

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

PTO Meeting Minutes May 21, 2019

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: President - Maria Beilis; Treasurer- Jennie Franklyn; Corresponding Secretary- Deb Califf; Co-Recording Secretaries - Fran Cook & Jill Spodek,
School Administration: Mr. Palczewski, Principal, Kyle Kubiak, Teacher Rep, Ray Caronia, School Resource Officer
PTO Members: Lisa Lefler, Jennifer Dellerba, Valerie McGrath, Maria Herschbein, Julie McGraw, Dureen Cappadona, Mary LaSala

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Maria Beilis at 7:36PM.

Motion to waive the reading of last meeting's minutes was made by Julie McGraw & seconded by Dureen Cappadona. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mary LaSala and seconded by Jennifer Dellerba. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Officer's Reports

- a) Presidents' Report – Maria Beilis – no report.
- b) Vice Presidents' Report – Vicky Lefelar – not present – no report.
- c) Treasurer's Report - Jennie Franklyn presented the updated budget. She reported that all is going well. Spring Spirit Wear was very successful. Expense of \$926.50 was for purchase of samples. The students modelled the clothing. We have received a check for \$2925, for a net total of \$1999. We are still working to sell the few remaining items. Additional discussion about Spirit Wear will be held later in the meeting.

Planners: We still have 84 planners left. For next year, Maria has reached out to the vendor to see if we can order less planners. However, the cost per planner would therefore be higher. The budget next year would need to be adjusted to reflect this change. It will be discussed again at the June meeting. Varsity jackets are on target with one check already received and another expected later this Spring. We have paid all necessary fees to Council. Staff Appreciation Lunch – we are still waiting on the invoice. We went a bit over budget this year as Sodexo increased their prices, but they did split the difference with us. We will have to absorb the increase next year and adjust the budget accordingly.

d) Corresponding Secretary's Report – Deb Califf – Deb passed around “thank you” notes we received from some of the teachers in the school for the Staff Appreciation Lunch.

3. Principal's Report: (Mr. Palczewski arrived late to the meeting as he was at GWMS for another meeting- notes here from his report occurred later in the meeting: 8:07PM)

Mr. Palczewski reported the school recently completed AP testing. There were 692 AP tests given, taken by 329 students. There are 402 students enrolled in dual enrollment courses through some of the local NJ schools including William Paterson, Fairleigh Dickinson, Seton Hall and Passaic Community College). The school plans to continue to grow this program in the coming year. He feels it is well worth the investment as students are receiving college credit, and in some cases, they can graduate in 3 years as they enter with several credits.

The school is getting ready for block scheduling! He feels the class sizes are well balanced (mid-high teens across the board). He feels the fact that the kids no longer must “lab out” of classes, has helped to balance out the schedule. He did mention that some History classes (which normally are quite large) are at about 24-25 (with a max of 27). There will be a presentation to the kids the last week of school, during Physical Education to prepare them for block scheduling. They will be identifying the days by numbers so Day 3 will start with Period 3, Day 4 will start with Period 4, etc. They also plan to have an “open forum” and/or power point presentation for parents in order to explain block scheduling and answer any questions parents may have. He expects there will be a learning curve and it will take the students, teachers and parents a little time to adjust, but he is confident

that it will be a success at Wayne Valley. He expects lunch will be “organized chaos” at first. Some parents have expressed concern about where the students will eat. He reported that many students now choose to eat in the hallways and sit on the floor even though there is ample seating in the cafeteria. There will be adequate seating to accommodate all. They plan to monitor who is coming and going out of the school. They plan to require seniors to go in and out of one door and scan their ID’s when they exit and enter the school so they can account for who is present and absent from the building at any point in time. They expect some resistance from the students for this, but it is the plan. They will do their best to catch those students who attempt to work around the system.

National Honor Society just returned from Pittsburgh. The Band is going on a trip to Washington and Baltimore. Student Dance Association (SDA) was awesome. We have many positive things going on at Wayne Valley!

He noted the many seniors who have been accepted to their choice colleges. He encouraged everyone to check out the “Acceptance Board” in the hallway. Some of the schools he mentioned were Vassar, Carnegie Mellon, University of Michigan, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Rowan, West Virginia, Montclair State University. It is indeed a very rewarding time of year!

The school day will end at 2:19PM next year – which is 3 minutes later than the school day currently ends. The start time will not change. For a minimal day schedule, there will be 2 different types. The first, which is an unplanned minimal day (due to inclement weather), the students will go to all their planned classes for that day, but in an abbreviated format and with an abbreviated lunch period. The second, which is a planned minimal day (such as the day before Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks), the students will attend ALL their classes (shortened) and there will be no lunch period. The biggest challenge he sees to the block scheduling is just for everyone to get adjusted – students, teachers and parents.

Several parents questioned Mr. Palczewski about the bathroom availability in the school as many of the bathrooms in the school are locked. There is always one bathroom in each wing of the building open, as well as a bathroom in the Nurses office, gym and front hallway. The issue is staffing as the bathrooms need to be monitored and there is only a certain number of staff available during any given period to monitor the bathrooms. The small number of stalls in the bathrooms is also a concern (some bathrooms only have one stall) – especially during large, well-attended events like SDA

and concerts. Mr. Palczewski is hoping that they may be able to open more bathrooms next year if staffing allows with the new block scheduling. They do try to limit the number of kids in the bathrooms at one time.

