

Peters Township Area Council Minutes
March 18, 2021 @ 9:15 a.m. District Administration Offices

Call to Order- Pledge of Allegiance

President Report - Sue Deegan, President

Welcome to all the principals. Thanks for sharing your counselors in January, there was a lot to share and always great to hear from them. February meeting cancelled due to weather. Dr. French, congrats on extending your time with us with the new contract.

Promote PT year of kindness, 21 days of racial literacy, March 24 April 14 at 7 p.m. continuing zoom discussion. Share with membership, really good program. Anyone can log onto the website and do the journey on their own. Need to register to participate in the discussion. PTYOK.org

Shout-out to reflections. 44 entries to regionals 33 to state level

Nominating Committee—several positions on area council are open. Need one member from each unit to sit on the nominating committee. Presidents serve or find a representative. Sam McVicker first Sonia Koupiaris second—to form nominating committee for our unit.

Scholarship info is on naviance. All is digital this year. It is posted now

Academic enrichment—last year did not distribute funds, but this year we will distribute this years and last year's money—Based on enrollment numbers.

No changes to the minutes

Treasurer's report—let us know if there are any issues

Superintendent Update—Dr. French

Final stretch, hang in there. Mask, social distancing, small groups. Meeting daily with the health department. Health community seeing, older kids getting affected more, now younger kids getting infected more. More cases with our little ones. Worried for a number of reasons, don't like the trend. We can do it if we keep our mask on, stay 6 feet apart. Not sure how long lower restrictions will last. Punch list for the new high school. Middle school project going great.

Have we had to bring in any more mental health resources? We trained all teachers and staff on how to identify issues. We identify and refer. We can never have enough mental health support, families get resources outside of school. Referrals to Centerville Clinic. There was already a lot of anxiety at the high school, that is our baseline.

Increase confidence in parents to send their kids back to school? No, not yet. There has only been 1 case of spread for the entire year. Having entire 4000 not in the space has helped us to be successful. A number of our cases are from remote families; they are getting out and doing things they are just not in school.

Seniors—Communication to parents is in draft form, will be coming out soon. Lots of planning for commencement, 6 feet, etc. a lot of options. It's a big class. 50% capacity, there are challenges. Dr. Murphy was at the stadium yesterday.

High School Report – Mrs. Pavlik Working on spring plans, how we are going to celebrate our seniors. What we can and cannot do. Trying to keep our kids connected. Prom-things keep changing, so that changes the trajectory. It will be a senior only prom without guests, but guidelines changed so might be able to bring a guest. Graduation, cannot shift program to inside this year. Would need to do a rain date. Counselors working really hard. If you know of anyone is struggling, please let them know. Virtual college planning night, 3 nights—end of the month. Parking—all juniors who applied were able to get parking passes. That has been an adjustment, Juniors needed to be reminded of safety issues, 60 more people driving. Police officers were out and giving warnings. Transition to new school is going well, kids are liking it there. It's bright and cheery. Been talking about the red graduation gown for years now. Not an issue to be mean to the girls, it was a good time to do it— moving into the building, starting a new tradition. Goal is to have all of the kids together, whether it's in the stadium or the auditorium. 2700 is total for the gym. Keystones from last year do not have to be made up.

Mary Pat DeRienzo—College planning, 3 nights next week. There will be summer gym, online and in person options.

Middle School Report – Mr. Sikorski Spring mode, transition to 6 to 8 middle school. Facility is going to be phenomenal for the middle school. Good crew of teachers going to join the staff from McMurray. Looking at room assignments now. Glad to have 5th and 6th graders going to the middle school. Parent orientation coming up for parents, zoom meetings next week. See Mr. Sikorski if you have questions or anxiety with transition. PSSA's will be given this year, state mandated. These are not high stakes this year, will not be used for placement decisions. Very strategic when looking at the data to get a better idea, asking teachers and parents. Placement for some classes starts in 7th grade. For instance regular pre-algebra and enriched pre-algebra. ELA everyone takes the same. ELA April 19-21 Math April 26-27 Science April 28th 8th grade only Keystones in May. Fundraiser for St Jukes Childrens hospital, did raffle, sold cookies, raised a few hundred dollars. Music guidelines update: Yesterday they were able to sing with the students as long as there are mitigation efforts. Kids have to wear masks when they sing, can sing indoor and outdoor.

