

PT PTA Area Council

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Virtual Zoom Call due to COVID-19

**Attendees – PTA:** Sue Deegan, Lisa Argent, Lori McRoberts, Melissa Konggaard, Kathleen Chaudhari, Mary Pat DeRienzo, Cathy O Neill, Samantha McVicker, Missy Harmon, Laura Spernak, Julie Serenyi, Angie Glud, Laura Rohrback. Suzy Stauffer, Michelle Adamshick, Amy Pugliano, Penelope Butler, Missy Meyers, Karen Lingis, Tami Coleman, Jen Hanko, Bryan Miller, Sonia Koupiaris

**School Board:** Lisa Anderson **Administration:** Mrs. Shelly Belcher, Dr. Jeannine French, Mrs. Patty Kelly, Dr. Jennifer Murphy, Dr. Mike Fisher

- ❖ **Call to Order-** Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ **President Report-** Sue Deegan, President, Welcome to the Area Council meeting, Thanks to everyone helping us get through and persevering through these tough times.
- ❖ **Reading and Approval of Minutes-** Kathleen Chaudhari, Secretary
  - June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes- minutes were presented and will be recorded
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report-** Lisa Argent, Audit on July 7<sup>th</sup> Motion to approve the budget, Laura Spernak, Jen Hanko second. Motion approved. Nothing happened in July and August. Get information to Mary Hess at PA PTA. Membership dues in by 9/30. Tax exemption, AC expires next June 30. 2021. Just a reminder to units to get them renewed.
- ❖ **Administration Report- Dr. French-**Successfully back to school 5 days a week. Thank you for your kindness and support. Cannot be underestimated. Challenge but amazing. Moving forward with the new high school. Seemed insurmountable but now it's going to happen. Desk in the classrooms and they can fit our kids. Overlaid every class and every child and we can fit and stay safe. Board will be voting soon about High School changed to the Middle School. A lot of positive things going on in the district. Data that we do have in AP was positive, unusual and rough. Results showed our kids came through. Our kids learned quite a bit last year. Questions: Can remote students come back to the new high school, is there room? We account for every last child because we always think that's a possibility. It's going to look different, using spaces that we usually don't use. Hired additional staff. 900 children remote, might need to disrupt schedule to get everybody back, but they can be accommodated. Question? Mask breaks when the weather is colder—can't go outside, Bundle them up as much as we can, looking at bigger spaces Teachers enjoy mask break more than the kids. Wonderful side effect that they can get outside. Mask breaks in larger spaces, not thrilled with breaks in the classroom. Teachers are trying to figure it out. Maybe hallways, single file without masks? After first grading period, will ask if anybody wants to change. Want continuity of schedules. **Dr. Murphy** Really grateful to be back 5 days, our kids have adjusted really well, nervous about how things would go, no issues with masks, staff have picked up learning platforms and everything, taken up the challenge with minimal concern, run

towards a new solution. Planning for SAT at the high school. Mrs. Stefan watches that closely. Wants to be ready, typical schedule in October hopefully. Working through Canvas, learning together. Can see what teachers are doing and remote lessons, can provide feedback. AP Data will be presented at October board meeting, really good news. HS flipped to remote learning on a dime. Questions: Essays for college applications? Any guidance for how to write one, classes got cancelled. She will touch base with Mrs. Groninger. Maybe do a remote workshop. Discussed Canvas and how teachers are organizing it. Trying to stay consistent. Dr. French said to reach out if you are having a problem. Staff will always try to help. Never feel like you are being a pest, reach out. Dr. Murphy talked about blue button to zoom for education, we bought canvas they sold blue button as an embedded program, excited about it, liked the white board feature, very secure. Had issues with kids getting dropped off, muting, kids were playing rap music. It's a third party program, can only run 10 lessons at a time. Piloting new options. Teachers share information at the last minute, all is shifting to zoom. Remote teachers starting with it first. Feedback in the spring that it was difficult for students to do everything, parents wanted the core subjects to be focused on. Rationale for world language decisions, looking for options for students to drop in for live sessions. Powerschool is the final for grades, Canvas was "not playing nice" with PowerSchool at the start of school, but now they are. Not using the attendance system and calling parents this year for absences or tardiness. **Dr. Fisher** - Thank you to parents for their support. Also nurses are working double duty in our schools. Sending Sunday messages to parents, will keep publishing the reminders. Spends a lot of time evaluating spreadsheets. Mask breaks? Don't punish the whole class when 1 or 2 kids don't wear their masks. Dr. Fisher says to let the principal know. The kids should have mask breaks. Fire drills are starting back up. Guidance by DOE, not relaxing requirements. Getting out safely and physically distanced is a challenge. HS yesterday took 5 minutes which wasn't bad. Whole drill less than 15 minutes 3 successful drills so far. Going to begin ALICE drills with reunification. Need to modify ie. Practice gathering in a corner together can't be done this year. Surprise drills way later in the year. Requirements were relaxed for first 2 months of school for up to date immunizations by the DOE. They will start communicating to families in October. Screenings in schools, need to do for everyone including remote students. Mrs. Kelly Thrilled to be back, wearing of masks esp. with disabilities is going well. Doing data collection on kids with IEP's, some skills lost during break in instruction, but not much. They are working to get them caught up. Virtual programs. Looking forward to the new high school, going to have a life skills store. Parents will be contacted within first 2 weeks of October with an update on their child. **Shelly Belcher**—Technology for grades 7 to 12 arrived the other day. Extended the insurance program deadline, looks at forms page on the website. 3 national merit semifinalists, 12 national merit commended students, Reflections is up and

