

York High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
December 14, 2020 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Welcome – Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM. In attendance: Beth Concannon, Nicole Braun, Mimi Black, Dr. Bagdasarian, Jodi Pinkerton, Diane Maxeiner, Lara Stavridis, Angela Bagdasarian, Paula Ciccarone, Robin Pelchut-Boling, Daniell Bauer, Wendee Reedy, Kate Foley, Diane Rosenthal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Principal's Report – Dr. Bagdasarian

Racist Video:

Wants to first address the racist video issue, specifically how it is that the school has any jurisdiction/say in what happens, since it was not at school. Even if not on a school device or at the school, still disturbing/upsetting to many students (and parents). Many students and parents contacted Dr. Bagdasarian with concerns, and there were 15 quick tips regarding the video, as well. Keep in mind that the York Parents FB page is NOT a place for any official York response, and doesn't want to shame anyone, but wants people to know that the school is addressing and that's why he sent the email about it. As for how the school is able to weigh in, page 39 of the Student Handbook regards the electronic communication policy, noting that the use of an electronic device that causes disruption or is used for bullying or harassment, etc. can be penalized; also, page 46 addresses bullying, and states that school can intervene when bullying causes disruption. Dr. Bagdasarian was adamant that York wants all students to feel welcome and comfortable in the building.

Second Semester Schedule:

Met with students, parents, teachers and administrators to talk about possible changes to the second semester schedule, with an eye toward increasing instructional minutes, while maintaining the same general structure as it allows for shifts between hybrid and remote as necessary. Many parents expressed a concern that there wasn't enough classroom time, so now Wednesday classes are increasing from 30 to 45 minutes, and added 5 minutes to all other classes, for a new total of 1560 minutes/week instructional time. Looked at doing a late start on Wednesday, but it just doesn't work. M, T, TH & F dismissal now will be 12:55 (due to added 5 minutes/class)

One parent asked whether a break could be incorporated into the day for making lunch; Dr. Bagdasarian suggested perhaps making lunch ahead of time, such as in the morning or night before

Beth commented that she appreciates that an effort was made to listen to parents' feedback regarding the amount of instructional time, and in fact increasing it. Dr. Bagdasarian did notice that upperclassmen in particular mentioned Zoom fatigue, which he understands, but noted that this extra time can also be used help teachers have a connection with students, and allows for deeper learning

Other:

One parent suggested better publicizing of the COVID testing survey so that more parents respond; another parent noted that the survey doesn't include much in the way of details and she knows people who don't want to reply "Yes, we will participate" without knowing whether they will be ABLE to participate, timing-wise. Concern that they won't be able to turn in surveys at the prescribed time (as there was little to no information provided about that). Dr. Bagdasarian noted that this is more of a district issue, but he will see if he can find out more about it.

4. October 19, 2020 Minutes

Wendee Reedy made a motion to approve, seconded, approved.

5. Treasurer's Report – Lara Stavridis

- there are a few more memberships and Fair Share donations
- note that while membership numbers are down, that means the corresponding IL PTA dues expense is also down
- we received a matching donation from a parent's employer
- taxes have been completed and filed

6. President's Report – Beth Concannon

A. PTA Council Update

It was a very long meeting, lots of discussion about return to in-person learning; Dr. Moyer has a steering committee that met, and there was discussion about adding parents to the committee; Michelle Huber, PTA Council President, will be the parent rep on the committee.

School Board President Kara Caforio also was present and she reminded everyone that D205 mobilizes 10,000+ people when we go back to school (many more students than at the parochial schools in town); just remember it's a huge process with lots of people.

Bev Redmond reminded everyone that they have done lots of work on Thrive 205 and there is a lot of mental health information available on the website.

The UCCA virtual food drive was a success, as was the pop-up food pantry at EYFP.

7. Membership – Kate Foley, Wendee Reedy, Diane Rosenthal

Wendee reported that she will wait until the new year to send a mass membership reminder email.

Kate noted that we have 545 members, up about 17 since last meeting; can join anytime throughout the year.

8. Chair Reports

A. Academic Committee – Mimi Black

Have had two AC meetings, one with Adam Roubitchek, Asst Principal for Curriculum, and the other was the 8th grade parents Q&A, which went quite well, able to answer many questions of many 8th grade parents; Zoom format worked well for it.

Coming up: Life After York coming up February 21, 2021 – aimed primarily at parents of juniors/seniors, provides useful information about college and other post-graduation options, as well as other helpful tidbits; AC seeks parents of York grads to run sessions, as well as other volunteers to help monitor chat rooms (will be a virtual event this year); also seeking a person or persons to shadow Jenn Toffler this year so can take over from her next year. Contact Mimi, Jenn Toffler or Amy Thompson if interested in helping in any of these ways.

B. Newsletter – Danielle Bauer

Even though no January meeting, Danielle still plans to put out a newsletter, as there always seems to be something to go out; noted that she asks for information early so that she has time to have it translated before publishing; Beth noted that there is an AC meeting on 1/8, so Danielle said she will request info before the end of the year so she can get newsletter out prior to the AC meeting.

C. Webmaster – Casey Braun – not in attendance

D. Life After York – Jenn Toffler – not in attendance (see section 8(A) Academic Committee above for info)

E. World Language Honor Society Hospitality – Jen Baxa – not in attendance

Beth noted that if this happens, will likely be remote

F. Summer Receptions Open House – Paula Ciccarone

Date: February 2; appears the event will be remote in some form, though details are still being worked out, consulting with the camps to see whether there is interest, etc.

G. Scholarship Rep – Teri Ford - not in attendance

Beth Concannon reporting: cookie dough fundraiser was a big success; there will be another fundraiser in the spring.

H. Spring Testing Day – Mimi Black

TBD

I. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – TBD

J. Academic/Athletic Awards Night Hospitality – Jen Baxa – not in attendance

TBD

K. Duke Decision Day – Jodi Pinkerton

She has met with last year's chairs and will meet with Amy Thompson in the new year; hoping to be able to do something in-person; Mimi said that she has the pens that were supposed to be handed out last year for Jodi to use this year.

L. Senior Picnic – Val Curry – not in attendance

TBD; Kate Foley noted that there is a graduation planning committee created by Drew McGuire that may also have input into any senior event

M. Post-Prom Volunteer Coordinator – TBD

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. New Business

Danielle Bauer inquired about graduation – Nicole Braun and Kate Foley discussed the graduation planning committee a little more, noted that the student committee members were great, very thoughtful, had good ideas; hopefully with more time to plan than last year, the committee will be able to come up with something meaningful but that still complies with all COVID-related limitations.

11. Adjournment

Kate Foley moved to adjourn at 7:53 PM; seconded; adjourned.

Next meeting February 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.