Samantha McVicker—will continue to do snack day, not much else they can do. Also trying to plan to do other things, but not sure what will be possible.

McMurray Elementary School Report -Mr. Stoehr, Kids are continuing to strive, trying to maintain normalcy. 100 days of school, academic competitions, maintain virtual opportunities this year. Our students are placing in different competitions, which is great. Students qualifying for state competition for national history day.

Sonia Koupiaris – Not much to report. Valentine's Day activity, had opportunities for remote families, too. 116 members, 5th and 6th graders getting commemorative t shirts.

Pleasant Valley Elementary School Report– Mr. Marquis Students have been very responsible this year. Building character with our students, mask wearing and respecting others. Embedded throughout our hero program. Thank you to all the teachers throughout this year. Thank you for

teachers who are on-line, who just jumped in with creativity and quality instruction. Thank you to PTA, challenge with delivering special events. So many creative ideas. Virtual assemblies, recess bag, etc. Wrapped up the read a thon, raised almost \$18,000, greater than other years. Number of minutes 150,000. Kids were really involved this year. Spring events: JA Day, virtual Reflections assembly, transition meetings. PSSA—encouraging kids to do their best.

Jenn Hanko—working on getting budget and slate of officers, not a lot of interest for officers. Celebrate the 3rd graders, yearbook, etc. Finished up read a thon. Working on environmental fair. May have another virtual assembly.

Bower Hill Elementary School Report— Mrs. Carfano Patience, flexibility – our students are doing well with everything, make the school year as normal as possible. Mitigation is just part of their normal routine. A lot of positive feedback, not a lot of complaints. PTA had to rethink everything. Virtual wacky science assembly today. Read a thon went well. PSSA planning. Getting ready for 3rd grade transition to McMurray.

Missy Harmon – February Valentine's Day party, joined a pre-recorded assembly. Teamed up with PV to do a virtual BMX bike show. Read a thon raised over \$24,000 moved it completely on line. Wacky science is live assembly, will be this afternoon. Working on 3rd grade shirts. Started process for nominating committee.

PT School Board – Minna Allison New school board member, Mr. Joseph Deegan. Seated after an interview process of 16 candidates. Approved a new contract for Dr. French, through July 2026, Finance committee meeting, independent auditor. Governor plans to basically penalize our district with budget disbursement of funds because of our incomes and number of students on free/reduced lunch. It's complex with many tiers, but finance committee is looking into all of this, it's a big concern right now. Appointed Katherine Meucci to school district rep on Parks and Rec. Approved teachers to transfer from McMurray to the MS. 2022-2023 calendar draft was presented, let admin know of any concerns. Approval would be by January, 2022. Purchased 2 new school buses. Renewed food service contract with Aramark. Extracurricular spring sports plan, mask will be mandated for sports; with the exception of Lacrosse (sidelines would need to be masked). If they wear a helmet and a mouth guard then they don't have to wear a mask. Took effect on Monday. Minna says she is a big fan of masks. Wind instruments going to buy special masks with a flap in it, for in- school rehearsals.

Area Council Committee Reports

Reflections-Penelope Butler

33 out of 44 went to regional competition

Highest percentage of winners was at PV.

Should we have a ceremony for Regional awards? Discussion with presidents and decided to do both local and regional awards at the same time, virtually.

State awards don't arrive until the Summer

Thank you gifts to judges, small gift of appreciation. Going to take extra funding to purchase a pencil or something to announce next year's competition theme, do this locally in May National kick off is April 1st.

Directory---Julie Collins

Found out that A to Z was likely purchased by a competitor. New demo is today at 1:00 p.m. Possibly improves on short falls of A to Z, so it might be a nice change. Need a strategy for how to start the beginning of next year, need Plan B.

Scholarship – Lori McRoberts

Up and running and all online 2 \$1000 scholarships, due in May and will be distributed to unit presidents to help judge based on a rubric

Pictures – Pictures went well this year. Their revenues were lower for them so they asked if we wanted to offer a spring picture day. Lori will email more information to each President.

No other Old Business or New Business

Next meeting is April 22, 2021 at 9:15 a.m.

Adjournment: 12:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved -



Kathleen Chaudhari, Area Council Secretary