

York High School PTSA Meeting
September 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Minutes

1. Call to Order & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Beth welcomed everyone. In attendance: Beth Concannon, Dr. Shahe Bagdasarian, Suzanne Wilcox, Katerina Hickey, Lara Stavridis, Susan Larrick, Hilary Simonds, Kristin Whitehurst, Mimi Black, Casey Braun, Beth Hosler, Renee Pas, Christine Simonis, Deanne Mazzochi, Stacey Roginski, Julie Vacko, Wendy Reedy, Jodi Pinkerton and Jen Baxa.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions

4. Principal's Report – Dr. Shahe Bagdasarian

- A. Even with the challenges and all in masks, happy to have students back in person full time.
- B. Next week is Homecoming week. There will be events throughout the week such as hall decorating then the game on Friday and the celebration on 9/25. The Homecoming celebration will be a safe opportunity to gather with dancing outside, a sno-cone machine. Activities and games (like at Prom) will take place in the Fieldhouse. The rain plan is to move the dancing to the Commons. Tickets are being sold for \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Guests are allowed; however, a signed guest form is needed.
- C. From an academic perspective, staff is working to keep the rigor strong. One benefit of being back in person is that the kids can be supported academically, emotionally and socially. Saturday Success Academy is available to students to get extra help if needed. Students may sign up if interested.
- D. The Principal's Advisory Council has both student and parent committees that meet with Shahe once a month to keep lines of communication open especially as we transition back to in person learning.
- E. There was a brief discussion on the issue of kids sitting on the floor during lunch periods. Today, the staff started spreading the kids out with freshman and sophomores using the Commons to eat and upperclassmen using the Fieldhouse. They chose not to allow the kids outside to eat due to the safety concerns with the construction and traffic in front of the building.
- F. Dr. Bagdasarian's newsletter will come out every other week with a new podcast coming out as well every other week. The podcast will be about ten minutes in length and will highlight school staff or students.
- G. Mimi inquired about the protocol for celebrating Students of the Month on the website and was directed to contact Drew McGuire for direction.

- H. The first Connections (formerly Academic Committee) meeting will be on Friday at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. The meetings will be recorded and posted to the PTSA website within 24-48 hours.
- I. Parent/Teach conferences will have both an in-person and Zoom options this year in October. More information is forthcoming soon.
- J. Shadow days for parochial school kids will not be allowed this year; however, on 11/2 there will be a Curriculum Night for families which will focus more on academics while a more fun 8th grade activity night will be planned again for the spring.

5. Approval of Minutes

Lara Stavridis made a motion to approve the May minutes; seconded; approved

6. Treasurer's Report – Lara Stavridis

- Lara recognized the audit committee for their help
- She made a move to adopt audit report; seconded; adopted
- We have \$14,224.12 in the account
- Projected \$36,000 will come in from membership and FairShare. If we don't hit projected income, then we'll adjust the budget (eliminate expenditures) or get creative with some new fundraising ideas. Total expenses are projected to be \$46,940.
- Generally, the budgets are conservative. We are currently projecting a carry forward of \$3,284.11 and that is lower than usual.
- Post Prom transportation is a large budget item. The senior yard signs were a larger budget item as well. This will be an expense that could be eliminated if needed. Having students pay for the signs and having an option to contribute extra to cover those who can't afford them is a possibility.
- Two items that have been added to the proposed budget are support for National Tech Honor Society as well as support for EL programs which had been underrepresented in the past.
- We received \$1,165 in donations for the Back-to-School Bash and expenses were only \$500. We did not ask for donations for the Open House so extra money from the bash will offset the costs there.
- Lara made a motion to adopt the budget; seconded; adopted

7. President's Report – Beth Concannon

- A. PTA Council Meeting – all school PTA/PTSAs will need to inform PTA Council of budget and they will be presented to the Board of Education. To ensure equality across the schools, the Board will be involved in guiding spending. Middle and elementary schools will likely be more affected by this. If any PTAs want to have inflatables as school events, for insurance reasons, they will need to jump through hoops to make it happen. The new superintendent has asked PTA Council to submit any questions prior to the Council meeting. The following questions were raised:

What is the expectation for communicating in more than one language? What is happening with curriculum review or what is the recommended path for parents to inquire about it other than the Connections committee? Email Beth prior to each Council meeting if you have other questions.

- B. Vacant Chair Positions – there are still quite a few vacant chair positions. We especially need a by-laws chair to pull a committee together to review. The vacant positions are listed on the website. She will work on putting together a blurb for each as some dates are finalized so that potential volunteers know timeframe and expectations. Many of the hospitality positions are just working on food (no cake) and beverages but this will need to be addressed with Drew McGuire due to potential COVID restrictions.
8. Vice Presidents of Membership Report – Wendee Reedy, Julie Vacko, Tracy Bianchi; Wendee and Julie reported that there are 588 single members with \$22,750 or 63% of needed budget raised to date. Currently, York has 2,714 students. They will continue to update the website and encourage membership. Julie created a half sheet w/QR code which was passed out at the football game and used at Open House. Julie can print more if anyone is interested.
9. Chair Reports
- A. Newsletter – Amanda Tolman was unable to attend so Beth reported that the translator was able to turn around the newsletter quickly. Information for next newsletter is due on 10/4 by noon to the shared folder.
 - B. Co-Website Chairs – Casey Braun and Kate Faulk – Please provide any information that you would like to have posted on the website to Casey Braun. Casey and Mimi will meet separately to discuss integrating Connections’ communications on with the website.
 - C. Connections – Mimi Black reported the link for the Zoom meeting on Friday will be posted. Let Mimi know if there any persons on interest to speak at Connections meetings. Friday morning meeting time works best for faculty that typically speak but now we can record and share the meetings which will be more convenient for interested parents.
 - D. Back to School Bash – Wendee Reedy reported that the initial Back to School Bash went well. Drew McGuire asked for our help along with Athletic Boosters and the Foundation. All got together to buy food and received a bunch of donations. Young Hearts for Life was promoted, King of the Couch groups and the band added to the fun atmosphere. Mostly freshman and sophomores attended. School was also open later for students to walk their schedules. Recommendations for next year if school decides to hold again: a shorter two-hour window; let people know well in advance.
 - E. Open House Teacher Dinner – Beth Concannon and Katerina Hickey reported that DiLeo’s was fantastic to work with and provided a great value. Faculty and staff enjoyed.
 - F. Young Hearts for Life – Courtnae Trautman was unable to attend so Beth reported that this is a free screening for all students who sign up. It will be held on 9/30. Still

need 205 volunteers; currently have 95. 846 students are registered which is 70% of the goal.

- G. Parent/Teacher Conferences Teacher Dinner/Breakfast – Christine Simonis reported that buffets are allowed again. She’s deciding what to serve but is hoping for individually wrapped items in a buffet style. It was decided that breakfast is not necessary, but we’ll provide lunch and dinner. She will decide on asking for donations either cash donations or specific items.
- H. Life After York seminar will be 2/28/22 Jodi Pinkerton reported that Jen Toffler is working to transition to another parent who has a freshman. Presentation is expected to be a hybrid of virtual and in-person in hopes of reaching more parents.

10. New Business

We discussed the possibility of having a Social Media Chair as well as several possibilities for who might be able to fill the position. Kristin Whitehurst and the other York Parents FB page administrators already do post some PTSA information. Having a social media chair would require a concerted effort as well as regular content so we decided to table the issue at this time.

11. Adjournment

Beth once again thanked everyone for attending.

Lara motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 and Casey seconded.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021.