

SSHS PTA Meeting Minutes 10/23/19

The meeting was called to order by PTA Co-President Donna Downing, who introduced herself, PTA co-president Jean Harris, Mr. Murphy, Principal and Mr. Moss, Assistant Principal.

A motion was made by Christine Belling to approve the minutes for our September 26, 2019 meeting. Maryann Pedersen seconded the motion.

Donna thanked Treasurer Christina Belling, Membership Chairperson Ann Marie Egan, Corresponding Secretary Marie Eckrich, Post-Prom committee members Karen Bohn and Mary Prendergast for organizing the Senior Parent Social, John and Justine DiSarlo for overseeing the golf outing and Kara Spinelli for handling apparel.

Treasurer's Report - Christina Belling circulated the year-to-date budget report and Post Prom Fundraising report. Current balance \$27,574. Apparel just made a deposit and placed another order. Membership deposit made and dues paid to New York State. Deposits made: Post Prom Senior Parent Mixer profits \$2,682; Fall Plant Sale \$1,446; Bake Sales \$2,553; Football Raffle \$1,101; Super Bowl Raffle \$2,060.

Jean Harris mentioned that Susan LiCalzi's idea to request "no frills" contributions on the PTA membership form has been quite efficient & successful.

Next week on 11/7, there will be an Open House from 7:00 - 8:30 pm for potential incoming students from SSMS and St. Agnes. A positive event to expose everyone to our school and clubs. Mr. Murphy interjected that 9th and 19th grade parent night will take place from 6:30 - 7:00 pm. This will be a brief overview of PSAT, etc. Donna mentioned that underclassmen can come and see the clubs. Mr. Murphy is asking all club members to wear SSHS attire and show school spirit.

New York State PTA holds an annual convention in October; there are no new resolutions this year. We are part of a large advocacy effort to influence statewide legislation. Donna explained the PTA resolutions and retentions. Motion to approve was made by Cindy Vaupel, all in attendance voted in favor. All in attendance also voted in favor of the Vote of Confidence.

Kara Spinelli gave an update on apparel sales. The Class of 1979 purchased a large amount of apparel at Homecoming. Kara has the apparel at her house, there is currently none at SST Custom Embroidery. It will be sold on the night of the Open House.

Lou Medeiros gave an update from the Curriculum Committee, which met on 10/10. Mr. Murphy discussed the new Pathways program curriculum. Some students will have a mixed schedule, individualized to meet their needs. An academic facilitator will work with each student to ensure that they are each appropriately challenged.

Also discussed were the new co-seated IB/Regents classes in English & History. Adjustments to English: essential questions, informational text. IB students will have more open ended questions. Mid-year exams for the 2 groups will be the same. Quarterlies will be more specialized.

K-12 - Final year of current science assessment in 4th grade is 2020, it will move to 5th grade in 2021. In 2023, the Earth Science regents will become Earth & Space Science regents. Changes to Chemistry and Physics regents in 2024. Send any questions or suggestions to Lou Medeiros.

Note was made of the positive nature of the recent Mental Health Summit.

Drug & Alcohol Task Force update from Jen Bohan. Saturday, 10/26 is National Rx Drug Take Back Day, RVC Police station is a drop-off location for Rx drugs, vaping devices & cartridges.

Mercy Hospital is hosting an event titled "Despair in Our Community." Speakers include Katie Schumacher and Steve Dodge.

RVC Youth Council noted a significant uptick in the number of 9th graders attending meetings. They sent representatives to the middle school at the end of last year to recruit new participants.

Donna mentioned the Parent Mental Health Summit. You may still supply any feedback, questions or concerns if you have not already had a chance to do so.

The RVC Council of PTAs will put on a Parent University on 2/27/20. It is not limited to mental health issues. An application is available on Google Forms.

On 11/12 at 7:30 pm, we will host a *Communities Talk* Town Hall. Jean explained that we applied for and received a grant to be used to address underage drinking. Our goal is to end the evening with an actionable message that we can offer our youth. We will saturate the community with 2-3 messages via postcard, electronic message boards, etc. throughout the year. The messages will be about prevention and will provide support to teens who have made a conscious decision not to drink.

Paint Night on Monday, 11/18 at 7:00 pm at the S. Hempstead Fire Dept.

Principal's Report - Mr. Murphy added re: the Pathways curriculum that it is customized for the needs of the 12 students in the program. They are meant to be able to earn a Regents diploma but there are other options, including CDOS through BOCES to give them a career path. Students in the program take Living Environment. He thanked Lou Medeiros for his thorough summary.

There is a theme/arc in the development of many of the subject areas. Mr. Murphy is a huge fan of quarterlies/40 minute tests in order to 1) create a comprehensive assessment in each subject to help students know where they stand; 2) force collaboration between teachers for consistency and 3) give data to compare how well we are teaching the subject matter.

In a 3 week window, a common quarterly assessment will occur. It will be consistent and count as a test. It could be 1st or 2nd quarter depending on timing. Only one exam will be given on any particular day. Mr. Murphy mentioned that the growth of the IB business program has increased the number of exams. A parent asked about students who have doubled up on science who might have multiple tests scheduled on the same day. She mentioned students who are given extra time and who might have 3 tests scheduled on a single day. Mr. Murphy said that they would move a test in this case, on a case by case basis. Integrity of exams is of utmost importance if a student takes a particular test 3 days late. Mr. Murphy is attending a summit next Tuesday on the next iteration of graduation requirements.

A parent commented that her son is in a co-seated 12th grade English class. She notices and appreciates the modifications in the curriculum. Mr. Murphy said that working on the 11th grade changes helped them change the 12th grade curriculum, and are considering the question about what makes a class advanced—students, reading, pace, or a combination. The parent mentioned that students should not be identified (and they aren't). She appreciates all of the efforts that went into this. Mr. Murphy said that the teachers are excited. English 11 was built from scratch/from the ground up. The former thematic essay is now an "enduring issue" essay, for example on poverty or world hunger. In IB 11, the model of an essay based on multiple sources/texts will be implemented in the next 2 years.

Mr. Moss said that changes are in store for the IB Math sequence; details to come.

Alanna Bender had a question re: 10th graders. Will there be options to pick and choose IB vs. non-IB classes? Mr. Murphy confirmed that there will be, and the details will all be explained in a meeting after they are finalized.

Christine Ferazani reported on the Senior Parent Social and thanked John & Justine DiSarlo for organizing the golf outing. 74 golfers played in the rain, many more joined the group for cocktails and dinner. Amount raised to be confirmed. Super Bowl raffle has raised \$2,060 thus far and still selling until 11/8. Autographed football being raffled off, \$1,101 raised so far, e-mail Christine to buy a chance.

No additional new business or questions. Meeting adjourned.