

PTA Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 1, 2019

**Attendees:**

Heather Giambone	Patti Berner	Rachel Olson
Nicole Braun	Mindi Kaploe	Elena Cutri
Angela Bagdasarian	Hilary Simonds	Amy Sutton
Vicki Marini	Anne Zimmer	Jen Barnabee
Jennifer Beal	Angie Brauneis	Laura Wise
Michelle Huber	Casey Braun	Suji LaBine
Karen Sienko	Laura Gibson	Beth Diviacchi
Kristie Szejner	Phil Fernandez	Jim Collins
Dave Oberg (Elmhurst Heritage Foundation)		
Mike Baker (Elmhurst History Museum)		

Call to order at 7:02 pm by Casey Braun

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of meeting minutes from September 2019 by Nicole Braun and seconded by Hilary Simonds

**Elmhurst Heritage Foundation & Elmhurst History Museum Presentation -  
Dave Oberg and Mike Baker**

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation supports the Elmhurst History Museum and the One Room School House. We have 21 Board members. Five years ago we raised \$350,000 to fund the interactive Elmhurst neighborhood exhibit which is housed in the Glos Mansion. We also host an annual craft beer festival to fundraise, it has proven to be very popular. Each year, third graders compete in a poster contest.

The Elmhurst History Museum is comprised of the Glos Mansion, the Education Center and the One Room School House. We have excellent exhibits coming this year (see handout). Most importantly, we run several programs which we can bring to your schools. The best way to research and book these traveling field trips is to reach out to Jessie Wandersee at [EMHeducator@elmhurst.org](mailto:EMHeducator@elmhurst.org)

**Jen Barnabee - Superintendent/District Update**

Oct 7 - Incubator and Manufacturing Lab Open House, York 7pm

Oct 8 - BOE Meeting, 7pm

Oct 10 - Calendar Committee, 4pm

Oct 11-25 - ADK online registration

Oct 21-25 - Verify residency at District Office

Oct 22, BOE Meeting, 7pm

Oct 28 - *Angst* screening, York 7pm

Oct 31 - Superintendent's Coffee, Field 10am

The Thrive 205 Steering Committee met earlier today to continue to chart out a course for the year. A subcommittee is working to plan for the October 28 event, which includes PTA council rep Rachel Olson.

Several PTAs have inquired about getting involved in Thrive 205 at the school level. I am working with the executive board, the Thrive 205 committee and the administration to develop a consistent answer to people that is consistent with the goals and outcomes that we are working toward.

### **Jim Collins - D205 Board of Education Update**

Thrive 205 is an initiative that the district hopes to focus on for several years. Thank you for the awesome attendance at the author visit, we had more than 300 people attend. This is obviously a conversation that the community wants to have. Please share the upcoming *Angst* screening information with your communities. We want to continue the conversation at this next event.

The BOE is starting several conversations to talk about school start times, 6-12 grade homework policies (meaningful homework only), limiting the number of AP classes students can take and block schedules. We hope to implement these things we are considering as they come up, as opposed to waiting for a big rollout. The goal is to provide students the benefits of some or all of these ideas right away.

Phil Fernandez: Is there currently a limit to the number of AP classes students can take?

Jim Collins: No limit and we have a lot

Patti Berner: The author mentioned that 5 AP classes is the "sweet spot"

JC: The college board advised her on that. Is 5 the correct number? We don't know. I can tell you that 12 AP classes is not the correct answer either.

Nicole Braun: Sometimes AP classes are the only option because of the trajectory path that a student is already on. It's the next class.

JC: I'm hoping that parents can become more educated about the trajectory that their children are on, so that they can help to limit the number of AP classes that their child will take.

Laura Gibson: As the parent of a 6th grader, I feel very uneducated about the path and options that my child will take, and those decisions need to be made now.

JC: These conversations need to be happening at the grade school or middle school level. Also, parents need to have an understanding of what colleges require. Parents can make more informed decisions if they have this knowledge earlier.

JC: Your perspective changes as your children get older. No longer do I feel the need for my child to get into the best school possible. My child needs to enroll in a school where they can excel. The example is your child being at the bottom of the best school vs. at the top of a great school.

Anne Zimmer: What is a block schedule?

