

PTA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 6, 2019

Attendees:

Laura Gibson	Michelle Caruso	Lara Stavridis
Christine Ferreri	Courtenae Trautmann	Kristi Amendola
Michelle Huber	Beth Hosler	Becca Harpster
Beverly Redmond	Casey Braun	Jim Collins
Anne Zimmer	Beth Diviacchi	Emily Bastedo
Patti Berner	Heidi Maier	Jennifer Beal
Suji LaBine	Heather Schuster	Mark Cohen
Mary Young		

Call to order at 7pm by Kristi Amendola

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes from December 2018 meeting by: Anne Zimmer and seconded by Casey Braun

Superintendent Update (Dr. Mark Cohen)

Dr. Mark Cohen, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Growth, discussed the business incubator program at York High. School. This program is offered to Juniors and Seniors and will begin in the 2019-2020 school year. This vigorous business course consists of students building a business from start to end. Their idea/pitch is submitted and if approved they start their business, all the way to development/marketing of the product. Product can be tangible, an app, or a service. District is looking for mentors and coaches with business expertise in finance, marketing, etc., to provide feedback and coaching along the way. Grades based on assessments, concepts, and knowing business term generalities, not whether their product is successful. In future, may be part of middle school UA wheel. No prerequisites required.

School Board Update (Jim Collins)

Jim Collins invited all to march in the St. Patrick Day Parade on March 9th, along with the School Board, Alumni and D205 Foundation. Meeting point is at 11:30am on the west side of 788 Spring Road. BOE would like to show the community that it takes a lot of volunteers to make our schools great.

There is a growing numbers of people discussing equity and gifts to the schools. The BOE is trying to come up with ideas and is seeking creative thoughts/ideas, from PTA, on how to achieve that equity. Every school has the same educational resources, however, as an example, some schools PTA's are great at fundraising and are able to raise money for non-educational items, such as playgrounds. Other schools will get eventually get that, through other means, via the referendum funds, district, etc. Within years, all schools will have the playgrounds to achieve equity among the schools.

Jim stated that the use of funds have changed over the years. Years ago, PTA funds were used for parties. He also stated that it is great that private money is used to fund the current

PTA wants for the schools. People are proud of their schools and are willing to donate. We have a blank slate and we need to cooperate as a district. We need to figure out how to help our own home schools, but also create equity amongst all others. BOE wants PTA to create the rules collectively.

Further discussion on this topic continued with comments including:

- We can become an equitable district, but is it fair to take from one PTA and give to another?
- With referendum, maybe we do not need the PTA's to help raise these type of funds?
- Maybe district could get a catalog/list so if PTA's raise funds we can all purchase the same type of items (Todd Schmidt is creating a catalog/menu for furniture that all schools can purchase from)
- If a school is purchasing something, maybe they can purchase that same item to help other schools.
- BOE and principals need to control purchases so PTAs know the school guidelines.
- People need to be realistic when fundraising as people will raise money for their home school, but maybe not others.
- All kids go to York so all kids should have the same experience. Elmhurst PTA's should fundraise for same mission (ie: flexible seating, collective funds, working for same goal). There is a culture shift...Elmhurst is ready to change age old ideals - let's unite as all kids are together in this. That is the purpose of PTAs.
- We need to detail where the inequities are first, not where are the funds coming from (ie: Field has a playground, but no grass for the kids to play in).
- District needs to tighten up on goals and provide information on how PTA's do this. There is a challenge of doing something new, but we need to go for it.
- Presidents need to meet, talk, and learn what is going on at other schools. Then it is easier to get on board with others' needs.

District Communication Update (Bev Redmond)

April 1st will be the launch of the district website. District has been out to all schools for training. District is looking forward for something new with the website. There will be a survey at the end of school year, so that district can update website, where needed over the summer, so it is ready for the next school year. Website will have more tools, a library of logos from all schools, and all appropriate colors, fonts, will be available. District will help make sure our schools website look great as those are the business cards of our schools.

Questions were asked if there is any talk of directory spot for the district? No, not at this time. There was also a request for a link to download the district calendar into a google/outlook type of calendar.

