



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PTA Advisory Meeting - Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 10am
MJS IMC

Attendance:

Claudia Bono
Darrin Stark
Lauren O'Keefe
Laura Palumbo
Lisa Bomengo
Rosie Miskowicz

Linda Oakes
Michelle Stricchiola
George Dakak
Aaron Wasserman
Justin Toomey
Michael Anderson

Jacob Ziegler
Carmen Camean
Christopher Kelly
Sherry Koeppen
Jaclyn Layman
Dr. Edward Izbicki
Rob Camean

Started @ 10:15am

- Welcome & Introductions
 - Went around the table and provided each member an opportunity to introduce themselves.
 - Had each member share a celebration about the start of the school year.
- Community Updates & Happenings
 - Board of Education
 - Lisa Bomengo shared that we have committee meetings next week and the board meeting on 10/29.
 - She reiterated the excitement about the Seeing Eye initiative
 - Really excited about new innovative ideas and new things coming into the district
 - Many other things being worked on behind the scenes
 - Recreation
 - Justin Toomey shared for Denise Brennan that the Mayors Wellness Committee is planning a “Masquerade at Malapardis” on Saturday,



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10/26, and kickball event for students in Grades 3-5 on Friday, 12/6

- Flyers will be sent out in the Friday Community Backpack
- WPHS & HPRSD
 - Chris Kelly shared that people can find out more about happenings through their social media and Facebook page
 - There is a social media club made of up students
 - School pays for students in Grades 10 and 11 to take the PSAT
 - Based on the results there is a way to sync with Khan Academy to provide targeted support
 - The reason the school pays for juniors to take PSATs is because they can be recognized as a Merit Scholar
 - Frequently, those students that do well take advantage of those resources
 - Many college visits, especially post-Covid
 - Reps will come from the universities/schools
 - i.e. NJIT, Gettysburg, UMASS, FDU, Villanova, Princeton, Alabama
 - Rep will meet with student at WP
 - College Fair is next week at WP and other schools are invited to join
 - Colleges and trade schools attend and students are encouraged to check out their possible opportunities
 - It's all about making those connections - advocating that students take advantage of these
 - Tomorrow night is a football game
 - Certain players are honoring certain teachers
 - Hanover Tigers will line up
 - Last home game, they honored veterans
 - Monument at the base of the field with part of the World Trade Center and angels that are in memory of Chris Cosgrove who died in active duty in Iraq
 - On Veterans Day or any holiday, to make sure students go see the monument
 - This is Spirit Week for Week of Respect and today's Spirit Day is "Dressing Day"



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- Points are tallied and the students are competing for the “Cats Cup”
 - Pep Rally tomorrow and a home game at night
 - WP Open House is now open to Grades 6-8
 - This year’s event is October 30 at 6pm
 - Tours will be available to families and students
 - Clubs, Sports, representatives will be in the gym
 - Curricular offerings i.e. AP courses, dual credit courses
 - Grade 8 Move up Day in June

- District Updates & Happenings

- Superintendent

- Reviewed and highlighted district goals
- Encouraged everyone to check out the presentation on the district website under the “Board Presentations” section
- Emphasized the excitement of being back in Hanover Township as Superintendent and thanked everyone for their partnership

- Curriculum & Instruction

- We are here to support the children first but we are growing children and we are growing teachers
- Focused on meaningful professional development for the teachers, thanks to the principals to help make sure teachers are all on the same page
- Fountas & Pinnell Guided Reading Coaching Grades K-2
- Dr. Milou Math Coaching - rolling out in Grades K-2 and supporting Grades 3-5
- MLL (Multilingual learning) Session with Dr. Solange-Murphy from TCNJ
- LinkIt! - adopted a data platform that tracks student data that helps students make informed decision about the data they have - there will be a presentation
- Many exciting initiatives!



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- Special Education
 - Experiencing monitoring next month - NJDOE comes in and makes sure we're dotting all of our 'i's' and crossing our 't's'
 - It will give us outcomes to be able to "brag" and also develop some meaningful action plans
 - 5-year cycle - doing all we can to meet the needs of our kids
 - Also, covers 504s and McKinney-Vento - homeless numbers seem to be growing
 - More celebrations to come!

