



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PTA Advisory Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 @ 10am
MJS IMC

Attendance: L. Palumbo, L. O’Keefe, T. Cullen, A. Wasserman, D. Brennan, M. Anderson, M. Carrell, C. Canean, R. Canean, M. Stricchiola, D. Stark, L. Bomengo, E. Izbicki, J. Toomey, G. Dakak, S. Koeppen, J. Ziegler

- Welcome!
- Community Updates & Happenings
 - Recreation
 - Mayors Wellness Campaign - Kickball Game
 - Grades 3-5 @ 6:30pm
 - Mayor Ace Gallagher and Mr. Toomey are captains
 - 35 students are signed up
 - - PBA serving hot chocolate and donuts
 - Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Visit
 - December 29 @ 3-5pm - Hanukkah Hoopla
 - Latkes, dancing, community menorah lighting
 - Invited EH and FP communities
 - \$5 fee - register by 12/20
 - Skate Nights @ Mennen starting Friday, 1/3 through early March
 - 7-10pm
 - Different themed nights
 - Healthy, wholesome exercise for kids in the winter
 - Basketball, Wrestling, and Ski Club are coming
 - Pool - putting in Splash Pad - starting construction soon, and the goal is to have it open by June
 - There is a well area in the baby pool - about 2ft. deep for people to enjoy
 - Pool rates aren’t set yet
 - WPHS & HPRSD
 - Extend a heartfelt thank you to the community for 2 students who had benefit events



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

-
- Wonderful to see the K-12 community coming together to support these 2 individuals
 - WP Highlights - 12/12 Holiday Concert @ 7pm in WPHS Auditorium
 - Spring Musical - Grease - 2/27, 2/28, and 3/1
 - Winter Sports have started
 - Referendum project update: doors and window are being replaced - begin in the spring and continue into a full shift over the summer
 - Still working on additional projects and bid awards
 - Open House tomorrow at WPHS for any middle school student
 - Panel discussion with administrators and students
 - Tours
 - Academic Offerings
 - Board of Education
 - Mrs. Bomengo shared that she is excited to continue working with the community over the next 3 years
 - 11/19 Court Update: in front of 3 appellate court judges
 - Decision should come out by the end of December
 - Generally speaking, if 2 out of 3 judges rule in HT's favor, we would possibly get to implement the policy - immediately pushed to State Supreme Court
 - If it's ruled unanimously - it would be up to the respective parties to appeal
 - District Updates & Happenings
 - Special Education
 - Student services are always a fluid and evolving process
 - How can we meet the needs of students for next year?
 - Modernizing the 504 process - moving to electronic
 - Curriculum & Instruction
 - District recently received word that we are high performing district by the state of NJ
 - Went through QSAC monitoring - took all of last year
 - Monitored in 5 areas - passing grades in all 5 areas
 - Thankful to the teachers and the community for the support
 - Tomorrow night is Open House with WPHS



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- We've been busy collaborating with the regional partnerships
- Focused on strengthening the transition from Grades 8-9 in the areas of ELA and Math - looking at other areas in future years
- Success with K-5 Math Coaching - Dr. Milou
 - He has brought a level of excitement to the district
- Nancy Shulz has been working with Grades 6-8 math teachers
- Grades 3-5 ELA Steering Committee
 - Working with BOE and looking to purchase resources to prepare for this in the 2025-2026 school year
- Business Administrator
 - Working on the lunch program project
 - Been in contact with the food service providers
 - 1 company has already gotten back to us with a sketch and mechanical drawings
 - 1 company still hasn't gotten back to us - giving them until before the holiday break
 - Budget Cycle is coming to an end - starting to review next year's budget
 - This has been the best district I've been in over the last 4 years since being
- Superintendent
 - Additional thoughts on lunch program
 - District Goal of Consistency
 - District Newsletter
 - Congrats to BOE members
- School Updates & Happenings
 - MJS & PTA



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Mr. Ziegler shared Math PD Updates: Teachers loved it and said “it was the best PD I’ve been to.” Thanks to Mr. Toomey, Dr. Izbicki, Mr. Wasserman, and the Board for making this possible.
- Music Department Update:
 - Today kicks off the holiday music season
 - MTV has their concerts this week, MJS has their concert next week, BMS has their concerts next week, SDS wrap up the concert season the week before the break
 - Group of 5th grade students to perform at the December BOE meeting
- Mr. Anderson highlighted:
 - “Ellie” the Seeing Eye Puppy.
 - She has been close to Mrs. Ricupero as she has gotten acclimated to life in the school
 - Today is the first time with Mr. Anderson
 - She spends a lot of time sleeping but loves to play
 - Has been a phenomenal experience for everyone at MJS
 - Would love to expand into the elementary schools
 - TREP\$ is tonight!
 - Very exciting night at MJS. Learning about business and becoming entrepreneurs - program culminates with the marketplace - launch their businesses - MJS Cafeteria and MJS Viking Gym
 - Last year, it was after the holiday season - decided to move it before the holidays this year
 - Well underway with high school scheduling and focusing on a smooth transition - working closely with Mr. Kelly
 - This year, the Open House @ WP is open to all middle school students
 - Friday, 1/24 - WPHS will meet with 8th grade students to discuss scheduling process and electives
 - Shortly after, they will receive scheduling sheets
 - That leads into formal 8th grade scheduling
 - 2/13 and 2/14
 - Will start working with Grade 5 scheduling
 - Mrs. Bono apologizes she couldn't make it



