

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

PTO Meeting Minutes November 19, 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. Palezewski, Principal; Mr. Kubiak, Faculty Rep

PTO Members: Mary LaSala, Valerie McGrath, Kim DeMarco

Meeting was called to order by Maria Beilis at 7:35PM.

Motion to waive the reading of last meeting's minutes was made by Fran Cook & seconded by Mary LaSala. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Mary LaSala and seconded by Maria Beilis. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Officer's Reports

a) Presidents' Report – Maria Beilis. Maria reported that all is going well and she will report on individual events as they come up on the Agenda.

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

c) Treasurer's Report - Jennie Franklyn presented the budget. (See attached). Jennie noted that several line items have not been updated yet. We are still waiting for the 50/50 check from Back to School night (\$831). We also just had our Jersey Mike's restaurant night and that amount has not been added into the budget yet (\$931). We also have a few hundred additional dollars expected coming into membership, which is due by November 30th. The Behrens family has also graciously donated \$200 to PTO (\$193 plus \$7 for dues). The Spirit wear numbers are a little low right now, but we opened the on-line store for 8th grade orientation and anti-

pate additional orders coming in at that time. The on-line store will remain open until December 2nd and orders will be in before the holidays. Maria will also send the link for the on-line store to Mr. Kubiak to send out to the staff.

- d) Corresponding Secretary's Report – Deb Califf – no report
- e) Recording Secretary – Jill Spodek and Fan Cook – no report

3. Principal's Report:

Mr. Paleczewski reported on school events. This week is Spirit Week. Monday was Americana Day. Tuesday was "Camo" Day. Wednesday is Pajama Day. Thursday is "Workout Wear" Day. Friday is "Class Spirit" Day and each class wears their class shirts.

The Homecoming Dance was moved from Friday to Saturday due to the football team making the finals and playing against Old Tappan on Friday night. If we win on Friday, we will play either Woodbridge or Northern Highlands at Met Life Stadium.

Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving will be a minimal day. The students will have all of their classes but meet for a shorter time period.

The Winter Concert is on December 12th.

Today, November 19th was the last day of the first marking period. Grades will be posted Friday or Monday.

The Play, Almost Maine was great.

Our sports teams had a great season this fall, especially our Girls Varsity Volleyball team and Girls Varsity Soccer team. Our winter sports are starting up – Basketball, Ice Hockey, Skiing and Fencing.

Parents are not remembering that they must pay their PTO dues yearly – not all at once and they cannot back-pay for missed years.

The convertible benches/tables the PTO donated to the school are getting a lot of use.

The block scheduling is working out well. The kids have gotten adjusted to it as have the teachers. The students are appreciating the hour long lunch to get extra help from their teachers. Anecdotally, he reported that he has spoken to numerous students who appreciate not having to miss sports to go to extra help or having to choose between sports or extra help. They also like not having every class every day. While the teachers are not required to have extra help, many teachers have offered it and it has worked well for the students and the staff. The teachers have been able to have meetings at that time which has worked well and Mr. Kubiak said he appreciated the time to give make-up tests as well. Some parents reported their children reported that when they had lab the first part of lunch, the kiosks were closed by the time they were ready to buy lunch. Mr. Paleczewski reported that the Cafeterias are always open, even if several kiosks are closed. He recommended the students go there to eat on lab days. Also, the coffee shop near the big gym is always open as well. Newsweek magazine released the top 5,000 high school programs in the country. Both Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley were in the top 7%!

4. Teacher's Report:

Mr. Kubiak said all is going well. He said he will reach out to the teachers again about membership as well as the spirit wear.

5. Committee Chair Reports

a) BOE Liaison – Doreen Velardi reported on the Board of Education meeting.

They are starting a program for social media information for parents. The middle schools and the elementary schools held Veterans' Day programs on Veteran's Day.