ready to go on the website. First blast went out today. Redford Photography has been going well; great communicators and parents seem to be pleased. Thank you to all the parents for their support. Thank you for being creative in spite of the fact that you can't be in the schools as PTA.

❖ **Report of School Board Representative-Lisa Anderson**-no constitutional order in place to make us comply with the 25 and 250 numbers, but they still want to have low numbers to control the spread. I pads do not work seamlessly so the school board voted to buy Chromebooks. Social media complaints about how classroom is operated, they need to contact the teachers. Building and Grounds meeting coming up. And Policy meeting, Title IX regulations have changed. October 19<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting, there is room for a few spectators at the meetings. Anticipated changes to the calendar? Dr. French is not anticipating any changes.

❖ **Unit Reports by PTA Presidents-**

\*PTHS- Mary Pat DeRienzo - Thanks for tireless efforts for getting kids back to school. AP test registration Sept 28, picture make up day October 6, October 8 next PTSA meeting, location TBA. PSSA exams October 14 during the school day.

\*PTMS-Samantha McVicker - Thank you to everyone for getting the year started out, better than we anticipated. In a holding pattern waiting for A to Z data to get in. Picture day went well. Impressed with students October 14 school picture make up day. Next meeting is October 1

\*McMurray—Sonia Koupiaris- Things are going well, they had first PTA meeting Feedback from remote parent and hoping to get a plan to get remote students feel included. Good picture day. Sept 30 retake day. Reflections chair Lauren Cantwell.

\*Bower Hill—Missy Harmon – Picture day was great and actually finished ahead of schedule. Yearbook is promoting Jostens site to upload pictures, wanting to include remote students. Back to School "Chalk Your Walk" was a success both in school and remote. Read-a-Thon is pushed to Spring. Virtual Book Fair in October with a "Drive Through" on a Saturday with a trailer. Halloween will have a virtual magic show and craft. Goal this year is to support Teachers and Staff.

\*Pleasant Valley- Jen Hanko – created "recess bags" to distribute to kids filled with items like playdough, chalk, ball, etc. and also had a pick up for remote kids. School pictures went well as well as make-up day with only 17 kids still needing to get pictures taken. Fire Safety week will be done socially distanced this year in October.

Virtual Book Fair is in November with Scholastic. Instead of the normal talent show they will have a Virtual Pet Show. Virtual magic show for Halloween b/c no parties.

❖ **Committee Reports**

- 1<sup>st</sup> VP- Melissa Konggaard
  - Reflections- Penelope Butler was introduced as new chair. It will be all electronic this year and submissions will be through email. They will set up emails at each school. Judging will also be at home this year. The theme is "I Matter Because".
  - Directory—Karen Lingis- A to Z, still working on issues with Adam.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- Lori McRoberts
  - School pictures-Going very well. All schools have had their picture days and make up days are scheduled. Good feedback from all. Redford cannot (right now) have multiple kids at multiple schools order on one form, but we can address in future. Overall, good experience from all units reported.
  - By-laws-Cathy O'Neill wants units to know the updates/change and should be printed by units to keep.

❖ **Old Business/New Business**


❖ **Calendar**

- Next Month's Meeting- Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 9:00 via Zoom (Meeting is on Wednesday because there is no school on Thursday, October 22, 2020)

❖ **Adjournment**

Minutes presented for approval October 21, 2020

Minutes Approved -

  
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Kathleen Chaudhari, Area Council Secretary