

PTA Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Attendees:

Patti Berner	Karen Stuefen	Beverly Redmond
Nicole Braun	Mindi Kaploe	Elena Cutri
Angela Bagdasarian	Hilary Simonds	Amy Sutton
Anne Zimmer	Jill McCall	Tracy Ries
Laura Wise	Gwen Eisenmenger	Carey Murphy
Michelle Huber	Casey Braun	Suji LaBine
Karen Sienko	Laura Gibson	Phil Fernandez
Kristie Szejner		

Call to order at 7:02 pm by Casey Braun

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of meeting minutes from October 2019 by Phil Fernandez and seconded by Gwen Eisenmenger

Beverly Redmond - Superintendent/District Update

Nov 7 - Dukes of Distinction, York High School 7pm

Nov 11 - Veterans Day, York 8am, Bryan 8:40 am, Churchville 2 pm

Nov 12 - Committee of the Whole Meeting 6 pm

Nov 19 - Finance Committee 5:30 pm

Nov 26 - Board of Education Meeting 7 pm

Thrive 205

Nov 18 - Community Engagement Night, Bryan 7 pm "Growing Up D205"

Subcommittees have formed (Academic, Student Services, Community Engagement, Start Times) Three Goals: Homework Policy for grades 6-12 in place for 2020-21, Study Post-Secondary opportunities in high school, study options for later start times at York.

Suji LaBine - I would like to personally invite everyone to the Churchville Veterans Day celebration, and I will save you a seat. It is a moving ceremony, involving multi-generations. We are also collecting donations to send a veteran on an Honor Flight. We are selling decals for anyone interested.

Karen Stuefen - D205 Board of Education Update

Thank you for supporting the Elmhurst Heritage Museum, thank you for supporting the Dukes of Distinction, but mostly thank you, on behalf of the Board of Education, for the newly implemented PTA donation process. It is so important for the BOE to get a "big picture" overview so that we can decide how to adjust within the district to ensure equity across the schools.

Carey Murphy: Do we still need to write up and formally request the donations that we listed on our form?

Casey Braun: Yes

CM: Can we assume that everything we listed on our form is okay from the perspective of the district?

CB: Yes, if a donation on your list was flagged you would have already been notified directly, or your principal would have been notified.

Laura Gibson: What if we have something that we would like to donate that we did not include on our original list? It just came up, and it wasn't something that we were planning to donate until just now. Can we add to our list?

CB: Yes, please modify your list and resubmit it to myself and I will get it to Dr. Moyer.

Phil Fernandez: We are going to be ready to purchase about half of the items on our list soon, is it okay to move forward with those purchases?

CB: Yes, but you must submit your request in writing, per usual practice.

Suji LaBine: Does it make sense for us to share our lists with each other?

CB: If you would like to share your list that is absolutely okay. The PTA Council will not be sharing the lists on your behalf, it is my fear that the lists would be posted online and taken out of context. If you would like to share with others, that is up to you as individual PTAs.

Anne Zimmer: Will our donation requests be part of Board Docs?

CB: Yes, once a donation is brought to the BOE and approved, then the donation will be part of Board Docs for that BOE meeting.

PTA Council Board Updates

Treasurer Mindi Kaploe

Thank you to the PTAs for submitting your dues and donations to me. There are a few schools who still need to submit, please turn them in as soon as possible.

Corresponding Secretary Anne Zimmer

Nothing to report.

Recording Secretary Laura Gibson

Nothing to report.

VP Scholarship Beth Diviacchi & Kristie Szejner

The Do It Together (DIT) workshops are coming up on November 14 (2 spots left!) and November 21 (10 spots left!). Chaperoned kids are welcome to attend this event as well, it's a great activity to do with your kids.

We will also host an evening at the Chicago Wolves game in January and the luncheon in February, more information to come soon.

We are still looking for additional fundraising ideas to help bridge the gap of the Fannie Mae fundraiser we did in the past. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them.

From the crowd: Axe throwing? Dinner event? Evening out?

VP Programs Rachel Olson (Casey Braun reporting)

We have extra *Angst* handouts from the night of the event. If you would like to link to PDFs in your newsletter, please look to the Thrive 205 website. Feedback from the *Angst* screening has been very positive. About 100 people attended. There is a feedback survey available to those who attended the screening.

