

# PTA Advisory Meeting: October 4, 2017

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## Minutes

October 4, 2017  
10:00 a.m.  
MJS IMC

**Attendance:** *M. Wasko, D. Stark, K Hoppes, V. Conforti, C. Bellino, C. Schabacker, K. Seifert, D. Brennan, R. Carroll, K. McSorley, J. Toomey, A. Wasserman, M. Anderson, S. Furda, G. Margolis, D. Mascolo, R. Camean*

Mr. Wasko welcomed everyone to the meeting and the start of a new year. Introductions were made for the benefit of all new PTA board members in attendance.

**Opening of School** – Mr. Wasko stated that all schools started out the new school year without any issues. He updated us on the total enrollment (1,436 total with 516 – MJS, 330 – BMS, 256 – SDS and 344 – MTV) which is a net of -6 from last year to date. All classrooms in the district are within the class limits in accordance with district policy. There 14 new teachers (8 in long term sub positions and 6 permanent).

**New District Website Presentation** – A PowerPoint presentation combined with a live demo of the new web site was reviewed with the group. The new site consists of separate pages for each of the schools, with resources for parents and students. Teachers are still working on their classroom pages. The Ed Tech Specialist at each school is a go to resource for questions and training. An additional tool called Info Snap, which ties to Power School, will be a complete solution available to parents to replace the many paper forms that have been used over the years. The mobile app is still being reviewed and set up with the hope that it will be available by November.

**Revised District Mission Statement** – Mr. Wasko reviewed the new mission statement (handout provided) which included the update to include “New Jersey Student Learning Standards” to follow new state guidelines.

**Board of Education Goals and District Goals** – Mr. Wasko reviewed the district goals (handout provided) which included preparing for NJQSAC and the board goals which now includes supporting the district’s goals to meet requirements of NJQSAC.

## School and PTA Updates:

**MJS** – Mr. Anderson started his update to advise that the year is off to a great start at MJS.

- Week of Respect: 10/02 thru 10/06, many activities to get students involved
- Substance Awareness council sponsored shirts, student designed and worn by all staff
- Contributing to a Cause – they have adopted a middle school in Houston and students are collecting donations to send gift cards to help buy new uniforms.
- Lunch program is off and running (No Fuss lunch on Tuesday and Thursday and Nonna’s on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- NY Jets helping to sponsor Upstander of the Week with donation of tickets and t-shirts every week
- Red Ribbon Week coming up, activities planned
- “Don’t Press Send” program planned for January 11<sup>th</sup> (7-8 grade, 3-4-5 grade and parent presentation in the evening)
- PTA Meeting scheduled for 10/12
- Outdoor Education Trip scheduled 10/18-10/20

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- Parent/Teacher Conferences 10/24 and 10/26

**BMS** – Mr. Stark and Mrs. Seifert gave school and PTA updates which included:

- PARCC and NJ ASK results from last year were mailed to families last week
- Results from Inview testing done last January not here yet, but expected in a week or so
- Super Kids coaching for grades 1-2
- All schools scheduling and working on field trips for the year
- All schools participating in Haul for Hurricanes
- BMS has 2 new water fountains, have already seen results ... 1,000 less plastic bottles used so far this year
- Sadly, 2 of the basketball backboards have been destroyed, with over \$10,000 in damages. There is an ongoing investigation.
- Over the summer, the PTA presidents met for the first to learn and discuss programs and processes.
- Only One You! Program for all schools, all students participate
- Spirit wear sale was successful
- Planning their Trunk or Treat for October
- Planning their book fair in October
- Bringing back the Shoppers Blitz in November

**MTV** – Ms. Bellino and Mrs. McSorley gave school and PTA updates which included:

- Update on Week of Respect
- Kindergarten Author Visit 09/22 – She’s Pure Sunshine
- Zentagle workshops for 3-5 09/22
- Weather assembly for 1-2 09/22
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cleanup 10/05
- 31 Bags Fundraiser
- Kid Stuff books
- Stop & Shop program
- Box Tops for Education
- Shutterfly
- Amazon Smile

