

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

PTO Meeting Minutes January 29, 2019

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: President - Maria Beilis; Vice President - Vicky Lefelar; Treasurer- Jennie Franklyn; Corresponding Secretary- Deb Califf; Co-Recording Secretaries - Fran Cook & Jill Spodek,
School Administration: Mr. Paleczewski, Principal
PTO Members: Jennifer Schneider, Kimberly Gilchrist, Jennifer Dellerba, Valerie McGrath

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Maria Beilis at 7:30PM.

Motion to waive the reading of last meeting's minutes was made by Kimberly Gilchrist & seconded by Fran Cook. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Jennifer Dellerba and seconded by Jennifer Schneider. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Officer's Reports

a) Presidents' Report – Maria Beilis. Maria reported that things have been quiet, but many things are coming up soon. The PTO run Craft Fair will take place in March as well as the Fashion Show for Project Graduation. The Spring Spirit Wear sale will be getting underway soon. The Marketing and Accounting classes under the direction of Ms. Aimi and Ms. Voskian are busy designing the new spirit wear. The newly designed clothing will be presented at a fashion show and the sale will then follow.

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

c) Treasurer's Report - Jennie Franklyn presented the updated budget. Membership is ahead of the projected budget by \$536. Planners are slightly under budget and we are planning to make up that difference with restaurant nights. Varsity jackets are on target with one check already received and another expected this Spring.

d) Corresponding Secretary's Report – Deb Califf - none

3. Principal's Report:

Mr. Palczewski reported that the school received a report from the State following their visit during a lock down drill. The staff and students were commended for the organized and rapid response to the surprise drill that occurred during lunch.

The second marking period ends tomorrow – January 30th. As a result, On course will be unavailable for a short time to allow teachers to enter their grades. The marking period grades will be posted February 6th.

There is an Electives Fair on January 31st during all lunch periods. Students are encouraged to go and learn more about elective course choices. Several parents stated that there was some confusion about whether students are able to alter their schedules at all after the “lock out” date. Mr. Palczewski stated that modifications to schedule choices can still be made. Students will be meeting with their guidance counselors and even though students may not be able to change their choices themselves on line at this point, changes can be entered by the guidance counselors through the spring and into the summer months leading up to the start of school in the fall.

Val McGrath reported that there was some confusion at the 8th grade level regarding which courses the students should be taking in 9th grade. Mr. Palczewski reported the 8th grade counselor would be meeting with 8th grade students and the information should be coming to parents in the next month or so.

Mr. Palczewski provided dates for several upcoming events:

February 11th – 10th Grade Rings; Caps and Gowns for Seniors; February 21st – Band Concert; February 28th – Chorus Concert; March 13th – Project Graduation Fashion Show; March 15th – Junior Formal

Mr. Palcewski reported that the Junior Formal will be at the Brownstone and the cost will be \$85/\$90. Several parents remarked at the high price for this event. Mr. Palczewski reported that the money covers all costs associated with the event (food, DJ, favors, photography; etc) and that any extra funds will be used to off- set the cost for Senior events such as the Senior trip and Senior Prom. He also reported that he will reach out to Ms. Quintavella, one of the Junior Class Staff Representatives to let her know that several parents were asking about the costs and requesting that information be given to parents about what the funds are to be used for.

4. Teacher's Report:

Mr. Kubiak was unable to attend due to hazardous road conditions along the route from his home.

5. Committee Chair Reports

- a) Athletic Director – David Drozjock sent a report to Maria Beilis who reported for him. Congratulations to our Competitive Cheerleading Team who just returned from Dallas and placed 4th in the prestigious NCA High School Cheerleading Championship with over 242 high schools represented at this event. Congratulations to our Girls Fencing Team with a great showing at District 4! 3rd Place overall, 3rd Place Saber, 3rd Place Foil, and a strong showing from our Epee Squad! Wrestling placed 2nd at the Passaic County Championship this past weekend. Individual Champions; Elijah Lugo, Reid Colella & Nicola Trani won it for the 3rd year in a row. Congratulations to our Girls Indoor Track 4X400 Team of Milica Rodic, Lauren Pasaglia, Tammy McNutt and Julia Philip who took home the Passaic County Championship with a time of 4:14!

- b) BOE Liaison – Doreen Velardi was unable to attend the PTO meeting but she sent information to Maria Beilis, who reported for her. New Board of Education Member Matthew Giordano, and returning Board members, Ellen Albanese and Stacy Sher were sworn in at the BOE meeting. Michael Bubba is the new President of the Board and Stacy Scher is the Vice President.

The BOE had asked school administrators to look into the cost/plausibility of establishing an Early Childhood Center to accommodate the young children of staff members who might need to be at school earlier if the start times of the schools were to change. The Center would include an infant room (6-12 months old), a toddler room, and a 3 year old room. Teachers, clerical staff, outdoor playground equipment as well as cribs, strollers and wagons would need to be obtained. The Center would conceivably be open for 12 months. It was also mentioned as a possibility that the Giggle-N-Grow program might be able to work with the school district on a reduced rate for WEA members children. Nothing was voted on or decided on this issue at this point in time. The 2019-2020 School calendar has not yet been finalized. There have been several proposed calendars. There will be 4 emergency days built into the calendar as well as Professional Development Days and Staff Inservice Days. The students will be off on Election Day. The proposed calendars gave many different scenarios. It is the hope that the school year will end earlier, possibly as early as June 18-19th.

