

Central PTSA Meeting

Minutes

5/9/18

In attendance: Alissa Chilson, Heidi Kerwin, Leslie Seltzer, Christina Pearson, Natalie Pincus, Monica Alongi, Heather Coyne, Maranne McDade Clay, Dan Goldman, Kevin McGowan, Mark Kokonovich, Jen Allen, Emily Brown, Kathryn Kubiak-Rizzone, Katrina Robinson, Wende Domm, Denise Kotalik, Deborah Pulley, Becky Picone, Stacia Rush

Meeting began: 9:19am

Welcome: Deborah Pulley began the meeting with a welcome to everyone. There is one more meeting left this year. It is a busy time of year, so thank you all for your efforts. We work well together and support each other well. The TCMS Staff Appreciation Luncheon went well, as did the Meet the Candidates Night, and the Life Membership Award Ceremony.

Superintendent Report, by Dr. Kevin McGowan

Dr. Kevin McGowan: He circulated a half sheet of information for everyone. They have been working to inform everyone about the Budget details and changes. He also mentioned the home assessment rates and its connection with the school budget. Our school district will still be receiving the same amount of the tax levy regardless of what the town does with assessments.

We continue to be lucky to be among the top schools in the county as reported in today's newspaper. Our students are achieving at a high percentage. Thank you to everyone for our efforts benefitting the district and for all of the staff appreciation events.

Communication-BHS eNews contains a great deal of information. Sometimes the length may deter people from reading it in its entirety. We are working to figure out how to condense the material without losing any of the important information. Dan Goldman is skilled at posting relevant information in a brief form and he has done a great deal of work to get information out in many areas. There have been discussions on FB that are posing questions that we know have been answered in the information that we have posted at some point. It is a constant effort to make sure information is getting to people. This brief information sheet Dr. McGowan handed out is an example of a way to send short info quickly. We like the discussions and questions that come up, so we are trying to work to make sure more people are heard so that more information can be shared. They are working with a new community digital

resource for people to engage in conversation and share ideas, similar to Facebook. This program called Thought Exchange. There will be a lot of push in marketing to get the word out about this new process.

Building Reports

BHS

Recent events:

- 4/14 ACTs
- 4/20 Meeting with the Principal
- 4/26 Wind Ensemble and Symph. Band Concert
- 4/28 Junior Prom
- 5/5 SATs

Upcoming events:

- 5/16, noon Meeting with the Principal
- 5/16, 7pm Sr. Voice Recital
- 5/19, 8-11pm Senior Ball at RMSC
- 5/23, 7pm Vocal Concert
- 5/24 Senior Banquet/BASH
- 5/25 Spring Fest
- 6/1 7:45am Awards Assembly
- 6/1, 7pm Pitch Black
- 6/5, 7pm Orchestra Concert
- 6/6, 7pm Concert vands and Jazz Ens.concert
- 6/7, 7pm Art of Acting II
- 6/9 ACTs
- 6/11, 5pm Art of Acting

*Two new building chairs, Maranne McDade Clay and Tara Minor are with us today.

TCMS

Zero Initiative at TCMS Update:

6th grade is at 71%; 7th is at 52% and 8th grade is at 43%. While the 6th graders entered TCMS well trained from FRES and very energetic about recycling....even with the lower 7th and 8th grader numbers there is and overall 58% of waste diversion at TCMS which is super amazing!!

Bike/Walk to school Day

Rob Thomas counted at least 80-90 bikes, which is great! PLUS even more walkers! Students who walked or biked signed in in the atrium. Rob also mentioned that on any given day he thinks about 180-200 kids are walking or riding to school at TCMS, which is great for the environment!

Spring Sports

249 athletes on 14 teams!

Academic Challenge Bowl team made it to the play-offs!!

Chess team did well too. While neither team won, they had a great showing and did a fantastic job!!

Art show at BHS was a great success! Reception was well attended and the artwork was impressive!

PTSA Luncheon

Teachers and Staff thoroughly enjoyed their Cinco de Mayo Fiesta celebration and expressed their gratitude for such a well decorated and delicious luncheon. Will be hard to top next year :)!

Festival of Fables

6th grade ELA classes write and act out fables on stage. Two teams have performed, there is one more to go. Students have worked very hard to prepare for their performances; and parents have

been coming in record numbers and have been very impressed with the students' work!!

Mary Poppins, Jr.

The Spring Musical was a huge hit! The cast did a wonderful job and the performances were well attended. The musical will be held in the Fall next year (instead of the Spring) and has yet to be announced, so stay tuned!