 - Business Administrator
 - It is important that we can pay for everything that you're hearing about
 - Everything funnels to not only the superintendent but also the Business Administrator
 - It's a "new" district because most of the central office is new except for Mr. Wasserman
 - Principals are now getting their monthly financial reports - showing them
 - Mr. Toomey highlighted District Goal #4 - modernizing Central Office with automating purchase order process
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- School Updates & Happenings
 - BMS & PTA
 - Mr. Stark (Principal) shared about *Week of Respect* and this week celebrates our Character Education with 6 Pillars of Character
 - Each school has Spirit Week
 - BMS did a "Kindness Walk" with kind messages of sidewalk chalk
 - *Quest for Kindness* program happening in all schools this week
 - Unique program where kids are on a quest through interactive activities and challenges to learn the keys of kindness i.e. manage stress, solve problems, manage emotions
 - 6 Characters



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- All schools are TRFCC to represent all pillars
 - Embedded throughout curriculum and embedded in the daily living of our schools
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - Creating awareness for living a drug free and healthy lifestyle
 - Typically, it's dress up days and families will receive updates from their school
 - Character Ed lessons also kickoff during the *Week of Respect*
 - Teachers have time in their scheduled throughout the week devoted to the pillars
 - Mrs. Oakes-Fritschy (PTA President) shared that the PTA is off to a great start, new board members, come up with new ideas, get to know each other and start working together as a team
 - Kindergarten Orientation was a summer event
 - Tears and Cheers on the first day of school to “celebrate” or “cry” with their kids back in school
 - Successful movie night - Home Alone - it was a ton of fun and a really nice night
 - Back to School Night - HSA and Grade 5 held a Bake Sale
 - Upcoming Events: Book Fair, Holiday Shop, scheduling Talent Show
 - Fundraisers: Spirit Wear - sold throughout the year, Duck Donuts a couple of weeks ago, Read-a-thon at same time as Book Fair
 - Faculty Lunch coming up during Fall Conferences
 - Many excited, new kindergarten parents - which is refreshing since there are parents who want to help
- MTV & PTA
- Mrs. Camean (Principal) shared that we are fortunate for the partnerships, like this one
 - Partnership with HTPD - LEAD program, Officers work with the Grade 5 students, fortunate to have Class III Officers - it's nice to have additional presence in the schools
 - Dates are set and letters will be going out to parents - it will run from January through April
 - Annual work with Barclay's - they come in to do various coding activities - visiting Grades 4 & 5 in November and December



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- Will be working with “Microbits” and “Robot Cars”
 - Kids are even coding in kindergarten
 - This is a nice extension of things they are doing
 - Different activities with organizations at WP to partner with elementary schools - we’re always open to those experiences
 - Great to know about different organizations
 - These additional experiences help to enrich the work we are doing - we are excited for these and are always open to new ideas
 - Mrs. Palumbo (PTA President) shared that the newsletter went out in August and they helped new families sign up
 - Worked with Mrs. Camean to choose and schedule 4 assemblies
 - 2 of them are in November
 - Hosted a *Family Fun Night* and it was a great turnout, lots of positive feedback
 - First general membership meeting, committees are filled and well-represented
 - Have volunteers set up to help with pizza, ice cream, and library
 - Upcoming Events: Trunk or Treat, Mini Photo, Pretzel
- SDS & PTA
 - Mr. Camean (Principal) shared that we look forward to the social events
 - Coming up is Halloween - annual parade is typically in the afternoon
 - If you have a question, please reach out
 - For those part, we avoid the weapons - when in doubt, reach out
 - Each school picks a theme - it’s supposed to be a surprise
 - Kudos to the staff who goes above and beyond on this day, recognizing the importance that we’re creating memories
 - Families are invited to watch the parades
 - Student Council Elections coming up - those happen at different times in October and November
 - Advisors will share packets and students can start working on their speeches
 - Kudos to the students for stepping up and doing that and kudos to the advisors for teaching that with leadership



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comes responsibility - every voice matters, they have an opportunity to make a difference and put their stamp on our school

