

PTO Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM!

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: 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

School Administration: Mr. Palczewski, Principal; Mr. Kubiak- Staff Representative

PTO Members: Julie McGraw, Val McGrath, Ninfa Sykes, Michele Duffy, Kelli Matthews, Jessica Kroncke, Doreen Velardi, Dureen Cappadona, Josenia Lopez, Delilah Morelli, Mary LaSala, Teresa Kelly, Veronica Alva, Jennifer Graf, Kathy Sigona

Meeting was called to order by Maria Beilis at 7:06PM

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

2. Officer's Reports

a) Presidents' Report – Maria Beilis. Maria thanked everyone for “coming” to our final meeting of the year – and her final meeting as PTO President! Nothing official to report.

b) Vice Presidents' Report – Vicki Lefelar had nothing to report.

c) Treasurer's Report - Jennie Franklyn presented the current budget. All incoming/outgoing funds have been recorded. We recently received a Spirit Wear check. These funds will be divided between our Scholarship Fund and our

donation to the WIN Food Pantry to support those most impacted by COVID -19. There was a \$1,000 donation from PTO Council. This was given to us as one of the Council Scholarships that they usually give to both Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley, was only applied for at Wayne Hills (a technology one). It will be carried over to next year for scholarships. Excess funds will be discussed later in the meeting with New Business.

d) Recording Secretary's Report – Fran Cook and Jill Spodek – nothing to report.

e) Corresponding Secretary's Report – Deb Califf – nothing to report

3. Principal's Report: Mr. Palczewski expressed that this has been a challenging 3 months for all – the administration, the staff, the students and the whole community. He thanked the PTO for working very well with the administration and the staff. He reported that his staff has been very busy closing out the school year. The seniors have been given their caps/gowns and they have returned their Chromebooks to the school. Underclassmen are to keep their Chromebooks and they will be notified in the coming week about returning their textbooks to school. There have been several Senior Recognition Ceremonies so far (National Honor Society) and there are more this week (Awards Ceremony, 4.0 Breakfast). All ceremonies are being conducted virtually at this time. Virtual Graduation is scheduled for June 18th and In-Person Celebration is currently scheduled for July 30th.

There is a Committee that is working very hard planning for different contingency plans for September. The Committee has been meeting 2x/ week for weeks and includes representatives from the Office of Emergency Management, Health Officials, etc. We are only 10 weeks out from the start of the next school year. There is a lot going on. He thanked everyone for trying to make the best of this difficult situation.

4. Teacher's Report: Mr. Kubiak thanked all of the parents for their support. He said the quarantine period was rocky for staff as well. They have tried to get the kids what they needed. He said it has been tough not seeing the students each day. They have been checking in with the students as much as possible. He wished

his congratulations to all of the graduating seniors and he and all of the teachers are looking forward to getting back to some type of normalcy. We are all in this together. He also reported that he really enjoyed being a part of the Scholarship Committee this year. It was a very gratifying experience. He has enjoyed getting to spend more time at home with his new baby daughter!

5. Committee Chair Reports:

a) Board of Ed Liaison – Doreen Velardi reported that the last several BOE meetings have been conducted over ZOOM. Dr. Toback commented on these unprecedented times – remote learning, adapting to constantly changing rules/regulations and needs. It has been an evolutionary process. The Budget has passed and has been approved. There is still uncertainty surrounding graduation. It will depend upon the Governor. The Valedictorians and Salutatorians were recognized by the BOE for both Wayne Valley and Wayne Hills. At Wayne Valley – the Valedictorian is Tasneem Pathan and the Salutatorian is Andrew Paul. Also, Mrs. Adamo from AP Terhune was recognized as she is retiring.

b) Project Graduation Overall – Val McGrath reported that is not clear what is going with Project Grad 2020 given the pandemic. Maria Beilis reported that she received an e-mail today that people who purchased tables for the Fashion Show/Tricky Tray will be getting refund checks. There will also be a virtual raffle that anyone who pre-paid for raffle tickets will be entered into. More details to follow.

Project Graduation 2021, 2022 and 2023 are currently waiting to hear when they can start planning again. More will be known after the PTO Council meeting scheduled for tomorrow night (June 10).

Project Graduation 2021 – Kathy Sigona did not have anything new to report. The Class of 2021 had done the Craft Fair in the winter and it was successful. They have put a deposit down at the Venetian for next year's Tricky Tray.

Project Graduation 2022 – Denis Lynch was not present and did not send a report.