Staff Meetings at TCMS begin with a student presentation to engage staff and remind them of why they are at TCMS - to teach and inspire young adults. With that in mind, Rob Thomas mentioned that he was particularly impressed with a group of Islamic students who presented on Ramadan. Mrs. Halligan worked with the kids, who are English as a Second Language students, and they did a great job imparting information on this religious event.

May 18th was a busy day for TCMS 8th graders....Advanced Science students went to St. John Fisher for a day of science exploration. Some students were on Foreign language trips and other participated in Flamenco dancing! Lots of fun was had by all.

6th graders had an impressive assembly given by Sister Barbara Lynn who was an active nun during the Civil Rights Era. Students were very engaged in the presentation and this aligns with the ELA curriculum students are currently working on. The presentation was taped, and the students were captivated!

The TCMS Jazz Band performed at the Lilac Festival and did a wonderful job! It is always a great experience for the students to perform outside of school.

Class Picture of 2022 was amazing! The aerial shot will be given to students when they purchase Closure Party Tickets and students not attending the party can still purchase the 8x10 picture. It is an impressive June shot!!

Dates:

1st is the Schools to Watch re-designation reception & assembly hosted by the PTSA. About 35 people were invited including local politicians, Board Members, principals, parents who were on the committee and students in student government. There will be a short reception and an assembly, 8th graders will be in the auditorium and all 6th and 7th will watch the assembly in their homerooms.

June 6th is the last PTSA Meeting with the Principal. Nate Merritt and Rob Thomas will present on Brighton Sports.

June 20th is the Last day of full classes

June 20 is the much anticipated 6th grade Medieval Day

June 21st is 6th, 7th and 8th grade day at Seabreeze

*Dr. McGowan suggested that we move away from individual building budget presentation, and that the PTSA focus their efforts on promoting the district budget presentations. Although he is more than happy to continue to present when we ask, attendance has been low, so maybe we can pool our efforts to a couple of main presentations instead.

FRES

FRES Building Report May/June 2018

May 9th was our annual Bike to School event - everyone had a great time riding to school! Thank you to the volunteers who helped during the rides to and from school.

On May 10th in conjunction with Council Rock we held an orientation for 2nd grade students and parents who are transitioning to FRES next year. We had a wonderful turnout, and students and parents had an opportunity to tour French Road, meet administrators and teachers and have ice cream.

Students and music teachers have been working hard and performed on May 9th, May 17th and May 22nd. They all sounded great! There is a concert scheduled for May 13th - it's the Greenband. The concert begins at 7 pm.

Tomorrow, 5th grade students are invited to TCMS for a crossover night activity! There will be food, music and lots of fun games. It's a great opportunity for 5th graders to become more familiar with TCMS. Volunteers are still needed! Festivities start at 6:00.

On June 5th we have two events happening at FRES:

Meeting with the Principal, at 9:30. Justin McVey, the FRES librarian and staff from Brighton Memorial Library will be talking about summer reading.

Family Movie Night for incoming 3rd graders and their families. We will be screening Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. There will be pizza, popcorn and other snacks available for purchase. The movie starts at 6:00.

CRPS

- Ice cream socials were a great success. Many thanks to all the volunteers —especially the BHS Helping Hands students and Board of Ed members. We raised over \$1500 for PTSA initiatives. Would use Brusters again next year — good to work with and received lots of positive feedback about the ice cream. Next year would like to offer \$1 water bottles since there are no drinking fountains in cafeterias (requested by attendees).
- Book Fair was also very successful. We sold a total of 1,496 books for a total of \$11,736.99. That number is within \$100 of the total sales from last year. The cash profit from the fair was \$2,723.63. We had many willing volunteers and we were so grateful for their help!
- We enjoyed the budget presentation, given by Lou Alaimo at our March “Let’s Chat, Council Rock”/Meeting with the Principal. Attendance was low, however. We encourage consolidating budget presentations next year rather than host separate presentations for each building.
- Our next “Let’s Chat, Council Rock”/Meeting with the Principal will be April 25, 9am: Tea with Friends featuring a gallery walk of special area classes and PTSA committees, specifically inviting room parents and committee chairs to attend and bring a friend or active volunteer
- Planning is underway for Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 25. “Be Our Guest” theme, menu set, invitations to go out soon.
- Librarian working on securing author visit for next year, possibly in conjunction with Scholastic to streamline book ordering process
- 2 go 3 Movie night for rising third graders will be held at FRES on June 5. Mr. Tappon and Dr. Rioux working together on all transition activities
- Questions for Central Board:
 - Would like to confirm total budget for Staff Appreciation Luncheon

- Request that we consider allocating more in the budget to author visits
- Wondering about Zero Waste CRPS rollout plans, possible use of PTSA volunteers
- Wondering about parent reps on district environmental committee and safety committee

*Jen Allen suggested that we have volunteers specifically assigned to help with Bike to School week, perhaps including it on the volunteer form.