- Resiliency is always an operative word - perhaps, if they didn't win this election, they won by trying
- 4 positions to fill - in their role, they look at how to contribute to the school and the community
- Holiday Concerts are right around the corner and the music teachers are starting to prepare for them
- It's truly a special time of year and it shows you the hard work and efforts of everyone!
- Mr. Camean shared that his PTA President has really stepped up and does an amazing job - thanks to all of the volunteers and for the impact you are making on our schools
- I know your efforts make your own children smile but recognize the impact you're having on all of the kids.
- Mrs. Layman (PTA President) shared that at Back to School Night, we tried to highlight the importance of community, especially after Covid, we are encouraging parents to "find your place - wants everyone to feel like they are a part of it
- She shared that Mr. Camean does a great job fostering that community at Salem Drive
 - The kids are incredible and they come from incredible parents
 - Parents have really stepped up - their kids see what their parents do and it has fostered a nice connection to the parents with the school
- Kindergarten Meet and Greet, Chalk the Walk, Double Good Fundraiser, Movie Night
- Back to School luncheon for our teachers
- Custodian Day last week - kids drew pictures and PTA gave a little token
- PTA is helping to sponsor the assembly for the elementary schools during *Week of Respect*
- Trunk or Treat is coming up and there will be pop up photos
- Big fundraiser: 1920s themed tricky tray



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- MJS & PTA
 - Mr. Anderson (Principal) shared that they are very exciting at the Seeing Eye initiative - Mrs. Ricupero has worked with the Seeing Eye for many years - they need host families
 - MJS will be helping to acclimate the puppy to being around people and “graduate” to serve as a guide dog
 - Pilot this year - the hope is that if things go well, it will be opened to the elementary schools
 - It will be housed in Mrs. Ricupero’s room but it will be able to visit all around the building
 - Looking forward to the impact of this program
 - Also, being mindful that not everyone loves puppies and some people are allergic
 - *Week of Respect* - many theme days, tomorrow is a “flip flop” day” where students will dress like teachers and vice versa
 - Student Council elections were recently completed - homeroom representatives were elected - 63 kids involved
 - Students are involved and they have a mission to better the school
 - Last year was the first “middle school dance” back
 - Quarterly Pep Rally - highlight involvement of our students
 - Students involved in Student Council, Clubs, Sports, Students of the Month be recognized
 - If a student participates, they get a raffle ticket
 - Mr. Diaz, director of spring musical, will go public with this year’s musical announcement
 - Clubs
 - TREP\$ - students meet after school and learn about what it means to start a business - culminates with a TREP\$ Marketplace
 - Last year it was in January - this year it will be before the holidays - December 4
 - TSA (Technology Student Association)
 - Jumped into this 2 years ago - this is the 3rd year
 - Opens up different events that the students can compete in



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- State competition at TCNJ if they place in the top 3, they are eligible to participate in the national conference - last year it was in Orlando, this year it's in Nashville
 - Last year, we had a student defend her title and win back to back for her event
 - Thanks to Ms. Dolch (Technology Teacher) for her contributions and for being involved in her state organization
 - She won the Teacher Excellence Award
 - Outdoor Ed
 - For over 60-70 years, MJS has participated in this
 - Crossing our fingers and hoping for some good weather - bringing 6th graders to Fairview Lake YMCA
 - Bring together students from different elementary schools and forging meaningful relationships
 - Mrs. Bono (Former & Incoming President) shared that there is a new board coming in and they will be voted in tomorrow
 - She is excited to work with the new board
 - Once the new board settles in, there will be new ideas as to what to do
 - Thinking of November for a Book Fair but that will be discussed
 - Bringing back Spirit Wear - there was a successful one in June - thinking about a mid-year sale, and a little earlier
 - HTEA
 - Mr. Dakak shared that it's an exciting time to be in Hanover Township
 - Want to spread positivity and looking at ways to see how we can spend funds on raffles and fun things for teachers
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- Open Discussion



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- Mr. Toomey asked PTA Presidents and BOE President and representative to stay so we can select a date to begin having PT Council meetings for the district admin, Board Members, and PTA leaders to come together and ensure we are on the same page across the district
 - Next Meeting: December 4 @ 10am

Ended @ 11:35am