

PTA Advisory Meeting 12.2.20

In Attendance: Christine Amoresano, Aaron Wasserman, Carmen Cemean, Carol Tognetti, Christopher Kelly, Darin Stark, Diane Mascolo, Evan Markensohn, Gloria Fulman-Lateiner, Greg Margolis, Jacob Ziegler, Jennifer Ayers, Michael Anderson, Michael Wasko, Rob Cemean, Vanessa Wolsky, Valerie Conforti,

Welcome-Michael Wasko

BOE Election Updates-Michael Wasko

The following people were elected to the Board of Education and will serve a 3 year term. On Thursday January 7th they will be sworn in and take their new seats.

Gina Maria Winkler

Linda Wright

Marcella Wilson (Write in candidate)

State of our Schools- Michael Wasko

Hanover had to redesign every part of this new school year in order to comply with new COVID procedures. Mr. Wasko is very happy with happy with feedback from stakeholders, admin team, BOE and teachers. We have been able to sustain an in person model- (not many districts have) because of hard work from everyone on the team. Precautions and steps have been taken with social distancing and help from the community. Kathy Whitehead from the local health department says we are in our position because of this.

We are at a critical crossroads and high risk to go to virtual setting. We are able to stay the course with cooperation, assistance and availability from the health department to district school nurses.

The role of the school nurse today is very different than Pre-Covid times. The school nurse takes care of all students and staff.

There are two reasons that if affected, we may go remote.

1) **Staffing:** All teachers have demonstrated high professionalism, and substitutes have helped us districtwide. When local districts go to remote learning, this may affect some staff who may need to take leaves because their children may be virtual. Since beginning of September, about 52 staff districtwide needed to quarantine. Four occurred during Thanksgiving break.

Thirteen staff members have been on a leave due (COVID or non COVID related)

Hanover District Confirmed Covid cases – 12 individuals since September (2 of the 12 are presumed positive)

2) **Health Metrics** in the community have been very favorable in Hanover Township. Even though numbers are going up around us, Hanover Township's numbers have stayed low.

Marking Period 2 started last week. No major shifts to virtual vs in person. Here is a breakdown 1308 total children districtwide

Memorial Junior School with 466 Students- 82% of students are attending in person and 18% virtual.

Bee Meadow School has 304 students. 82% are attending in person including self contained class and 18% virtual.

Mountview Road School has 283 students. 77% are attending in person and 23% virtual

Salem Drive School has 250 students. 87% are attending in person and 13 % virtual.

The district is managing some requests from families whether they traveled during the holidays or wanted to self induce quarantine for 14 days. They are not included in virtual numbers.

District Budget- Vanessa Wolsky

Budget plans are being developed will be submitted before break or after return. DOE did not put out an Election calendar.

The Final budget is due in March. During February and March there will be public presentations for board to review and approve. Adoption of final budget held in April.

We may need to push back the Budget updates at PTA meetings

Curriculum Updates Aaron Wasserman

Thanks to Mr. Wasko for leading the district. Thanks to teachers and hard work and adaptability for students.

During the October in service day- additional training of online digital resources was offered.

Workshops were scheduled with companies directly like Google Meet Newsela, and Nearpod.

K-8 technology and tech specialists worked with people as needed to help on platforms used in district.

There was 95% positive rating from staff with a suggestion of mathematics training for Envision Math.

An Envision Math training was organized and implemented on November 2nd. Trainings were conducted in two separate areas: K-2 and 3-5.

There will be a January training for Gizmos for MJS Science teachers

They are currently engaged in a pilot with IXL to expand K-8 (currently have 4-8 math and 6-8 science)

Hosting DEAC District Evaluation

Recreation Updates- Mr. Wasko

Winter Wonderland Dec 12th new date.

Suspended indoor classes due to recent announced gathering number by Governor Murphy.

Cancelled Ski club and Basketball

Girls lacrosse registration early January

Summer Camps program planning begins in January

Special Education – Greg Margolis

Meeting October 21- Special education parent meeting. More attendance with virtual.

Engaging learners more effectively in virtual world. Presentation by Michele Pratola is recorded and can be found <https://www.hanovertwpschools.com/Page/2609>

Also on Parents resources link as well. A tab in community resources for Mental health is also available.

The township has a great candidate to replace Mary Ellen Adams- School Psychologist at MJS and BMS. She will start soon.

Hanover Park Regional High School Updates Chris Kelly

It is great to have kids back in the building.

Winter sports are postponed until January which can effect many.

Everyone is doing the best they can with the resources they have- Mr. Wasko

Mountview Road School Report-Carmen Camean

We are all very happy to still have school in person. Simple and normal everyday tasks need extra attention. For example, student council elections were held recently. A lot went into this, and it was successful. Our Annual Toy Drive for Team Walker in Jersey City and local families is under way. Families have a chance to sign up to bring a gift to school to be collected and then they will be distributed to children and families in need.