JC: Longer periods so that you can study a subject for a longer amount of time, but you won't necessarily have every subject every day. Still allows for sports schedules and passing periods. The BOE is seeking additional student feedback regarding this topic.

Hilary Simonds: Have you considered asking recent York graduates for feedback?

JC: That is an excellent idea.

Casey Braun on behalf of Bev Redmond: Kindergarten registration is October 11- 25, the residency verification is to follow at the D205 office. You will soon, if you haven't already, be seeing flyers, banners, posters, Facebook posts, newspaper advertisements. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.elmhurst205.org/resources/student-registration/kindergarten-and-new-to-first-grade>

### **PTA Council Board Update**

#### **Treasurer Mindi Kaploe**

Anything with "donations" in the name is an estimate. (REACH, SERG, Scholarship) Please submit your donations as soon as possible. If you need to submit for reimbursement please send an email to Mindi and include the following information: receipt, who the check should be made out to, where the check should be sent.

Patti Berner: What is the typical turnaround time for reimbursement?

Mindi Kaploe: Typically it is 48 hours.

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 budget by Mindi Kaploe, seconded by Nicole Braun

#### **Corresponding Secretary Anne Zimmer**

Nothing to report.

#### **Recording Secretary Laura Gibson**

Nothing to report.

#### **VP Scholarship Beth Diviacchi & Kristie Szejner**

The scholarship program aims to fundraise and award ten \$1,000 scholarships to York seniors each year. Fannie Mae is no longer a good fit for fundraising, and we are looking for additional ideas. Suggestions given: Coffee fundraiser (Brew Point), additional luncheon, evening event, brunch.

We are planning on several fundraisers already including: Do It Together workshop evening on November 14 and 21, a Chicago Wolves hockey game in Jan/Feb and the Dukes Who Lunch on Feb 28 at Livia.

Casey Braun: We received a thank you note from a scholarship recipient from last year, which I will pass around the table.

#### **VP Programs Rachel Olson**

*Angst* will screen on October 28. The students will see it during the day, and support staff will be available to students that day. We are still working out the details of how this will look. The movie will screen for the community in the evening, it is apx 50 minutes, and there will be a panel of local experts for a Q & A session following the movie.

#### **President Casey Braun**

I would like to say a special thank you to Rachel for all of her hard work on programs so far this year. The author visit was awesome. Thank you to Lincoln for hosting that first superintendent coffee of the school year. I hope everyone is doing well and now that the first meeting is under our belts, I hope you are feeling more comfortable in your roles. Thank you for the insurance and fundraising information. I included a UCCA handout for tonight, we will talk more about that next month.

If you need to update your bylaws there is a procedure. If you want to make changes, then you need to appoint a committee, then the committee will present the changes to the local PTA Board, then the IL PTA representative provides approval, then the committee presents to the general membership for approval.

Suji LaBine: Is there an expiration date on bylaws?

Casey Braun: Two years from the date on the signature line.

### **Chair Positions**

#### **Reflections**

Nothing to report

### **REACH Patti Berner**

35 people attended the first REACH meeting of the year. Thank you to Sandburg for allowing us to use the maker space for our meetings. All of our REACH positions have been filled at the school level. Our next meeting is October 17 at Sandburg at 1:30 pm. We had the first of four planned informational nights. Our next nights are in November about math, and January about the appeals process. These meetings are open to ALL parents, not just REACH parents. We piloted a transition program with the help of Elmhurst College to help with the transition to high school process. A focus group will be put together to make a recommendation going forward.

### **SERG Elena Cutri**

We would like to help parents avoid the two most common pitfalls 1. Parents don't know who to go to. This is the focus of our first meeting, meet district staff, put faces with names and open the conversation. 2. Parents just don't know (what is happening) Transitions are a key component of this point. How do I make the correct decisions for my child while navigating accommodations, IEPs and 504s.

### **Summer Rec Open House Jill McCall**

Nothing to report

### **Unit Presidents Updates/Questions**

Hilary Simonds: When can fundraising items be brought to the BOE?

Casey Braun: I will have to follow up with Dr. Moyer

HS: Can we get the dates of when kids/parents chose courses? At the middle school level and the high school level?

CB: I will have to follow up with Dr. Moyer.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Phil Fernandez and seconded by Karen Sienko.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm by Casey Braun

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Gibson, Recording Secretary*