

**Peters Township PTA Area Council Minutes**  
**January 21, 2021 @ 9:15 a.m, District Administration Offices**

**Call to Order- Pledge of Allegiance**

**President Report- Sue Deegan, President**

Welcome counselors to the meeting, thank you for coming. Can't wait to hear what you have to say. Have not been together since November. Opening on school board, anybody has interest the info is online. Looking forward to a number of applicants. School Board appreciation month, gave books to each school in honor of the school board

**Reading and Approval of Minutes- Kathleen Chaudhari, Secretary**

November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes, no changes

**Treasurer's Report- Lisa Argent, Treasurer, November & December Financial Report, not much activity for budget**

**School Counseling Department Reports-**

**High School:** Mrs. Leyna Stefan—new building, exciting. Student tours on Monday, No problems on Tuesday. Everything has its place, easy to navigate, nobody was late for class. Grateful to have space to educate students. Second quarter ending on Friday. Scheduling coming up. Mr. Jeff Sudol here from the high school, trying to interact with the students. Out in the hallways, giving tours, trying to help in any way. Trying to be flexible in every way. Managing counseling duties, as well. What is the breakdown in the day? College planning versus addressing emotional needs. How is this going to affect college admissions? Admissions had to start changing last year into this year. Probably going to continue to see that trend for this year. SAT may be changing they are getting rid of subject tests, more electronic tests down the road. Less data points for admissions, but they are excited to see a more wholesome student and not just test scores. Everyone is like this, everyone is limited with testing and grades. Probably see more essay questions, more interviews. Common app a question is how did the student adjust to covid? Will remote learning be looked at badly by the colleges? Not at all because most are full remote anyway. Concern was brought up about cheating. Honest kids are being hurt to deal with cheaters. Testing procedures seem to be going overboard. Remote kids have to use multiple cameras, countdown clock; the stress level of testing with additional protocol is very troublesome. Mrs. Stefan will look into this.

**Middle School:** Mrs. Mary Beth Kelly-Massaró, Mrs. Kim Trevithick Getting ready for the move next year. Moving and getting 6<sup>th</sup> grade with them. Lots of work and transition pieces. Dealing with normal stuff and also pandemic stuff. Helping students through that, logistical challenges when kids have to quarantine, etc. Scheduling for next year is going to be way different.

**McMurray Elementary School:** Mrs. Kim Recker, Mrs. Heather Wawrzeniak Concerned about the transition, 6<sup>th</sup> grade year is when they feel like they know the kids. Age of 5<sup>th</sup> graders is pretty young and transitioning them is a bit worrisome. Wheels spinning about how to support them all. Will do middle school transition with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Spend lots of time behind their desk with planning, not always a good thing. A lot of things to do and they also have to keep further away from the kids. Career day is not the same, hard to do things the same. Kids aren't as interested with zoom. Conflict resolution has dropped a lot. No recess has helped with that. Kindness week in February, getting more activities in place. More virtual, less paper. Huge change is no paper. Question? How to deal with feedback and there are not paper tests for the kids to see and know what they did wrong, teachers are not encouraging interaction? Counselors were thankful with hearing that feedback they will take it back to the building. With math, without seeing the child's actual work, it is very hard as a parent to help them. Parents are only seeing the multiple choice answers and not the work behind the scenes.

**Bower Hill and Pleasant Valley:** Fred Traumuller from BH (will also talk about PV on behalf of Stephanie Ali). Doing things we have never thought about having to do. Both buildings appreciating the challenges with the students. Unfathomable a year or two ago to think we would be wearing mask and keeping 6 feet apart , but there have been a lot of positives. Kids are responding well to be separate and not in a group. Security where their work is only theirs. Specials are longer, students and teachers are enjoying that. Teachers are taking them out for recess, students and teachers getting to know them better. Simpler environment in some ways. Fred and Stephanie are continuing with groups during recess. Turn taking, playing games, how to communicate 6 feet away through discussion. Kids have been able to overcome. PV focus on kindness club in February. BH focus on Black History Month, pioneers in different fields. Intense focus on certain individuals each week. Both buildings will be having test preparation soon. Bullying lessons soon and career lessons at the end of the year. Question? Have academics slowed down? Child not coming home with as much stuff, packets not coming home to work on all week. Answer: no building wide changes have been make to the curriculum Car riders are leaving earlier, so kids might have extra time in the classroom and they can complete their homework before coming home.

