

Hanover Township Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

PTA Advisory Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2018

MJS Media Center

Attendance: M. Wasko, A. Wasserman, V. Wolsky, K. Seifert, S. Furda, D. Stark, G. Margolis, K. McSorley, R. Gold, D. Brennan, J. Toomey, C. Tognetti, M. Anderson, C. Bellino

1. **Letter to Community, November 30, 2018 (Handout #1)** **MJW**
 - Mr. Wasko stressed that if you hear something, say something. This recent incident was reported via adult hearing something and saying something. Thanks to all involved and HTPD for investigating the rumor which was quickly deemed not credible threat.
2. **Election/Board of Education Updates** **MJW**
 - Carol Tognetti and Doug Petty re-elected to 3 year seats as members of the board, and Susan Shannon (MTV parent) elected as write-in candidate. There will be a new Board member orientation before holiday break.
3. **"Excellence in Our Schools" Newsletter (Fall Edition) (Handout #2)** **MJW**
 - Fall edition should be going home soon – currently at the printers.
4. **Recreation Updates:** **DB**
 - Masquerade at Malapardis was indoors; thank you to all!
 - Ski Club – 2 busses, 52 students – 5 Friday nights starting January, open to middle school kids.
 - Monday Feb 18th – Preview trip for travelling teens camp – leaves 8am and get back 4pm from Community Center
 - Saturday Jan 19th – King Kong on Broadway leaves from Community Center at 10am and show starts at 2pm
 - Basketball and Wrestling programs – working with Rutgers athletic programs to have a bus trip to bring the teams down; will also be open to the community too – will advertise once dates chosen
 - Camp – between last week of school and the way July 4th falls will make it interesting
5. **"Draft" of 2019-2020 District Calendar (Handout #3)** **MJW**
 - Draft calendar provided by Mr. Wasko, who met with regional superintendents. He will meet with them again in early January and then bring to January 22nd BOE meeting to vote to have it approved.
 - Emergency School Closings/Delayed Openings
 - Discussion centered around proactive nature. We will follow procedures if we exceed allotted 3 days per calendar year which effects rec programs and extended year programs.
6. **District Budget** **MJW/VW**
 - 2018-2019 Mid-Year Budget Review Meeting with County Office
 - Mr. Wasko met with 5 other districts in Morris County to review last year's budget with Interim Executive County Superintendent and Hanover Twp received props for managing our budgets and exceeding our efficiencies.
 - 2019-2020 District Budget
 - Planning has already started for next year's school budgets. Mr. Wasko is collecting wishlists now and then will meet in January.
7. **PTA Lunch Programs** **VW**
 - Mr. Wasko discussed lunch program as it relates to providing it as a service to families that need assistance. He is working with all 3 PTAs and their vendor providers. There are a lot of moving

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parts, as well as nuances with vendors and delivery of services. He is hoping to have it up and running by new year.

8. Curriculum Updates

AW

- Technology Department is looking to update report cards – not content, but format and printing. Slight changes will be seen on them throughout the year. For example, it will show a running record and a better representation over time. We are also getting closer to paperless report cards to follow suit. Thank you to the Hanover Twp tech team, Ms. Bellino and Mr. Margolis.
- Math Committee – We are looking at curriculum for K-5 level. There will be a first meeting in January.
- Grade 2 Chromebooks – We are looking to add this for Grade 2 students (Cart to Chromebook initiative).

9. District Testing Update

DS/MA

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Testing Program
 - Schools are chosen at random by state and then the students are chosen at random to participate. It is voluntary – parents can opt out if they choose. We don't receive individual results and this is the test to show how NJ is doing based on how the rest of the country is doing. MJS was selected for ELA and they have selected their 50 students. Students that participate are given a certificate (January 30th).

10. School & PTA Updates:

ALL

- Bee Meadow School
 - Great day for Halloween – bright, sunny!
 - Bayer Corporation came out for Science Makes Sense and did their program which the kids love. We are looking to continue in future years.
 - Holiday at my House – This 4th grade tradition will continue. Students write an essay on holiday traditions and then parents bake foods representative of the tradition.
 - PTA will fund Morris Museum programs again.
 - Super Saturday will take place Feb. 2 and is open to the community.
 - Polar Express PJ Day on December 21st
 - The PTA has several events coming up including the Tricky Tray, Author Day, Weatherman Assembly, and Palermos Fundraiser.
- Mountview Road School
 - Lenape presentation at MTV for 4th grade students was a good experience for students.
 - Holiday concerts are in full swing for the district- we are special here in Hanover Twp
 - Holiday Bazaar took place last week. Thank you to the PTA!
 - PTA had to cancel bake sale on snow day.
- Special Education
 - We are currently transitioning for school crisis management plans. Feedback has been good. We are shifting to an options-based mindset. Staff training has already begun. There was a total staff training on October 8th, as well as continued training at November and December faculty meetings. Transition also includes working on bringing non-certified staff into the change. Kids will start getting involved in virtual drills starting in January. The first official drill will be in February and we will put word out to parents ahead of time.
- Memorial Junior School
 - PTA meeting was held on 11/30.
 - Lots of fun, things are moving along – During Week of Respect, MJS hosted penny wars that week and raised \$1880, and with staff donations, it totaled \$2275. Money will go to the Valerie Fund to help purchase another robot.
 - Memorial Math Competition featured 50 students participating in 3 grade-level activities. MJS PTA sponsored prizes and free will donations for the Valerie Fund were accepted too.
 - Mr. Uhey will take Viking Vocals into NYC to perform at Hulu Theatre before Grinch musical on December 14th.

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- School of Character applications are due December 7th. Applications are based on 11 principles.
- Salem Drive School
 - Rehearsal for winter concerts is today. SDS is first, BMS next, and then MTV is the last school to perform. Shout out to Music Department and carrying out concerts over 3 weeks.
 - County superintendent of schools will be at SDS to visit and see what is going on and observe. He will stay for K-1 concert tomorrow. Thank you to Mr. Wasko for giving our schools a chance to show off!
 - Barclays – Digital Coding Program – This technology lesson is open all of our schools. Digital Eagles Code Playground will visit MTV and SDS in May and BMS in April. It is an opportunity to learn about coding and create a game called Shark Eats Fish – 2hr program (4th grade only). It is open to 4th graders only, and they will complete the program on chromebooks using the Scratch program developed out of MIT.
 - FiOS1 – HTSACC Color a Smile program for a Care One facility made news (late last week)!!
 - Shout Out to PTA and President Christine Amoresano. This new board is maintaining excellence and adding new and innovative ideas (i.e. Halloween Dance/Party instead of Trunk or Treat, Bubble Trouble ceremony, etc.)
 - 5th graders will go caroling at Arden Courts and Care One on the 21st.

11. Looking Ahead:

- Board of Education Meetings:
 - Special Presentations: Please visit our District Website
 - Tuesday, December 18th: “Holiday” Performance by the MJS Flute Ensemble
 - Thursday, January 3rd : Reorganization Meeting
 - Tuesday, January 22nd : Student recognitions for the Patriots Pen Essay Contest
- Holiday/Winter Concerts (Please visit your respective school website)
 - “Opioid Epidemic” Program, sponsored by the Hanover Township Substance Awareness Committee, being held on Wednesday, December 5th , 7:00 PM, at Whippany Park High School.

“For the good of the Order:”

- “Opioid Epidemic” Program
- Emergency School Closings/Delayed Openings
- Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year to all.
- Next meeting: March 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Seifert, BMS PTA President

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