

Wayne Valley High School PTO
551 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

PTO Meeting Minutes September 25, 2018

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: President - Maria Beilis; Vice President - Vicki Lefelar; Treasurer- Jennie Franklyn; Corresponding Secretary- Deb Califf; Co-Recording Secretaries - Fran Cook & Jill Spodek,
School Administration: Mr. Palezewski, Principal; Mr. Kubiak, Faculty Rep
PTO Members: Mary LaSala, Stephanie Fenske, Loretta Pogorelec, Chrissy Bolson, Laura Flower, Debbie Williams, Julie McGraw, Doreen Velardi, Valerie McGrath, Silia Bailey, Christina Funicello

Meeting was called to order by Maria Beilis at 7:31PM.

Motion to waive the reading of last meeting's minutes was made by Julie McGraw & seconded by Jill Spodek. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Doreen Velardi and seconded by Val McGrath. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Officer's Reports

a) Presidents' Report – Maria Beilis. Maria welcomed all to the first meeting of the PTO for this year and thanked all committee chairs and Board members for their willingness to serve. Maria reported that we are off to a good start this year and we are looking forward to exciting things in the year to come!

b) Vice Presidents' Report – Vicki Lefelar - none.

c) Treasurer's Report - Jennie Franklyn presented the proposed budget for the year (see attached). Jennie noted that several line item amounts were lowered this year (Spirit Wear, Membership Dues, and Planners), while a few other line items were added and/or increased (50/50 Raffle, March Craft Fair, and Restaurant Nights). The 50/50 Raffle

at Back to School Night yielded an \$815 gross profit for the PTO to put towards scholarships. Several National Honor Society students helped out that evening. Two particular students, Izzy Thomas and Matthew Seitz were “awesome” and went above and beyond to help the PTO. A motion to approve the budget was made by Doreen Velardi and seconded by Julie McGraw. The Budget passed unanimously.

d) Corresponding Secretary’s Report – Deb Califf - passed around a few thank you cards from students that received PTO Scholarships

3. Principal’s Report:

Mr. Palezewski welcomed everyone back to school, noting that this was our first full week of school so far, due to numerous holidays. He reported on upcoming events.

Specifically, he stated that today (September 25th was the Club Fair during lunch periods when students can see what clubs/activities the school has to offer. Saturday, September 29th there will be the Marching Band Competition at Wayne Valley at 3PM. October 8th there is no school for students. It is a Teacher In-service Day. October 10th the sophomores and juniors are invited to take the PSAT during school hours. The Board of Education is covering this expense for all sophomores and juniors who will take the test. He encouraged all of them to do so. The Freshmen and the Seniors will come in to school late that day. There will be a modified class schedule that day.

The school has set wellness goals for staff and students. This was covered by CBS News.

The school is instituting several “no homework” weekends during the course of the year, to enable students to spend time with family and friends and get involved in other activities of their choice. The first weekend is scheduled for the weekend of October 5-8th. There will also be no work due on the day back after these weekends. Maria Beilis questioned whether this applied to Honors/AP classes as well. Mr. Palezewski and Mr. Kubiak confirmed that the AP classes will follow this guideline as well, noting however that the coursework will not decrease, but would be completed at different times.

October 11th – mid-term progress reports will be released.

The week of October 15-19th is Spirit Week at Wayne Valley and it will culminate with a Homecoming Dance sponsored by the Student Council in the gymnasium.

The Fall Concert will take place on October 24th.

The 8th grade orientation will take place in November and there will now be a 7th grade orientation planned in the spring.

Mr. Palezewski reported that Superintendent, Dr. Toback will be presenting a plan to implement Block Scheduling in the high schools for the 2019-2020 school year. This will be presented at the next Public Works Session (PWS) He reported that it would be a rotating block schedule with 4 morning session rotating through and 3 afternoon session rotating through. Classes would be blocks of 58 minutes rather than the current 42 minute class time. He reported that this new block scheduling would mean that students would not have every class every day and also that students would no longer have to “lab out” of a class. Lunch period would be a 54 minute block.

4. Teacher’s Report:

Mr. Kubiak felt the students were getting into the rhythm of the year (after numerous days off). He is looking forward to a successful year. He is happy to be working with the PTO again. He thanked the PTO for the staff breakfast, as did Mr. Palezewski.

5. Committee Chair Reports

- a) BOE Liaison – Doreen Velardi reported on the Board meeting from August 23, 2018. Important school related information is available to parents online through On Course. The Board of Ed agenda items will be reported in a new format. The Board discussed district wide goals for this school year. This includes: safety, security, and student data. The Wayne Education Association (WEA) donated \$42,000 which will be earmarked for the Strings Program in the Elementary Schools. The Board reported that the turf fields and bleachers as well as the track, need to be replaced at the two high schools. At Wayne Valley the turf, home and visitors bleachers will be refurbished however the press box will remain. The projected construction will occur from April–August and will cost approximately 1 million dollars. Fairleigh Dickinson, Seton Hall & Passaic County Community College have ongoing secondary articulation agreements in place which allow students at both HS’s, to take certain courses taught at HS, to receive college credit. Both WVHS & WHHS work together to establish the curricula. There is a district wide audit going on.

Food Service for the Wayne Schools is going out to bid for the next school year (2019-2020).

The district has many new initiatives for this year. These include: locker replacements, World Language and String programs in the Elementary schools, STEM projects, 2 Space labs, High School lab renovations, as well as pursuing possible polling location changes (out of the schools).

- b) Jersey Mike's – Our Jersey Mike's fundraiser will be held on November 15th at the Jersey Mike's on Hamburg Turnpike. Cards will be placed in the homeroom teacher's mailboxes for distribution to the students.
- c) Membership – There are currently 303 paid family units and 20 staff. Mr. Kubiak offered to discuss the importance of having staff be a part of the PTO at the next staff meeting. Mr. Palezewski was in agreement with this plan.
- d) Planners – Val McGrath reported that PTO made a \$900 on Planners this year. Several teachers purchased planners for students who needed them but did not/could not purchase one. Overall Planner purchases and use are on the decline as many students opt to use their phones, their computers or other methods to track assignments.
- e) Project Graduation – Val McGrath, the Project Graduation Overall Coordinator reported the Senior Fashion Show will be on March 13, 2019. The Sophomore class will be having a Craft Fair on December 9th. Project Graduation Chairs for the Class of 2022 (Freshmen class) are Gail Rovere and Denise Lynch.
Stephanie Fenske (Chair for Class of 2019 reported that the Fashion Show will be on March 13, 2019 at the Venetian. A Parent meeting is planned for some time on October. More details to follow.
It was clarified that if a parent wishes to volunteer at any Project Graduation event, he/she MUST be a paid PTO member.
- f) Spirit Wear – Vicky Lefelar reported a total of \$4,344 in gross sales, which comes to approximately \$1,000 in profit. Spirit Wear that has been ordered will be distributed during lunch periods when it arrives, likely around October 22nd. There will be an 8th grade Spirit Wear sale in November.
- g) Varsity Jackets – Maria Beilis reported that when a student athlete reaches the Varsity level, he/she will be given a varsity letter and a paper to take to the Accent on Leather Store at 777 Hamburg Turnpike to be fitted for his/her jacket. The PTO receives a percentage of each jacket sold.

6. Old Business - none

7. New Business – none

8. Adjournment

Fran Cook moved to adjourn the meeting and Jill Spodek seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Jill Spodek
Co-Recording Secretary