* Jen also asked that if any of us know of families that will be new to the district next year, let the building co-chairs know so that they can start sharing information with them.*Stacia and Wende will help to include information on the parent FB page and the individual year FB pages.

SPED

*A recent presentation on Executive Function was recorded and posted on our website. The interpreter was kind enough to agree to be recorded, however we recently learned that the district subscribes to our recorded posts, so close captioning can be enabled.

*New students are getting their access to Parent Portal very late, sometimes over a month, so this is frustrating to them. All of the different systems are making things a little confusing to parents, and sometimes teachers are depending too much on the system, thinking parents are seeing what they post.

*Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Life Membership event.

*Today is the building and grounds luncheon, and the 18th will be the SPED luncheon.

*Dave Beck was honored as the citizen of the year from Brighton Rotary. If anyone is interested in the event, it is Monday, May 26th at 6pm.

*A question was asked if we are looking for fidget spinners to be donated. Ellie clarified that they are applying for a grant for fidget items, not fidget spinners. There are some particular items that they are targeting for the students.

*Deborah Pulley mentioned that she went to the evening Executive Function meeting at TCMS and it was very valuable. Over 30 people attended. The presentation is posted on our website.

Topics in Grading---the District's Journey, by Dr. Debbie Baker

*As she set up her presentation, Dr. Baker started by asking us to think about our past experiences with being graded. She then asked us to share what comes to mind-good feelings? Not good feelings? She

asked why people would say 'not good feelings?', some comments were- a tendency toward not high performance, or wildly inconsistent grading.

Other memories were: sense of competition, different teachers saw same work differently, etc.

Dr. Baker said that even though our memories were from long ago, not a lot has changed, and students today are experiencing the same types of feelings.

Recent work has been trying to look at what makes our students successful. We wanted to look at and analyze what our grading practices are. If we are going to change how grading happens, we need to communicate everything with parents who have their own kind of schema of how grading should look and how it should happen.

Curriculum Council started looking at our grading system K-12 two years ago. We looked at research, attended workshops, talked to students and teachers, etc, in an effort to guide us in our future grading practices.

<presentation materials to be posted on website *pending >

*We recognize the fact that colleges look at reported grades and we cannot interfere with that.

*Dr. Baker gave an explanation of 'Formative Assessments'. They are, in essence, practice with learning. Summative Assessments, however, are tests to see what has actually been learned.

*K-5 has already been doing this, it'll be a little more work for 6-12 in their effort to separate evaluating effort vs. achievement. A question was asked how the teachers are responding to this new plan as it sounds like a lot of work. Dr. Baker's response was that there are groups already discussing this at the higher levels. It will be more work, but should have a great return on the work investment.

*School Tool is our district selected program to communicate grades. Schoology is a tool that can be used for communicating assignments, etc, and it does have a grade component, but it should not be depended on for grading information.

*There is a group of High Schoolers called GenBar that has become skilled with tech and they work with teachers and hold support sessions. This group is a great resource for teachers, and we have also sent them to workshops to become competent with new tech. *A question was asked if we will eventually have our website serve as the hub for information so that we don't have to rely on other websites. Dr. Baker's response was that these outside websites are very useful and successful interface. Our current website doesn't have the capabilities that the other sites have. *A suggestion was made that we eliminate the teacher page sections on our website so that there is less confusion and it looks more professional. Much of the section is left unused and contains no information if teachers do post that way, so if people visit the pages on our website, it makes the district look bad. It was also suggested that we work on that before the beginning of next year. *Alissa Chilson commented that technology and the real-time updates from the tablets are very useful, so hopefully that will transfer over to the high school. Things are continually evolving. *Beth McDermott commented that she was very happy to have the

explanation about the differences between Schoology and School Tool. Communication is key, so it is important to make parents aware of what exactly is available. *Google Classroom and Google products will not be implemented into our system. There has been a rumor circulating that we may be heading that way, but it will not be happening. We have three different systems, and this would require us to add yet a fourth.

*A question was asked if any of the information shared by Whitney Rapp will be relayed to the teachers in some way. Dr. Baker replied that they have provided teacher development workshops by Whitney for the teachers to attend and they are usually very well attended.

*A suggestion was made that the phrase "is a pleasure to have in class" be eliminated from report cards as often the kids who are quiet and well behaved are not getting enough notice to detect underlying issues that may be present.

*There was a discussion about grades and student's tendency to attach grades with their self-worth. By informing everyone of this grading evolution, this will help students to understand the system a little better.