**SDS** – Mr. Camean and Mrs. Conforti gave school and PTA updates which included:

- Welcome Back assemblies to start the new year and launch Character Education program (special schedule every Wednesday)
- 3M Corporation providing grant of \$3455 per school
- Halloween is coming ... what theme will our teachers choose this year and does it include a flash mob?
- Something new! Learning carnival with lots of topics is being reviewed and considered for Salem
- Room Parents in place and meeting 09/13
- Weather Assembly by Meteorologist John Marshall for all grades 09/27
- Family Directory ready to go to print
- Hot Lunch program up and running
- Catalog Fundraiser and Kid Stuff Book fundraisers launched
- Spirit Sale launching in the next two weeks
- PTA Meeting 09/25
- New Executive Board needed for next school year

**Special Education** – Mr. Margolis

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- Very pleased with the progress of the inclusive pre-school program
- Reported that they are working on putting a solid transition team back in place for students transitioning to the high school, better communication between districts
- On 10/09 in-service day, 60-70% of the day will be devoted to training on suicide awareness, crisis management and intervention. More training planned for child study team and guidance counselors.
- Parent Advisory Council - Work on improving communication between parents and special education department overall to share information, provide training and discuss improvements, 4 meetings planned, looking for volunteers (handout provided)

#### **Curriculum Updates, Staff In-Service Day – Mr. Wassermann**

- Gave thanks to the PTA
- Attended the presentation by Darryl Strawberry, acknowledged the Substance Awareness Council
- Introducing the K-2 Super Kids program for ELA, Next Generation Science Standards, Engineering for Elementary
- Bayer supporting Make Science Make Sense
- Training for teachers on 10/24, 10/25 and 10/26, substitutes will be in place to allow staff to participate in training
- On 10/09 Teacher In-Service Day – an attorney and mental health experts will be part of the training for the day
- Introduced Hanover Township Educator Academy, presentations by teachers who have attended training, “teach the teacher”, 80 sessions will be attended by the end of 2017
- On 10/12, principals and members of safety team will attend training on bullying
- Save the date! HTEF Annual 5K will be 06/09, please support this wonderful event and program
- DEAC – District Education Advisory Committee – looking for parent volunteers to attend meetings and represent the families, meetings are held at MJS, reach out if interested

#### **NJ ASK and PARCC – Mr. Stark**

- PARCC dates for this school year are posted on district web site
- New standard testing for Science, no more NJ ASK. Students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 will be tested, meeting on 10/17 planned
- PARCC results for spring 2018 will be allowed to be used for deciding placement for students

#### **QSAC – Mr. Wasko**

- We have begun preparing to meet this new requirement. Part 1 requires us to make a statement of assurance by the end of October. There will be site visits, usually in Jan-Mar, issued by the NJ Department of Education, this is one of the major district goals for the 2017-18 school year

#### **SwiftK12 – Mr. Wasko**

- There are 2 types of alerts (emergency and general information), be sure that you are receiving the alerts, reach out to your school to have information updated
- Discussion about the sensitivity of information/details provided in alerts, Mr. Wasko suggested that we reach out with examples of concerns that he could address

#### **Recreation Update – Mrs. Brennan**

- Fall programs are in full swing
- Proposing to do a combined event for Halloween for next year

#### **BOE: Special Presentations – Mr. Wasko**

- The district web site will feature a list of dates for special presentations. Stay tuned each month.

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**BOE – Mr. Furda**

- Thanked all of the many volunteers in our district
- The board has been able to complete contract review for teachers and administrators in our district, for all contracts for at least the next 2 years. Mr. Wasko’s contract will be in effect for the next 4 years.
- The BOE follows advice from legal counsel on refraining from posting replies, comments and information using social media. Do not expect a reply on a social media post. If you would like information or answers, attend a meeting and speak with the board.

*Respectfully Submitted by: Valerie Conforti, Salem Drive PTA President*

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