

PTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
May 15, 2024
Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Michael Wasko
Aaron Wasserman
Vanessa Wolsky
Lisa Bomengo
Michelle Stricchiola
Carmen Camean
Rob Camean
Darrin Stark
Michael Anderson
George Dakak
Chris Kelly
Denise Brennan
Christina Cronkite
Linda Fritschy-Oakes
Gloria Fulman-Lateiner
Jaclyn Layman

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 1) Welcome
 - a. Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.
 - b. Mr. Wasko, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an update on the paving project on Reynolds Avenue.

- 2) Enrollment/Staffing (September 2024):
 - a. Mr. Wasko provided real-time updates on current enrollments across the district.
 - b. Information was shared about the negative 8th grade replacement rate and staffing implications at Memorial Junior School.
 - c. Mr. Wasko noted that the most recent demographic report has been accurate and enrollments have been consistent.
 - d. For staffing, screenings, interviews, and demo lessons are taking place for open district positions.

- 3) 2024-2025 District Budget
 - a. The district budget was presented and approved at the April Board of Education Meeting.

4) Parks & Recreation Updates

- a. Denise Brennan provided the following Recreation Department Events/Updates:
 - i. 5/29 - Distracted Drivers Program (Part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign).
 - ii. 6/1 - Community Fishing Contest.
 - iii. 6/7 - Kickoff to the Summer Concert Series @ Bee Meadow Pool.
 - iv. 7/1 - Patriotic Celebration @ the Municipal Complex (Rain date 7/2).
 - v. Summer Camp is full.
 - vi. The Recreation Department is doing a Bathing Suit and Goggle Drive.

5) Curriculum Updates

- a. Aaron Wasserman provided the following information and updates on the curriculum:
 - i. Thank you to the PTAs for all their work and for supporting the students of our schools.
 - ii. The ELA & Math Departments will complete summer curriculum work to implement updated state standards.
 - iii. LLI training is taking place for the special education teachers across the district.

6) District Assessments

- a. Darrin Stark provided the following information and updates on the district testing:
 - i. NJSLA is nearly complete aside from a few housekeeping items.
 - ii. Overall, testing went smoothly and there were no technical issues.

7) PTA & School Updates

- a. Regional High School School District - Chris Kelly
 - i. This time of the year is always busy with many year-end events, such as prom, AP exams, spring concerts, sports playoffs, senior awards, and graduation.
 - ii. Students have been hearing back with college acceptances. Mr. Kelly shared that the success of the high school students is a culmination of all of the hard work that started back when the students were in elementary school.
 - iii. The Senior Service Program is about to get underway and will provide students with the opportunity to learn in an internship-like environment for the remainder of the year.
- b. Memorial Junior School - Michael Anderson
 - i. Mr. Anderson shared highlights from the 8th Grade vs. Faculty Volleyball Tournament, which is a fundraiser for the Maji Movement. The faculty

team from Salem Drive School won the tournament. Nine teams of students participated.

- ii. MJS students participated in the state-level Technology Student Association (TSA) state conference. 20 students placed and qualified to participate in the national conference, which is taking place in Orlando in June.
- iii. Mr. Anderson shared an update from the MJS PTA, which included some information on fundraising, sponsorship of 8th grade/12 grade graduation awards, and upcoming PTA Officer openings.

c. Mountview Road School - Carmen Camean and Christina Conkrite

- i. Mrs. Camean provided an update on the elementary school music program. Concerts are upcoming. The music department is also working to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the different instruments in the bands and recruiting students to participate next year.
- ii. Mrs. Cronkrite highlighted the success of the recently-held Color Run, which involved many students and parents. It was a great community event. She also discussed the upcoming pool party that Mr. Pomel will DJ.

d. Bee Meadow School - Darrin Stark and Lynda Fritschy-Oakes

- i. Mr. Stark highlighted the many year-end activities taking place at each of the elementary schools, including class picnics, kindergarten orientation, and 5th grade celebrations.
- ii. Mrs. Fritschy-Oakes highlighted staff appreciation week, their support of grade-level field trips, the school agenda books, and the upcoming ribbon cutting for the new benches at BMS.

e. Salem Drive School - Roberto Camean and Jaclyn Layman

- i. Mr. Camean shared information about the upcoming School Fun Days. These days incorporate friendly competition and fun for the students while still focusing on the importance of the Pillars of Character.
- ii. Mrs. Layman discussed the elections taking place within the SDS PTA that will take place at their final meeting of the year. She also shared they would be supporting SDS Fun Day and planning a pool party w/ ice cream truck.

8) Summer Programs:

- a. Mr. Wasko shared information about the following Summer Programs in our district:
 - i. Planning for Extended School Year is underway and will take place from June 24 - August 2.
 - ii. HTSACC Summer Camp will take place from June 24 - August 16. This year they will be expanding camp offerings and included targeted camp experiences, such as foods or sports.

9) Board of Education Special Presentations

- a. Mr. Wasko shared that at the upcoming Board of Education meeting in May, students will be honored for their success in the TSA. Additionally, the Teacher of the Year and the Excellence in Service award winners will be honored and recognized at the May Board of Education meeting.

10) "For the Good of the Order"

- a. Mrs. Bomengo provided an update on the Superintendent search. At this point, they have closed the resume window, have screened all resumes submitted, and selected a number of candidates for first round interviews.
- b. Mr. Wasko provided an update on the School Climate Survey, which is currently being revised and will be distributed soon.
- c. Mr. Wasko provided an update on end-of-year dates:
 - i. 6/18 & 6/19 will be early dismissal days.
 - ii. 6/18 will be the day of the 8th grade graduation.
 - iii. 6/19 is the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year.
- d. Mr. Wasko ended the meeting with a thank you to the PTA and for everyone he has had the opportunity to work with during his 26 years of service to the district. Mr. Wasko shared that he is proud, fortunate, and grateful for the success of our district and acknowledged that our PTAs have helped move us forward.
- e. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.