



Wayne Valley PTO Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

7:30 PM

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

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: Co-Presidents – Jennie Franklyn and Jill Spodek; Vice President – Vicki Lefelar; Treasurer – Maureen Machado; Corresponding Secretary – Deb Califf; Recording Secretary – Jessica Kroncke

School Administration: Mr. Palczewski, Principal

PTO Members: Jasmine Aviles, Jari D'Alessandro, Jen Graf, Melony Heh, Teresa Kelly, Annie McKay, Alexis McNamara, Filomena Pelish, Francine Troisi, Debbie Williams, Valerie McGrath, Lonni Ryan Fran Cook, Michelle Duffy.

Meeting was called to order by Jennie Franklyn with a motion from Ann McKay and Francine Troisi.

Motion to waive the reading of the last meeting minutes was made by Teresa Kelly and seconded by Valerie McGrath. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Teresa Kelly and seconded by Ann McKay. Motion passed unanimously.

Call to Order

Jennie opened the meeting. Jennie and Jill are both senior parents serving as Co-Presidents for one term.

Jennie introduced the Board, and also thanked Fran Cook for the technical support in setting up the Zoom meeting.

Officer Reports

President's Report

Jennie - Welcome and this will be a very interesting year. How will the PTO's run, what we can do, what we cannot do, getting authorizations. There are a lot of rules around permits and fundraising rules. A budget has been crafted that is honest and workable. We are not over extending our budget.

Jill – It is great that we have a lot of PTO members attending tonight via Zoom. Great way to stay informed and hear from Mr. Palczewski. Please sign up for the weekly PTO newsletter and that is how everyone will know what is going on in school.

Vice President's Report

Vicki Lefelar had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Maureen Machado - Welcome everyone to the school year. Happy to be on the Board this year.

Recording Secretary's Report

Jessica Kroncke had nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Deb Califf had nothing to report.

Principal's Report – Mr. Palczewski

Thank you to everyone that is on Zoom tonight for our first PTO meeting of the 2020-2021 school year. In his 33 years in education, this is nothing he went to school for or has planned for. His perspective is, the kids are in person by Cohort and it's a great accomplishment. Some other districts are not starting till October or November. Having 1/3 of the kids in feels empty and unique. It's a learning curve. Huge learning curve but the teachers are learning how to instruct in person and in Google Meets and Zoom. Everyone is doing their best and the students are engaged. Kids seem happy to be in school for their Cohort. Are there hiccups, YES. Are there technology problems, YES, but everyone is doing their best. For the virtual students that are 100%, if they have an issue, they should contact the teacher right at the time of the issue. It's more meaningful to do it when it is happening, not at the end of the day.

Some key dates to be aware of:

9/24: BTS virtually: At 6:00 PM, a link will be live and you click on the link to the class/teacher to view. You do not need to watch it right at 6pm; can watch at your leisure. Each video should be 8-12 minutes long.

9/28: Yom Kippur; No School. Cohort C will be in school Tue-Fri (no virtual day on Wednesday)

10/1: Financial Aid presentation virtually. Email went out through guidance.

10/29: PSAT – for Junior's only. Historically, it was sophomores and juniors but with social distancing, we have certain requirements to follow and unfortunately this year it is just for the Junior's.

Thank you to the PTO – a nice boxed breakfast that consisted of a bagel/fruit/water was put together for the teachers for the first week back to school.

Administration and Teachers are responding to parents' questions as quickly as possible. Certainly, trying to do our best and provide the best instruction.

Welcome everyone to the new school year!

Jennie then asked a few questions to Mr. Palczewski:

In regards to the attendance policy if your child stays home when they are supposed to be in school (Ex: Cohort B) and I choose to keep him home but well enough to do a virtual day, he is counted as absent. Why?

Answer: This is part of the attendance policy, if something happened and he was marked present, he would be looked for in the building, noting attended virtually. The other concern is "I don't feel like going and I will stay in", trying to keep it consistent. Primarily, the reason is the emergency aspect of it, who is in the building and who is not.

Speculation that is out there at the high school level is why Wednesday considered a short day for the schedule?

Answer: Time is built in for the teachers to do some of the things that they need to do (contact parents, all 8 classes meet and start at 9, instead of 7:20.) Teachers are recording before 9AM. We can look as things get better but we can look at it schedule wise.

Statewide is 4 hours to count as a school day and our schedules are within that timeframe.

Wednesday – is an interactive day, not a wellness day at the high school level. In March it was more of collecting of work than interactive.

Lonni Ryan had a question to the Principal – guidance for senior activities, graduation? Mr. Palczewski said he didn't have any information. Events will be held and will start to plan now. He was talking with Mr. Drozjock about traditional events (plays, junior formal, senior prom.) We are going to do everything that they can to have these events. Can't predict 6 months from now but there is no timeframe right now.

2021 Graduation date will not change – its locked in stone. PG2021 can be planned with the climate at that time and hope to give the event to the children.

If there is anything else, feel free to email Mr. Palczewski. We all are in this together!

Talk to your friends, join the PTO, send in your \$7.00 dues!!

Morning Announcements that get posted on the website. Will this continue this year? Parents like this information. Currently, school is not interrupting the morning with announcements. Announcements generate through activities and athletics. We anticipate this will ramp up more. Anything PTO wants to announce, can be sent to the principal and they will post it. Deb Califf used the morning announcements in the past for the weekly PTO newsletter.

Teacher's Report

We currently do not have a teacher representative.

Mr. Kubiak was our representative last year and for a variety of reasons, he couldn't continue the responsibility. He is furthering his education and became a father himself.

