING**

- Area Council Meeting is September 22nd.
- Open chair positions for library volunteer and staff appreciation.

Conversation took place regarding practice SAT. Mrs. Pavlik stated that the library offers it with companies that come in. Test is free. For profit companies don't have programs for new SAT. New PSAT more closely aligned with new SAT. Jodi Hannah suggested that there are books that students can buy and do practice test at home.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**Meeting adjourned – 11:01 AM**

Minutes Submitted by: Kathy LaBellarte  
Kathy LaBellarte, Secretary