4. Teacher's Report:

Mr. Kubiak reported the teachers are very happy to be done with standardized testing. He thanked the PTO for the Lunch on behalf of all the staff. They enjoyed getting to spend some social time together as they do not often have the opportunity to do so. The seniors are getting very excited for the end of the year and looking forward to end of year activities and especially for graduation. He said he thought it was a very good year.

5. Committee Chair Reports

- a) BOE Liaison – No report
- b) Project Graduation – Val McGrath, the Project Graduation Overall Coordinator reported that the class of 2019 is anxiously awaiting their Project Graduation festivities. The 2019 Board is in the final planning stages! Jennifer Dellerba, the Project Grad 2020 Corresponding Secretary reported the Tricky Tray/Fashion Show for the Class of 2020 will be held at the Venetian on March 18, 2020. Project Graduation festivities will be held on June 18, 2020 after graduation. Lisa Lefler, Project Grad Chair for the Class of 2021 reported that the December Craft Fair did very well, raising half of the total allowable fund-raising amount. The Class of 2021 will also run next year's holiday craft fair. It is tentatively scheduled for December 15, 2019. The Board is starting to plan the Fair and Project Grad events. Project Graduation 2022 will be having their first planning meeting in October 2019. Denise Lynch and Gail Rovere will be chairing the event for the Class of 2022. Jennifer Grimbilas is the Vice Principal for that grade. Several parents of students in the Class of 2022 asked how they get involved with helping with Project Graduation. It was announced that they should sign up if they are interested at Back to School Night and then there will be a planning meeting in October.
- c) Scholarships – Mary LaSala reported that the scholarship distribution process went very well this year. Each award category was filled. This year we awarded PTO scholarships not just to those with a 2.5 GPA or higher, but rather we gave several scholarships in various GPA categories (2.5-2.99; 2.99-3.49;

3.5-3.99, and 4.0+). She felt the committee did an excellent job. They really identified those who could really benefit from the assistance and they had many qualified candidates. Mary noted that some students were unable to receive scholarships as their PTO dues were not paid each year. Mary also recommended that parents review their children's applications to make sure they thoroughly respond to each question (job descriptions, volunteer work descriptions, etc.)

- d) Spirit Wear – The Fall Spirit Wear sale was run by the PTO. The Spring Sale was a collaboration with Ms. Aimi's Marketing class. The sale was incorporated into the lesson plans of the Marketing class starting in January. They worked with Jamie at Game Day Sports to make the designs come to life. They designed a survey to pick the best designs (15) and they then narrowed it down. They put on a great Fashion Show for about 45 minutes. It was like a pep rally, and all the students seemed to have a great time. The sale did very well. There will be some changes made for next year – specifically that we should not have to absorb the costs of all the samples. All in all, it was a great success!
- e) 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 late Spring. The relationship with Accent on Leather is working out well for the school.
- f) Staff Appreciation Lunch – Maria Beilis reported it was a great Day! We are so thankful for the staff and all that they do for our kids each day. The PTO Board baked extra desserts for the staff, which was very well received!
- g) WSPA – There is not a lot going on right now but for all the latest information check out "Wayne Special Parents Association" on the Wayne-schools.com website and on Facebook.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business –

Maria Beilis introduced our new School Resource Officer (SRO), Detective Ray Caronia, a detective with the Wayne Police Department (WPD). He has been with the WPD for 10 years – 9 years on patrol, traffic, radar, streets and roadways. Our previous SRO Officer Detective Zaccone retired. Detective Caronia provided the group with his personal and professional background. He graduated Paramus High School in 2003. He feels that Wayne is very similar to Paramus in size, population and shopping areas, calling Wayne "the Paramus of Passaic County". He received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from PACE Uni-

versity and he paid his way through the Police Academy. He first worked in Westwood, NJ and then came to Wayne. He also is very involved in volunteer work in Wayne, coaching baseball at the Police Athletic League (PAL), and at Wayne Valley High School. He has also been involved with the Junior Police Academy. Once he started a family of his own, he had less time to volunteer. The Police Department was aware of his volunteerism though and his love of working with kids, so when the position as SRO at Wayne Valley High School was offered to him, he thought it was a great fit! He is very grateful for the opportunity and the position. Detective Caronia lives in Wayne and his kids attend Fallon Elementary School. They will attend Anthony Wayne Middle School and Wayne Valley High School. Another Detective with the WPD, Ann Shivas will be the SRO at Wayne Hills after she returns from her maternity leave.

Detective Caronia has significant traffic experience which he plans to put to good use rectifying some of traffic flow issues we have at Wayne Valley. He mentioned adding crosswalks, stop signs and fences to increase the safety of pedestrians as well as drivers. Jennie Franklyn mentioned that many visitors to the school do not know the traffic flow patterns and there are many people travelling the wrong way, especially behind the school, which is very unsafe. Detective Caronia said he will add signs and funnel pedestrians so that they cross in one place, at the crosswalks.

We are very excited to welcome Detective Caronia to the Wayne Valley High School family!

Nominating Committee- Julie McGraw, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers recommended for the 2019-2020 school year. President – Maria Beilis, Vice President – Vicki Lefelar, Treasurer – Jennie Franklyn, Assistant Treasurer – Maureen Machado, Corresponding Secretary – Deb Califf, Co-Recording Secretaries – Fran Cook and Jill Spodek. There were no nominations from the floor, so the recommended slate of officers was accepted. The Board will be sworn in at the next meeting in June.

8. Adjournment

Fran Cook moved to adjourn the meeting and Maria Herschbein seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.

Jill Spodek
Co-Recording Secretary