Position is open, so if anyone knows a teacher willing to fill this position, please come forward and let the PTO know.

Committee Reports

a. Membership – Maureen Machado

As of this evening, we have 200 paid families and 3 staff members. Jennie asked what is the normal # for families. Last year we had 480 families paid and 80 staff members.

b. Staff Appreciation – Vicki Lefelar / Jennie Franklyn

We did a very nice boxed breakfast for the 1st day of school. Much thanks to Vicki and Sodexo. Sodexo handled the event very well. Teachers sent in a lot of nice comments to the PTO.

c. Board of Ed Liaison – Jill Lindsay

Jill sent in her report – Deb Califf read Jill's report since she was attending her own BTS night.

Dr. Toback reported that the district welcomed 50 new teachers this year who were engaged in remote orientation. He also reported that CBS News visited Wayne Valley to interview football coaches and a few players to highlight the precautions in place to allow them to safely practice and prepare for the Fall sports season. This was a broadcast on August 20th during the 6pm and 11pm news.

He then clarified the high school cohorts assigned B1 or B2. He explained this did not create four cohorts but allowed for advanced planning to move to two cohorts when students are able to return to in-person without having to do a new schedule.

NJSA postponed all indoor sports this year. He stated they that they may allow for a later season.

He also shared that right now the NJ region is considered low risk right now with the regard to COVID numbers. The return to school plan outlines all of the risks so that parents can make an informed decision for their students/families. He shared the concerns of the staff with regard to returning to work. Dr. Toback shared the steps taken to support staff and accommodate the needs of all.

Jennie then encouraged everyone to listen to the BOE meetings. They are informative and you can hear how the teachers, union, administration and the BOE is feeling.

d. Project Graduation – Val McGrath

She will be looking for freshman parents for the board of PG2024. If anyone is interested, please email Val: valmcg@optonline.net. She can provide more information on the roles.

2021 – Kathy Sigona – not present. Lonni Ryan stated the PG2021 is going ahead with plans and assuming we are on for graduation. If we do not plan now, we won't be able to do

anything. At this point we have planned a parent Zoom meeting on Thursday, 10/22 @ 7:30. They are actively seeking volunteers for the tricky tray / fashion show. We will continue to collect the commitment fees, if PG gets canceled, we will refund. They are preparing the budget. A location has not been selected but whatever contract is signed we will have a cancellation clause in it.

2022 – Denise Lynch – not present. Jessica Kroncke spoke on behalf of the class. The craft fair was set for Sunday, 3/22 and then school was canceled along with all activities. There is nothing in the works for fundraising for this class. The PG 2022 Board is meeting on Wednesday, 9/30 to discuss next steps with fundraising.

2023 – Jen Graf and Michelle Duffy

They had a meeting a week ago and opened their bank account. Commitment letter is out, a few parents have signed and sent in the payment. Gearing up for a raffle and it will be in November. Still in the process of getting that together.

2024 – TBD

No committee for 2024

e. Restaurant Nights – Jennie Franklyn

2 nights are scheduled

Wednesday, 9/30 – Jersey Mike’s (location is on Hamburg Turnpike). This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Hope everyone will participate. We do not have to have the cards and it does not limit you to one sub. Order from the app and when you pay you will put in the promo code (will be provided shortly) and it will give Wayne Valley 30% of the order.

End of October (10/29) – Chipotle (over by Wayne Towne Center)

The fundraiser information will be pushed out to Valley’s social media accounts as well.

f. 50/50 Raffle – Jill Spodek

Last year the raffle was held on BTS night and because of no in person BTS night this year, we have a long term 50/50 raffle and just got the license. We will start selling tickets in the beginning of October; drawing is the second week in December. Each ticket is \$5. Tickets cannot be sold in school due to the pandemic. Tickets can be purchased from the home of the PTO Presidents or and/or we will deliver the tickets. Watch for more information in the weekly newsletter. Last year \$700 was raised. More info to come.

g. Spirit Wear – Vicki Lefelar

As of today, 102 orders, \$6700 in total sales.

How does it compare from last year? We are on track and we may possibly be ahead when the sale closes this Sunday, 9/27.

h. Scholarships – TBD

Nothing to discuss at this time

i. Varsity Jackets – TBD

Vicki Lefelar stated we use the vendor “Accent on Leather”.

She went two times over the summer but it was closed both times. Vicki will try again. When your child receives a varsity letter, the information on where to go for the jacket is in there. The PTO gets a small kickback from each jacket sold.

j. WSPA – TBD

Teresa Kelly hasn't heard anything from the group, no response at the time of the meeting

Special Education Parent Advisory Group

BTS Open House is 10/12 (10:00 AM and 7:00 PM)

Anyone can join, just give your email address and you will receive all of the information.

First meeting is virtual on 11/11.

All of the information is on www.wayneschools.com

Click on Family Links, and then click on SEPAG

k. Old Business

Nothing to report

l. New Business

Budget for this year, everyone got the spreadsheet who was on Zoom.

Tried to keep the budget similar to last year. Its fluid, changes day to day. Kept things in the budget in the event if they do happen. We are here to support the school, kids and staff. We are in good shape for this year.

Jill then had a question in regards to the \$1000 gifts to school. Are these gifts already given or we have these monies?

Maureen stated those monies were already given.

There are three things we fundraise for:

*Scholarships for Seniors

*Hospitality

*Gifts to School

A Vote was made on the budget

All in favor – raised hands on Zoom

Adjournment

Motion was made by Frank Cook and Filomena Pelish to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.