Wayne Valley now has a College Automotive Program whereby enrolled students can receive 30 college credits from Passaic County Community College. It is a dual enrollment program so that when these students graduate from Wayne Valley they will also have earned an Associate's degree from PCCC.

There were 16 reported incidents of bullying/harassment. 5 were confirmed to be HIB incidents.

There is a new Play Unified School Partnership Grant – it is a Special Olympics NJ expansion of extra-curricular options for students with disabilities. The grant enabled Wayne Valley and Wayne Hills to each have a coach. This Unified Sports program combines students

with/without disabilities and forms a team (social inclusion); the students will practice and compete together in events. Varsity players are not permitted to be on the team. All others are eligible. It will be started at the high school level. It is foreseen to have 30-40 participants – basketball, track and field.

Dr. Toback's contract is up for renewal. The public was allowed to comment. But no one did.

NJSLA/PARCC results were presented in a power point that can be accessed on the district's website. Reporting annual assessments is required to not only be given to the Board but to the public as well. Access ESL Testing was also reported and it is contained in the same power point as the NJSLA test results.

- b) Jersey Mike's – Our Jersey Mike's fundraiser was held on November 14th at the Jersey Mike's on Hamburg Turnpike. We took in \$931. It was very successful fundraiser. They gave us 1000 cards this year instead of 1500, but we still did very well.
- c) Membership – There are currently approximately 561 paid family units and 50 staff. Mr. Kubiak will reach out to the staff again to increase membership among the staff. The last day to pay dues this year is November 30th.
- d) Project Graduation – Staci Lupo submitted an update for the Class of 2020 Project Graduation. Commitment fees are still being collected. Wayne Valley Nurses have advised they won't have a full list of eligible waivers until Thanksgiving. Tricky Tray/Fashion Show update: Solicitation is in progress. Community Service Project for Disney tickets kicked off. They are doing a toy drive in partnership with WV Athletes in Action to benefit CASA. Volunteers are still being sought for some committees. They have a list of volunteer opportunities for other Project Grad committees. They will be sending a note to the other committees. Next steps: Tickets – they are preparing for the pre-sale. Their senior meetings will be December 18th and January 29th | the media center – they will send out a correspondence about this. They applied for a raffle license on 11/19/18. They finalized the date for fashion show ticket sales – January 14-16th and January 21st-23rd (snow date). The sale will take place in the breezeway at Wayne Valley. They booked the DJ for the event.

2021 Project Graduation update – Kathy Sigona was at the meeting to provide the report. We had fair parent attendance at the meeting last week. The Craft Fair will be on December 15th. They are looking into Fashion Show venues. It is a large class of about 367 students so the venue must be large. The Venetian is likely due to the large space. The

Board will be speaking to the 2020 Board about pricing. They are planning on the 3rd week of March 2021 for the event. Kathy was asked to please check with Dave Drozjock before booking the event date.

2022 – Project Grad will be having the March craft fair. They had nothing else to report.

2023- Project Grad now has a committee in place. They had nothing else to report.

- e) Spirit Wear –Spirit Wear reported earlier. The on-line store is open from now until December 2nd. We expect a fair number of orders to come in from the 8th graders. We will report new totals at next meeting when the store has closed.
- f) Varsity Jackets – Maria Beilis reported we are continuing to work with Accent on Leather to provide our varsity jackets. The PTO receives a percentage of each jacket sold. Mr. Palczweski discussed the policy regarding getting a Varsity letter. It is based on time played with the team. He encouraged anyone who wanted more information to talk to Dave Drozjock.

6. Old Business - none

7. New Business – Maria reported that she received several emails from parents regarding the very high cost of the yearbook and school photos. The yearbook costs \$100 and a yearbook ad was \$400. The photo packages were also excessively expensive. Mr. Palczewski said he will mention to Schoolcraft Studios that he is getting this feedback from parents.

8. Adjournment

Fran Cook moved to adjourn the meeting and Mary LaSala seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

Jill Spodek
Co-Recording Secretary