PTA Council Board Update:

Treasurer (Mindi Kaploe)

no update

Corresponding Secretary (Anne Zimmer)

no update

Recording Secretary (Michelle Caruso)

no update

VP Programming (Casey Braun and Beth Hosler)

Working on plans to go throughout the next year. Working with a larger group, REACH, and Elmhurst Youth Commission. It will be the same program and same theme, so that everything makes sense.

VP Scholarship (Heidi Maier & Emily Bastedo)

Raised \$3.1K from luncheon. Also have funds from PTA donations and unclaimed scholarships. On March 15th, scholarships open for Seniors. Applications will be taken through google docs. Fannie May candy sales are happening now. Forms were sent home through students. Once sale period is over, drop off forms to Heidi's home. Fannie May will deliver to district office and will be here in time for Easter. Any questions, please email Emily or Heidi. Special thanks to the Fannie May school reps as they have been great..

President (Kristi Amendola)

Whenever there is a vendor in schools, we need their Certificate of Insurance on file and Elmhurst D205 must be listed as additional insured. This has been in place for years and we need to make sure that all PTA's are following this.

It is time to get slate ready for next year. Must be posted by April so it can "sit" for 30 days. You may vote/install in May. If Courtenae wins school board position, Kristi will stay on as Council President for next year. If your school's bylaws need updated, please let Kristi know and she can help you.

Kristi made a motion for approval of the District 205 PTA Council Bylaw as presented, without any changes. By laws were approved and seconded by Courtenea Trautmann and Christine Ferreri.

Chair Positions:**REACH (Patti Berner):**

Meeting this Friday, March 8th. We need to do slate for next year. As in past, we will be offering funds to REACH teachers up to \$100. REACH PTA and Deb Lee will need to approve those requests. There will be an additional REACH information meeting on March 13th at 7pm in the Sandburg library. The presentation will cover a program overview, identification, expectations, appeals process, and more with an added focus on those families who received notice on February 1st that their student will be joining REACH (or for parents who want to understand the identification and appeal process better.) Invited speaker is Deb Lee, District Director of Curriculum and REACH Coordinator.

Reflections (Michele Wehrle):

no update

SERG (Mary Young):

The last meeting was great and very helpful. Notifications for SERG went out yesterday, March 5th. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, March 19th, for parents of students with

IEP. SERG is working with the Elmhurst Public Library on a an inclusive schooling documentary called "Intelligence Lives". It is about people that were designated with low intelligence and their successes in school, work, and beyond. SERG reached out to library, they are paying for documentary and SERG will host a panel after. This is scheduled for May 14th. Library will be making and distributing posters (two per school). SERG is also working on slate for next year.

SROH (Jill McCall):

Kristi said that it was a great event and well attended.

Unit President Updates/Questions:

On June 2nd, Conrad Fischer and Team Ignite will be co-hosting an event "Munchkins OCR". The cost will be \$25/child. It is to celebrate all schools running clubs. There will be a festival, prizes, and obstacle courses. Funds will be used to build more obstacles for the schools running clubs.

Does any parent that supervises children/students greater than 15 hours need to be fingerprinted? Edison did it and heard this will be enforced next year. Kristi will follow up and let us know.

Are we still using Memberhub for membership next year? Yes, we are. You can have members sign up directly through that site, instead of having Membership Chair manually enter members info. It also collects funds. Edison does this and tracks all fees through that site instead of Revtrack. There is a small service fee as well. Edison will send link to their webstore so we can see their store and how it works.

Beth Hosler (Sandburg PTA), along with the Sandburg Middle school Creative Technology teacher, wrote a grant and won out of 200 PTAs. They were granted a \$1K pixel book and \$1K for a workshop. It will be a parents only workshop for middle schools parents on digital safety. It will take place from 7-9pm on April 24th, at Sandburg Middle School (in cafeteria).

Upcoming events

Elmhurst Youth commission will be hosting a presentation lead by the Elmhurst police department on March 6th at 7pm at the Elmhurst Public Library, to discuss trends in alcohol, drug, sexting and vaping.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourned by: Christine Ferreri and Becca Harpster
Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Caruso, Recording Secretary