*Mark Kokonovich commented on Dr. Baker's tireless efforts with this. There have also been two reports posted last night about technology and about the options for students who choose not to go the traditional 4 year college route.

*The town made an announcement last night that it will be purchasing 26 acres of land, more details to come.

Treasurer Report, by Alissa Chilson

The Ice cream socials made \$2581 this year, it was very successful. The new vendor was very easy to work with financially.

Please submit all receipts ASAP if you would like reimbursement. Books will be closed on June 30th.

TCMS paid for 3.5 students to attend the Washington DC trip with \$2000 of hardship funds. Alissa suggested that TCMS request a grant specifically for those students rather than use that large sum of their general hardship grants for so few students.

*Emily Brown shared that the Square One Art program raised a profit of \$1473 this year.

*Stacia Rush asked for a breakdown of book fair profit for PTSA by school. Alissa's report:

FRES-\$646.90

TCMS- \$168.90

CRPS -\$550.51

*Deborah announced that she filled out an agreement with Follett for next year's book fairs. All of the librarians are very excited about that. It looks as if it will be a big improvement in books as well as an increase in profits going forward.

*There was a discussion about how food service bills us when we use their services.

*Alissa was asked if we are going to roll over unused funds for Staff Appreciation. TCMS had event chairs who offered to absorb their receipts for their contribution to the event. Alissa replied that doing so would make the process very complicated and non-standard. We should keep the available funds the same from year to year. We budgeted \$2 per person across the board, and keeping that consistent will make things easy and help us to know if the number needs to be increased or decreased in the future.

Secretary Report, by Becky Picone

Becky Picone submitted the April meeting minutes for approval.

Christina Pearson moved to pass.

Leslie Seltzer seconded.

All hands approved, so passed.

Calendar Update

Deborah shared a report from Manish-update on the 2018/2019 Calendar Committee. All buildings are represented.

- Committee members: Heather Coyne, Stacia Rush, Leslie Seltzer, Linda Wilcox, Ellie Rosenbloom, Denise Kotalik, Kathryn Kubiak-Rizzone, Manish Dixit (Chair)
- The committee has met twice since its formation and is in high function!
- The immediate goals for the committee are to:
 - Ensure timely capture of all district and community event information
 - Create processes to spread events with minimum overlap,
 - Maintain a high degree of accuracy for event information
 - Proactively identify and address any conflicts relating to venue/date/other factors
 - Look for volunteers to help with graphic design work.
- Festival of Ideas date has been set for March 2, 2019!
- Visual and Performance Arts calendar is expected to be provided to the committee by the end of this week.
- Dan Goldman and Cyndi Kerber-Gowan have been especially helpful in sharing their time and knowledge of the previous calendar iterations, and we appreciate their effort.

Fundraiser Update

June 3rd (4:30-9pm) will be our Chipotle Update. This was very successful last year, so we are looking forward to this. You need to show the flyer on your phone, a hard copy, or mention the fundraiser. No other promotions on site are allowed. We are required to meet a minimum of \$300 in sales, and we receive a 50% profit.

Budget Meeting

A budget meeting will be scheduled after the fundraising committee has met this afternoon.

Other items

*Becky Picone will share the minutes from our ad hoc committee meeting with Gene Kinney to everyone on our board.

*A suggestion was made that we consider having subcommittees established for issues such as advocacy, as other districts have done. Deborah Pulley responded that as we have parents on the board, that are interested and able to dedicate their time to advocate, that would be worthwhile.

*Alissa gave a brief explanation of our bylaws and procedures, and the difference between the two. Our procedures are from 2011, so they need to be updated and the information needs to be available to everyone. This is a near-future goal.

*Katherine Kubiak-Rizzone was given a baby gift crafted by Wende Domm.

*Leslie Seltzer asked that we consider using some of our funds for the Spring Luncheon we host annually.

*A comment was made about the appropriateness of having funds donated by parents be used for feeding us. It was explained that we also feed 65 members of the administration at this luncheon. There was further discussion about other options and the fact that all of us in this room put in a great deal of work all year long and it is difficult to then be asked to do more work at the end of the year for this. *A question was asked about why we do this. A discussion was had about how this is a tradition that has been going on for years. We have changed the location this year, it will be held at Buckland Lodge. In the past, it has traditionally been hosted at the PTSA Vice President's home. This has been a deterrent for some people who might have otherwise considered taking the position.

*At this point, the food assignments are:

BHS- Sides and salads

TCMS- Main

FRES- Fruit

CRPS- Dessert

PPS- Beverage

Central –Paper products

*Alissa will go to Wegmans to look for catering options.

*The PTSA board members may be asked to contribute \$20 each toward catering as an alternative.

*This conversation will continue online.

Meeting adjourned: 11:35am