Recognition was given to the GW Artists Program, the Eagle Scouts Program and the AP Honor Roll program. Mr. Palczewski explained that the district was recognized for having an increased number of minority and under-served students participating in AP classes and maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA. He further reported that more than 600 students were participating in dual enrollment courses through local colleges (Seton Hall, Fairleigh Dickinson, etc.) which gives students college credits for taking these courses while still in high school. There is a small stipend to take the courses, but he felt it is well worth the investment as students receive college credits. He specifically mentioned one course, Anatomy and Physiology, offered through Seton Hall, that can give students 8 college credits.

The Wayne Valley Marketing class gave a presentation on E-cigarettes. The goal of the presentation is to educate students and in doing so, to decrease the purchase and use of E-cigarettes. The presentation was given to the high school students and the plan is to also give the presentation at the Middle Schools.

The BOE also reported that they have approved several career and technical programs in the high schools. They specifically mentioned a marketing program that has been approved and federally funded that includes both paid and unpaid internships. Through this program, students can have paid experiences in local businesses

c) Craft Fair – Jennie Franklyn

The PTO-run craft fair will take place on Sunday, March 24th. Jennie has run numerous craft fairs for the band. The PTO is responsible for the food, baked goods, set-up, clean-up and admission sales. Jennie plans to set up a sign-up genius as the sophomore class had done in December to get volunteers to sign up to help. Jill Spodek will reach out to Cathy Sigona to see if she can share the sign-up Genius spreadsheet she used for the December craft fair. Tables will need to be set-up on Saturday, March 23rd.

d) Membership – There are currently 560 paid member units, including 80 staff members! This is the most staff members we have had in several years! The PTO Board asked Mr. Paleczewski to thank Mr. Kubiak for encouraging the staff to join and thank the staff for joining. The staff contributions alone can pay for 1 scholarship at the end of the year!

e) Project Graduation – Val McGrath, the Project Graduation Overall Coordinator reported that the class of 2019 is hard at work planning the Fashion Show/Tricky Tray which will take place on March 13, 2019 at the Venetian. The cost for the event is \$70/ticket. Jennifer Dellerba, the Project Grad 2020 Corresponding Secretary reported that they recently held a parent meeting and about 50 people attended! She further reported that she has volunteers from the class of 2020 to assist at this year's Tricky Tray. The class of 2020 is anxiously awaiting the release of the 2019-2020 school calendar so they can start planning their event. The class of 2021 did very well at their Craft Fair in December raising over \$7,000. The class of 2022 has a planning meeting scheduled for February 2019.

f) Restaurant Nights- Maria Beilis reported that we need to raise more money to make up for the lower than expected amount raised at Jersey Mike's due to the inclement weather that day. We are planning a restaurant night at Taste of Tuscany, a local Italian restaurant at the end of February. Additional details to follow. Next school year's Jersey Mike's fundraiser has been scheduled for November 14, 2019. The fundraiser

- will be run slightly differently than in the past. Specifically, the contribution required will be \$3 instead of \$2, the school will be given 1000 cards to distribute rather than 1500, and we will be required to have a PTO representative present at Jersey Mike's throughout the fundraiser.
- g) Scholarships – Maria Beilis explained that the way we award scholarships this year will be different than in previous years. This year we will award scholarships in different categories based on the student's GPA. Rather than all of the scholarships only going to those with higher GPA's, we will award scholarships to students with a GPA between 2.5-2.99; 2.99-3.49; 3.5-3.99, and 4.0+. It is the feeling of the Board that hard working students should be recognized, not only those at the top of the class. Val McGrath questioned whether additional monies collected above the planned 16 scholarships, could possibly be used to purchase something for the school for the benefit of the entire student body population. This suggestion will be considered and depending on the amount of money collected, a vote would take place for how to spend excess funds.
 - h) Spirit Wear – Vicky Lefelar reported that the Fall Spirit Wear was a big success. We raised more than \$4,200 – more than \$1,000 over budget! She credited Maria Beilis for her excellent selling skills and the success of the 8th grade Orientation sale! We are looking forward to the Spring Sale that is being coordinated and run by Ms. Aimi's Marketing class.
 - i) Varsity Jackets – Maria Beilis reported that we received our first check from Accent on Leather – which was more than half of our budget. We are expecting another check in the Spring. The relationship with Accent on Leather is working out well for the school.
 - j) WSPA – Teresa Kelly was not present at the meeting, but she sent a report to Deb Califf, Corresponding Secretary, who reported there was a sensory friendly movie event held this past weekend that was very successful. Others will be held throughout the year. The next parent workshop is February 7th from 7-9 at AWMS on the topic of ***The Importance of Wills and Trusts***, presented by Attorneys at Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, who have over 70 years of combined experience providing specialized legal services to families of children and adults with a wide range of disabilities. For all the latest information check out "Wayne Special Parents Association" on Facebook.

6. Old Business – Vicky Lefelar reported on behalf of the Food Advisory Committee that there will be a Wayne Valley Student Culinary Competition on March 20th. The winners will receive a \$2500 Consumer Services Scholarship sponsored by Sodexo. Vicky also reported that Sodexo plans to increase the quantity and variety of food selections at the high school next year to encourage more students to stay in for lunch.

7. New Business – Maria Beilis reported that an email will be going out with information about the Nominating Committee and positions for next years PTO Board. Jill Spodek mentioned the upcoming free college planning seminar offered by College Benefits Research Group (CBRG) on Thursday, January 31st at the Elks Lodge.

8. Adjournment

Fran Cook moved to adjourn the meeting and Jill Spodek seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Jill Spodek
Co-Recording Secretary