President Casey Braun

Thank you to Field for hosting the most recent Superintendent Coffee. The tax-exempt certificate that we have *IS* the tax-exempt letter. (or rather there is no letter, the certificate is it!) Is there any feedback on the UCCA drive?

Casey Murphy: Was the gift card drive mentioned on the flyer that went home to families?

Casey Braun: No, the flyer had already been approved by the district prior to UCCA realizing the gift card oversight.

Laura Wise: We are promoting the food drive by class competition to ignite participation

Laura Gibson: We are drumming up donations by assigning each grade a specific item. For example, kindergarten = cereal, first grade = canned fruit, etc.

I would like to remind everyone that the PTA (and the district) has specific rules for a reason. I recently saw a flyer for an event at a school that advertised inflatables, which are not allowed. Rules, such as no inflatables, are in place to protect individuals, our PTAs, the schools, and our district as a whole. I am asking all of us to keep this in mind. I understand that it is difficult, because often times it is a volunteer chairperson who is making decisions about events. They may be simply unaware of the rule, but it is our duty to hold our volunteers accountable. I am asking everyone to please keep this in mind. Should something unmentionable happen, we will be clumped together as the “town of Elmhurst” or “District 205” and it will reflect poorly on all of us.

Chairperson Updates

Reflections (Casey Braun reporting)

Most schools have submission deadlines coming up soon. Judging at the PTA Council level will happen at 7 pm on November 18 at the Elmhurst Public Library. If anyone is interested in helping to judge, please join us that evening. Entries will be selected to advance to the county level, and they will be announced shortly after the November 18 date.

REACH Patti Berner

The math pathways presentation is scheduled for this Thursday evening at Sandburg at 7pm. All are invited to attend, and those with 6th graders may be especially interested in the presentation. Leslie Webber and Dave Beedy will provide commentary and updates. Our next quarterly meeting will focus on the REACH appeals process. Our next monthly REACH meeting will be held next Friday at 8:30am at Sandburg. There will also be continued discussion about the review of the REACH program as a whole.

SERG Elena Cutri

Our most recent meeting was attended by over 60 people, which is wonderful. New slate of admins reported on the program review from last year. Our next topic is smoothing out the transition from 8th grade to York. On November 17, the Elmhurst Public Library will screen *Intelligent Lives*.

Hilary Simonds: Do you need help advertising the middle school transition night?

Elena Curti: No thank you. We communicated the evening to all impacted families via case workers at the middle school level.

Summer Rec Open House Jill McCall

This is the 18th year of the SROH! We host this evening to educate families on summer enrichment opportunities for their children. The event is on Tuesday, February 4 from 6-8pm. We will have over 100 organizations that “table” at the event. We would like to emphasize the opportunities for older kids this year, things like internships, volunteer spots, and even employment. We are looking for volunteers on the night of the event, 90 minute shifts. Please like and share our Facebook page!

Unit Presidents Updates/Questions

Hilary Simonds: We have many events at Bryan, and I think there is a great deal of confusion about what is sponsored by the Thrive 205 campaign vs. the Elmhurst Youth Commission. Many of the events are even on back to back evenings. Is there a way to work together to eliminate the confusion?

Beverly Redmond: I sit on the advisory board for the Youth Commission, and many of the events that are happening this fall were scheduled long before Thrive 205 began. We (D205) are working with them and alongside them to streamline our programming. We also know that Bryan is a wonderful host to many other organizations, we would like to keep those relationships while limiting the number of events at Bryan.

Laura Gibson: We had a PTA board meeting Edison this afternoon, and we are starting to think about how our PTA will join Lincoln’s PTA while the Lincoln kids are attending Edison. Will there be a committee formed to help the PTA’s through this process? Field, Bryan, and Hawthorne should be included in the conversation because they will be impacted as well.

Beverly Redmond: Yes, we will be starting those conversations next semester. Look for information about that after Winter Break.

Phil Fernandez: I would like to share that Livia is doing Eat & Earns, they give 10% back.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Karen Sienko and seconded by Mindi Kapole.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm by Casey Braun

Respectfully submitted by Laura Gibson, Recording Secretary