Project Graduation 2023 – Jennifer Graf and Michele Duffy reported that they are planning for a raffle in the fall but it is currently on hold due to the pandemic.

c) Planners – Maria Beilis reported that after discussion amongst the Board Members, we have decided not to order planners for next year. Given we do not know what the school year will look like for next year, (at home vs. virtual distance learning), we did not think it was worth risking losing money by purchasing planners that few would buy. Mr. Palczewski agreed.

d) Scholarships – Mary La Sala reported that we gave out 16 PTO Scholarships divided in the following way: 6 scholarships for students with a GPA between 3.0-3.4; 6 scholarships for students a 3.5-3.9 GPA and 4 scholarships for students with 4.0 GPA or higher. We had planned to give 6 scholarships in the 4.0 and higher GPA range but only had 4 applicants left after Community and Council Scholarships were given out. The 2 scholarships were moved to the 3.5-3.9 GPA range. We had also planned to give 2 scholarships in the 2.5-2.9 GPA range but no students in that range had applied, so those 2 scholarships were moved to the 3.0-3.4 range.

e) WSPA – Teresa Kelly reported that the transition to virtual distance learning has been difficult for the special needs students. It has been improving and tele-therapy has been implemented. The Schools surveyed the parents for feedback and they have implemented some of the suggestions. She also reported that SEPAG – the Special Education Parent Advisory Group is working to further improve the services for this population. Several attendees asked about SEPAG. It is an advisory group that is a state-mandated, district level parent driven group charged with providing input to the local school district on system-level challenges in special education and partnership with the district to better improve services in special education. We do not have a Wayne Valley SEPAG rep, but Jennifer Graf reported she is the rep for George Washington Middle School. More info can be found on the Wayne Schools main webpage. Click on Family Links, then SEPAG or WSPA. You can also email SEPAG at waynesepag2@gmail.com

6. Old Business

Spirit Wear – Vicki Lefelar reported that we had an incredible spring sale. The sale was on-line and arranged through Game Day Sports. They donated \$1600 to the WIN Food Pantry. Maria said when she spoke to Barbara at the WIN Pantry and told her how much we were donating, she started to cry. She was so touched

by what Game Day Sports gave them. Thank you to the Board for delivering all of the Spirit Wear. Vicki reported that she will continue to help with the Spirit Wear sale next year, but that she would like someone to shadow her/work with her as she will not be doing it the following year and she would like someone to learn what they have to do.

7. New Business

a) Nominating Committee/New Slate of Officers- Julie McGraw, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of Officers for the 2020-2021 School Year. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. She asked for a waiver for Vicki Lefelar and Debbie Califf to serve a 3rd year on the board. There were no objections to this waiver request. The proposed slate of officers was sworn in. The PTO Board for the 2020-2021 school year is as follows:

Co-Presidents: Jennie Franklyn and Jill Spodek

Vice President – Vicki Lefelar

Treasurer: Maureen Machado

Asst. Treasurer: Ninfa Sykes

Corresponding Secretary: Deb Califf

Recording Secretary: Jessica Kroncke

No discussion was needed. Board was unanimously supported and approved. Maria Beilis swore in the new Board. Maria welcomed the 2 new members to the Board – Ninfa and Jessica.

b) Excess Funds- Jennie Franklyn reported \$7,000 in excess funds. The excess funds we raised from the Craft Fair last year was split amongst the classes that earned it (\$4,000 for the future classes); \$1,000 was given to the school to purchase something to honor the 2020 graduating class; \$2,000 will be carried over to next year in reserve for scholarships for the class of 2021, just in case there is a limited ability to fundraise next year. Motion was made by Julie McGraw

to accept the excess funds distribution and seconded by Dureen Cappadona. Vote passed unanimously.

c) Questions about Graduation- Kelli Matthews, a Senior Parent asked Mr. Palczewski to clarify what the plans are for graduation, as there seems to be some confusion amongst the parents. They are getting mixed messages. Mr. Palczewski explained that there is currently an Executive order from the Governor that no in-person graduations/celebrations can take place until at least July 7th. There is a virtual graduation ceremony planned for June 18th. He clarified that no one from the administration or staff from the school can legally participate in an “in-person” graduation prior to that time. Any celebration planned by the Mayor/Township is not part of the school celebration. The Mayor is planning his own thing on June 18th that is separate and distinct from the school planned celebrations.

As this was Maria’s last meeting as PTO President, she thanked the administration, the teachers, the Board, and all of the parents for their help and support. Maria told Mr. Palczweski how much she appreciates how the administration and the PTO have been working well as a team to best support our students. She told Mr. Kubiak he is a Membership Rock Star as staff membership has increased during his tenure as the Staff Representative on the PTO.

Motion was made by Julie McGraw and Dureen Cappadona to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.