**Report of School Board Representative-** Minna Allison Thank you for school board appreciation gifts on Tuesday. Started the year off with finance cmte meeting 14.16 millage index is 3 percent .42 increase Tuesday's voting meeting, not going to increase it more than that. Will need to increase Debt service, new devices, and teachers at jump step, very expensive year. Tuesdays voting meeting: cmte appointments, updated job descriptions, moving compressor from old high to bower hill. Cleaning cost of high school \$13,000, long term subs for English at high school, new calendar has been approved start date august 24 graduation June 3<sup>rd</sup> April 11 to 15<sup>th</sup> spring break week long Christmas break new school configuration, this Monday education committee meeting, exciting to see transitions into both new buildings. Construction is already started at the new high school. Pool area is new administrative suite. Current pool is closing next week. Will curriculum change for 6<sup>th</sup> grade?

Yes 41 minutes long, they will change classes like 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Benefits are unbelievable, will have more options for classes, IT, new curriculum. School board vacancy, Dr Hardy resigned. Opening up interviews to fill out his term to fill out his term through December. Hoping that someone who wants to run will apply for the position. What is the time commitment for school board? Requirement, voting meeting once a month, a few hours. Committee meetings, not as frequent. At times, there are more meetings. Dr French sends info every week, and you can choose to put more effort into it. Everything is online to apply. Manageable if you have kids, make it work. Minna talked about the Racial Equity Challenge. Increase racial literacy by exposure to more diverse topics. Content for 21 days, free content, personal and powerful. Personal journey.

### Unit Reports

**PTHS-Mary Pat DeRienzo** Teachers and students are thrilled to be in the building, American math exam will be given on February 4<sup>th</sup>, Next HS PTSA meeting is February 11, SAT test will be given at the high school on March 13<sup>th</sup>

**PTMS-Samantha McVicker** Middle School Not too much to report. Maintained approval for snack day, has to be individually packaged but they are able keep that up. Hoping for a picnic at the end of the year.

**McMurray Elementary- Julie Collins** Most likely will not have McMurray Day, will have t shirts for both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Looking for activity for everybody for Valentine's Day. PTA will provide a drink, Next meeting, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Dr. Fisher guest speaker

**Bower Hill -Missy Harmon** Getting ready to kick off read a thon fundraiser. Usually in the fall, but doing it in February, Virtual - 2 parents designed a website and everything can be done there connected to BH library and township library guest speakers will be on there decided to continue this tradition even though they don't really need the money kick off is Feb 1<sup>st</sup> snack and craft for valentine's day party maybe doing something with the nursing homes

**Pleasant Valley- Jen Hanco** PV Jen Hanco getting read a thon up and running mid to end of February may do virtual stem night valentine's day going to do virtual program provide craft and snack holding out hope they can have tons of fun day at the end of May

Question from Sue to the presidents? How are membership numbers? Verification is not awful, it's typical for each school. Higher at younger grades, lower at higher grades. We are in good standing at the state. (only need to have 5 members)

### Committee Reports

1<sup>st</sup> VP-Melissa Konggaard

Penelope discussed reflections. Sent off submissions to regional level, but they need a volunteer to help with the job. Submissions were received; a week ago we received

confirmation. Talking tonight to school reps for reflections and to have a ceremony at the school 144 submissions, 130 students Planning ceremonies in February Not sure of winners right now. Directory Karen and Julie are working to merge information into the district directory. Up and running in the next few days.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lori McRoberts

Did pictures make ups in December Redford was asked to hold the ID cards until they are in the new high school.

Scholarship Lori is going to start on that earlier this year, going to send to Mrs. Stefan soon.

**Old Business/New Business None**

**Calendar**

Next Month's Meeting-February 18, 2021, 9:15 AM

District Administration Reports

**Adjournment** 11:14 adjournment

Minutes presented for approval March 18, 2021

Minutes Approved -   
Kathleen Chaudhari, Area Council Secretary

**Note: February 18, 2021 meeting cancelled due to weather.**