

PTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2024
Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wasko
Aaron Wasserman
Lisa Bomengo
Michelle Stricchiola
Carmen Camean
Rob Camean
Darrin Stark
Michael Anderson
George Dakak
Maria Carrell
Linda Fritschy-Oakes
Gloria Fulman-Lateiner
Karolyn Montesano
Jaclyn Layman
Christina Cronkite

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 1) Welcome
 - a. Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM.
 - b. Mr. Wasko, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2) 2024-2025 District Calendar for Pupils and Staff
 - a. Mr. Wasko reviewed the status of this year's school calendar as they pertain to the emergency closing days we've utilized.
 - b. As of now, the tentative last day of school is Thursday, June 20th.
 - c. Mr. Wasko highlighted the different options we may consider in the event we need to use more than one additional emergency closing day.
 - d. Once we "clear" the winter season, the Board will set the year-end calendar
 - e. Mr. Wasko reminded the group that the calendar is always updated on the district website.

- 3) Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC Monitoring)
 - a. Mr. Wasko highlighted the many steps that occurred in the process:
 - i. QSAC Facilities Visit on Thursday, November 16, 2023.
 - ii. BOE approved the DPRs in December 2023.
 - iii. DPR Evidence was uploaded and submitted to the DOE in January 2024.

- iv. NJDOE QSAC Summary Conference on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.
- b. While it has been an involved process, we are looking for positive results.

4) Enrollment

a. Enrollment

- i. Mr. Wasko provided updates on the current enrollments in each of the schools and mentioned that our numbers have been “status quo.”
- ii. Mr. Wasko shared that we have had some recent enrollments from 34 Eden Lane.
- iii. We have seen a decrease in the temporary enrollments from the hotels
- iv. Mr. Wasko and Mrs. Wolsky meet regularly with the township to discuss updates on property redevelopments.

5) Recreation Updates

a. Mr. Wasko provided an update that was shared from Denise Brennan and Tom Quirk from the recreation department. These items include:

- i. Township Fishing Contest and Touch a Truck on April 27, 2024.
- ii. Summer Camp Registration Opens on March 4, 2024.
 - 1. Summer Plus
 - 2. Traveling Teens
 - 3. Wildcat Specialty Camps
- iii. Bee Meadow Pool Registration Opens on March 6, 2024.
 - 1. Pool Opens on Friday, May 24, 2024
- iv. Patriotic Celebration w/ Fireworks on July 1, 2024 (rain date- July 2, 2024)

6) Curriculum Updates

a. Aaron Wasserman provided the following information and updates on the curriculum:

- i. The new ELA and Math standards were recently released. We will be working to realign the curriculum to meet the new standards and looking at the resources.
- ii. Professional development is ongoing with the staff and includes:
 - 1. Math Coaching with 25 teachers in grades 3-8
 - 2. February Professional Development Day
 - a. Jim Stroker for elementary school teachers
 - b. Data analysis for middle school teachers

7) PTA & School Updates

a. Regional High School School District - Maria Carrell

- i. The high school calendar, including next year's, is posted on their website. While the official last day of school is yet to be determined, the Whippany Park High School Graduation will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

- ii. Final preparation and practices are occurring for the upcoming Spring Musical, Freaky Friday. Performances will take place February 22-24, 2024.
 - iii. The high school seniors are receiving college acceptances. The graduating class has been accepted at numerous elite schools, which is a testament to the solid educational foundation that is provided across both of our districts.
- b. Memorial Junior School - Michael Anderson
 - i. Mr. Anderson provided an update on the TREP\$ Marketplace, which took place back on January 24th. The event was a success and well attended. Looking forward to next year. Mr. Anderson also shared information about 8th grade year-end activities and preparing for the transition to the high school.
 - ii. Mr. Anderson shared that the MJS PTA is in the process of scheduling monthly fundraisers with Whippany Pizzeria in order to fund the year-end scholarships presented for the 8th grade and 12th grade.
- c. Mountview Road School - Carmen Camean and Christine Conkrite
 - i. Mrs. Camean provided an update on the Kindergarten transition, which includes the Meet & Greet, Registration, Screening, and Open House. These events create excitement as we welcome families to our schools.
 - ii. Mrs. Cronkrite highlighted some of the events coordinated by the PTA, including providing snacks for the end of the marking period, the magic show at MJS, grade level assemblies, the talent show, and the color run in May.
- d. Bee Meadow School - Darrin Stark and Lynda Fritschy-Oakes
 - i. Mr. Stark focused his update on the grade-level shows that are occurring in each of the elementary schools. The music teachers and students begin their preparations in January and will perform their shows at some point during the months of February - June.
 - ii. Mrs. Fritschy-Oakes shared that Super Saturday at BMS was well attended. The BMS PTA is conducting a coin battle to raise funds. They are also working on plans for author day, the talent show, Bingo for Books, a Leap Day surprise, field trips, and year-end activities.
- e. Salem Drive School - Roberto Camean and Jaclyn Layman
 - i. Mr. Camean highlighted the success of the district-wide "Soup"er Bowl food drive. As a district, we collected and donated over 5000 food items through this great character education initiative. Mr. Camean also shared information about the One District, One Book initiative in the elementary schools.

- ii. Mrs. Layman shared that the SDS PTA has been working on coordinating an author visit, planning fun events for the staff, and helping with the installation of the gaga pit. Additionally, the SDS PTA was able to help with bringing back the pretzel program.
- 8) "Teacher Recognition" & "Excellence in Service" Programs
 - a. Mr. Camean shared that the program is coming up soon. A letter from Mr. Wasko is forthcoming before the end of the month, via SwiftK12 notification, and will invite parents and students to nominate staff members. The committee will convene in April to read letters and vote for recipients. Winners will be announced in person at the beginning of May and honored at the Board of Education meeting in May.
- 9) Spring 2024 NJSLA Assessments
 - a. Mr. Stark provided updates on the upcoming testing window, including:
 - i. NJSLA beginning the week of April 29, 2024.
 - 1. Staff training will take place at the March 4 Faculty Meeting
 - ii. WIDA testing for ELL starting before the end of February.
- 10) BOE Meeting Dates:
 - a. Regular Board of Education meeting on February 27, 2024
 - b. Special Board of Education meeting to discuss the preliminary budget (TBD- Early March)
- 11) "For the Good of the Order"
 - a. Mrs. Bomengo initiated dialogue about the various outreach programs and fundraising initiatives that many of the PTAs are coordinating.
 - b. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024.