

York High School PTSA
General Membership Meeting
February 8, 2021
7:00 PM via Zoom

Minutes

1. Call to Order & Welcome: meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

In attendance: Beth Concannon, Nicole Braun, Lara Stavridis, Drew McGuire, Teri Ford, Casey Braun, Diane Fine, Kate Foley, Wendee Reedy, Mary Seavoy, Paula Ciccarone, Mimi Black

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Principal's Report – Drew McGuire, Asst. Principal

A. End of year activities and PTSA support request

Drew reported that they are working on senior end of year activities. Hoping that COVID numbers continue to improve, allowing for some senior activities in the spring

Graduation:

Graduation committee has met a couple of times, committee includes a nice cross-section of students, some senior parents, a couple of senior parents/faculty; there is a plan for in-person graduation, details TBD; goal is to have every senior walk the stage; challenge is of course the size of the event, will most likely be outside to accommodate more people

Prom:

Was scheduled for Crystal Gardens this year, but that has been cancelled; Drew stated that he feels that York's prom is one of the best, even compared to other West Suburban Conference schools, with the dance, then post-prom boat event; obviously none of that will happen this year, but hope to provide an alternative for this year's seniors

Been meeting with student council seniors, they have indicated that the kids just want to get dressed up and be with their friends

Planning for outdoors, because too many limitations indoors; would have to have, for instance, 50 kids in south gym, 50 in commons, 50 in field house, etc.; tentatively planning to do on the track around the football field, as the track is being replaced this summer, so doesn't matter if it gets damaged from heels, etc.

May try to sort of merge the Senior Picnic with Prom, with raffles and the like that would typically be at the picnic being held at prom, instead (concern by some about handing items out at Prom – people won't want to carry stuff, etc.); make sure every student gets raffle tickets/is entered in raffle, as in past

Will be looking for monetary support as well as general parent help putting event together, not sure yet what that help will look like

Some asked for sit-down dinner, but not likely due to weather concerns, having assigned seating, etc. Plus York doesn't do sit-down dinner even in typical years. He would like this to be more like the MSI prom, where the students are spread out throughout the museum, have them strolling to different areas so that no giant groups together all in one space.

Tentatively planning seniors only, York students only

Maybe goody bags? Again, do the kids want to carry a bag at prom, or better to pick up at senior checkout? Or at least pick up at end of evening so don't have to carry around (raffles, too, if doing at Prom)

Planning on DJ, but everyone dancing together is a concern, with COVID limitations to gatherings

Date: currently planning for Saturday 5/15, with potential rain date of Sunday 5/16; last day for seniors supposed to be 5/14 but that is not 100% certain yet for this year

Planning to show senior video at Prom (it is typically shown to just seniors ahead of graduation)

Duke Decision Day:

Teri Ford inquired whether anything being planned for Duke Decision Day, Drew said that they would like to do something in-person this year, perhaps in the stadium; will do Instagram again this year, as well

Senior Yard Signs:

Drew would like every senior who wants one to get a free York grad yard sign; spoke to Athletic Boosters, which is willing to help coordinate, but wondering whether PTSA might be able to help with cost; \$4.75/each. Administration possibly will need assistance with sign distribution, as well; people thought maybe have them ready about one month before graduation; Nicole Braun made a motion to re-allocate \$3500 of the \$22,000 budgeted for post-prom for senior yard signs, seconded, motion passed.

Senior Awards Night:

Will try to do something in-person, though might do athletics and academics separately; details TBD

Scholarship Night:

Would also like to figure out how to do this; possibly would have to be students only, no parents; details TBD

Wendee Reedy inquired whether the school will break students into groups of 50 for Prom; Drew indicated that by doing it outside he is hoping that formal groups won't be necessary, that the students will sort of stroll along to different stations, not congregate in one spot all together; also noted that the event won't be super long because he doubts that it will hold the students' attention that long; this would enable them to perhaps plan dinner or other gatherings for afterward; Paula Ciccarone noted that

perhaps restaurants in town could have deals for students to encourage them to eat at/carry-out from in-town restaurants

B. During PTA Council the middle school presidents requested some type of on-site visit for incoming 8th graders

4. Secretary – Nicole Braun

Approval of December 14, 2020 Minutes: Kate Foley moved to approve the 12/14/20 minutes; seconded; approved.

5. Treasurer's Report – Lara Stavridis

Very little in the way of change since last meeting; a few more members, and two expenses (\$10 State of Illinois annual report and \$250 for Foundation 205 Gala);

Lara noted that we have \$22,000 budgeted for post-prom, plus \$2000 for a winter dance that will not be used, so at least \$24,000 that we can dip into to help pay for end-of-year senior activities; note that \$3500 was allocated to senior yard signs, as noted in Section 3 above

6. President's Report – Beth Concannon

A. PTA Council Meeting update

Beth stayed for two hours of the meeting and they were only half way through the agenda at that time; Dr. Moyer spoke, as well as Kara Caforio, school board president; she then answered many questions

Discussion of possibility of K-5 going back full-time (they have changed spacing from 6 feet to 3 feet, which might make it feasible); hybrid continuing at the HS level at this time

Middle School parents noted that 8th grade students would like an opportunity to visit York; Beth reported that Dr. Bagdasarian indicated that the administration will work something out, perhaps on a weekend

7. Vice Presidents of Membership Report – Kate Foley, Wendee Reedy, Diane Rosenthal (not in attendance)

Kate Foley reported that a few more members have trickled in, not much activity

8. Chair Reports

A. Academic Committee – Mimi Black

B. Newsletter – Danielle Bauer

C. Webmaster - Casey Braun

D. Life After York – Jenn Toffler

E. World Language Honor Society Hospitality – Jen Baxa

F. Summer Recreation Open House – Paula Ciccarone

Virtual SROH was held and it went well, with several rooms set up on Zoom where parents could visit camps; SROH 205 Facebook page has the directory of all camps, plus may indicate which camps are hiring HS students; NHS students helped out as always, assisting attendees with Zoom issues, and visiting rooms, as well

G. Scholarship Rep – Teri Ford

H. Spring Testing Day – Mimi Black

I. Teacher Appreciate Breakfast – TBA

J. Academic/Athletic Award Night Hospitality – Jen BAxa

K. Duke Decision Day – Jodi Pinkerton

L. Senior Picnic – Val Curry

Kate Foley suggested letting Val know that Senior Picnic activities may be incorporated into Prom, will look different this year, details TBD; Beth indicated that should would let Val know

M. Post Prom Volunteer Coordinator – TBA

9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business/Questions

11. Adjournment – Kate Foley made a motion to adjourn, seconded, approved; Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

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