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

-
- Mr. Anderson shared the new board members
 - Recently closed Spirit Wear sale
 - Had a successful pizza fundraiser with Whippany Pizza

 - SDS & PTA
 - Mr. Camean's celebration is the kids and they are always shining bright
 - Students are busy shopping at the holiday shop
 - Thanks to the teachers for taking all of the kids' energy and enthusiasm and they build on that - continue to remain focused and learn
 - Character Ed program continues - Week of Respect - theme carried on for 2 months - emphasis on Golden Rule
 - December is the theme of "Caring." Theme days where students wear red - that continues into the month of January
 - February - month of "Souper Bowl" - food drive with Interfaith Food Pantry - starting week of 1/27 and extends to Friday before the Super Bowl
 - Friendly competition between schools - special event to teach students that caring and teaching character ed is beyond the walls
 - Bring in a can to support the team of your choice
 - Theme is "Helping Others in Need"
 - Mrs. Layman shared:
 - SDS just finished up their Book Fair
 - They had the most recent Dog Man - sold out within the first hour - love seeing all the readers
 - Lots of parent volunteers - staff was very supportive
 - Holiday Shop is happening right now
 - Celebration is that the PTA individually wrap gifts for student purchases
 - Very large kindergarten group - volunteers are helping the kids

 - MTV & PTA
 - Celebration is spending the holiday season with the kids



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

-
- Buzz for kids excited to part of the concerts - great way to bring school community together
 - 12 Days of Fa-La-La
 - Themed dress up days - lots of fun!
 - All in the process of getting ready to run after school enrichment classes
 - Kids are very excited to participate
 - Offerings vary based on teacher interest and allows teachers to work with different kids - gives the kids a little something extra to look forward to after school
 - You never know what they'll remember later in life from these experiences
 - Celebration of PTA - new crew settling in so nicely, open communication
 - Mrs. Palumbo shared:
 - Hosted a staff luncheon during conferences - teachers were grateful
 - Gave out ice cream at end of MP1 - celebrate hard work of the kids
 - 2 pretzel days - kids get so excited
 - 2 assemblies - 1 with Kindergarten and 1 for the whole school (Circus Minimus)
 - Book Fair was in October - profited over \$1500
 - Family Fun Night has Magician for February
 - Indoor Scavenger Hunt
 - Holiday Bazaar
 - Vendors that make things to sell - evening hours open to the public - 12/11 @ 5:30-8pm
 - BMS & PTA
 - Mr. Stark's celebration is the upcoming concerts
 - It's amazing to see/hear the growth from the start of the year to know and then again to the spring
 - Kudos to the music teachers
 - New music teacher - Ms. Donohue - first show at BMS



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

-
- Kudos to Maribella Hamlin - she works in the board office and serves as the district translator - the way she worked with teachers to organize conferences was above and beyond
 - Communication and Preparedness were phenomenal
 - New B&G Supervisor - Billy Padavano - so responsive and attentive, over right away to take care of the issue - he has been such a breath of fresh air
 - Mrs. Miskowicz shared:
 - Celebration is that this is the first year having a middle schooler - loved the Pride & Passion Concert
 - Trunk or Treat was rescheduled due to the blackout
 - October was Book Fair and Read-a-thon - really great participation!
 - Hospitality Chairs gave an amazing luncheon for the staff during conferences
 - Holiday Shop is going on
 - Caring & Sharing - partnering to buy gift cards for families in need
 - New Year: Bingo, Author Day
 - Ongoing book club and purchased more books for the vending machine
 - Looking for a new a President and VP
 - Looking to get the same GaGa Pit as MTV and SDS
 - Looking to get an accessible access
 - HTEA Updates
 - Mr. Dakak shared:
 - Grateful to everyone in the room because we're all here for the kids
 - Thankful for the music performance today
 - Mostly positive updates - new committees popping up in the schools
 - Helping bridge the gap for things that needed to be addressed
 - Getting good turn out - lots of participation
 - PD has been going so well - most importantly, useful PD
 - HTEA did holiday raffles and it was very positive
 - Open Discussion



Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

-
- Next Meeting: February 12 @ 10am

"Excellence is not a skill, it's an attitude." - Ralph Marston

PURPOSE

The Hanover Township Public Schools' PTA Advisory, which meets four times a year, brings together district and school administrators, Hanover Park Regional High School district and school administrators, Board of Education members, PTA Officers, and the Superintendent of Recreation to live out our district's vision statement of a "Community that Inspires Excellence."

These meetings provide an invaluable opportunity for leaders to meet, discuss issues, and share important information relevant to the operation of our schools. Topics such as school budgets, program initiatives, student achievement, and current events are addressed through a positive two-way dialogue. By strengthening partnerships, promoting open communication, and ensuring transparency, the advisory group helps create a thriving and inclusive environment where every voice is valued, helping all students to reach their full potential.





Hanover Township PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Happy Hanukkah

Happy Kwanzaa