Robin Gold- MTV PTA

Our PTA is working hard to cover our budget in finding creative new ways to fundraise. Today is our Dine to Donate at Panera in Whippany from 4pm-8pm. Our month long partnership with Mangiano's ended on 11/30.

We have an ongoing sale at Richard's Farm to Table. We offered a virtual book fairs and Holiday Bazaar.

Our Holiday Light & Decoration Drive-By Scavenger Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th at 7pm. We asked families who decorated their homes to add their address, and a select few will have treats to be picked up by trunk.

We just finished a few fundraisers. The 5th grade had a Scrip Fundraiser and Ruffled Sign Jets NFL Football Helmet. Both fundraisers helped them raise money to go toward their yearbooks and other items for this year.

District Testing Updates- Darin Stark

Thanks to teacher and parents for hard work and dedication to keeping us open.

District State testing- will happen this year- NJSLA March 15, 2021- June 11 2021 Windows and will narrow down. Dates will be posted on website before winter break

XS Feb 16- May 21st

Bee Meadow School- Darin Stark Student council elections will be held next week. They are looking to do a virtual assembly in Jan/Feb. The annual school-wide polar express viewing is coming up. The annual food drive for Thanksgiving was a success. Thanks to guidance from Kathy Whitehead, they were able to collect 100 lbs of food!

Kudos to staff- write out a little note to thank other staff to be noticed by others. This is being extended to students with Being Kind bulletin board and a caterpillar. Teachers can write little notes when they notice a child being kind. They will read these notes during the announcements the next morning.

BMS PTA

Spirit wear most successful 10K gross- high participation from community

Restaurant fundraisers

Fall book fair- Clifford on the loop

Kidstuff coupon book sales were very low

Halloween scavenger had hunt high participation and Candy Corn contest

Charleston Wrap Fundraiser

Trivia Night with Pizza Kits with Mr. McPeak

Fresh Thanksgiving pies through Alstede Farms

Caring and Sharing program – virtual through giftcard purchases

Holiday Shop- is virtual this year

Matching contest to match staff with their baby pictures

Donut Glazed Donuts in Caldwell- Buy for yourself or be a secret Santa for your recipient of choice.

Annual Buzz Book(Directory) is on its way trying to make the collection of information electronic

Teacher Grants participation – many opted to purchase portable personal amplifiers

5th grade direct donation drive covered all the 5th grade costs.

Luncheon with teacher conferences with “Bee” cupcakes.

Playground- can fund a vision of this playground.

Morale Boosts for staff

Looking to do a Chik Fil A fundraiser, Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Won an early bird award in October in getting high attendance of PTA members.

Salem School-Rob Camean

Halloween -The staff dressed up as first responders as a tribute to all of those on the front line, and sent a video to local, fire and rescue departments and Morristown Memorial, and SDS families. PTA/homeroom parents provided opportunities to do crafts in the classroom for Halloween. Student council elections took place. Annual toy drive – for any unwrapped gifts to be placed under the tree. This month the theme is caring.

Teacher of the Year: Mr. Camean

Teacher of the year process is coming to a close for 2019-2020 teacher. A meeting was held to select 1 teacher from each school and 4 staff in district to be recognized. They will be recognized at the December BOE meeting and they are looking for a creative way to give this award to teachers and staff.

Salem PTA- Christine Amorasano

Some fundraising, but paired it back a little. Birthday Sign is ongoing
Halloween- town boo event to boo their own lawn or someone else's
Glazed and Confused donuts
Mimi's Deli Dec 4-6
5th grade wreath sale
Virtual Escape Room: Hired an outside company to do groups of 12
Virtual Book Fair.
Winter Art Night- string art kits. Themed projects with lights.
Winter kits for crafts to do at each grade level.
Shirt to each student and staff member with “Salem Drive Strong”
New grant program for teachers to submit for small grants

MJS- Michael Anderson

So thankful for the Dedication of all our staff
Student of the month program- selected for academic work and character traits. Announced with announcements, certificate and pictured on bulletin board.
The Patriots pen essay writing contest winners will be recognized at January BOE.
Student Council beginning process to see how to go about elections. Looking to get other clubs going as well. Will help keep the kids connected and operate in virtual realm.
2nd marking period transition from PE to Health Class. 1st Marking period there was no health. Half in MP 2 and other half in 3. So not as much physical exercise. Gym introducing equipment
6th grade- jump rope, 7th soccer, 8th basketball
They are not sharing equipment and cleaned at the end of each period. There will be a 6 week rotation of these 3 sports.
MJS hybrid schedule update- They are taking feedback from parents etc. There is always room for growth and improvements. During the October board meeting, some made known their unhappiness about the schedule at MJS. Mr. Anderson called and connected with all who made comments during the meeting to hear their thoughts and concerns. A survey went to students, staff, parents and the information is being analyzed for trends. Administration team and faculty are working on this feedback. 78% RESPONDENTS were positive (102 out of 130.)
There is benefit to having more structure or more opportunity in the afternoon. Working to make adjustments and providing extra clubs and extracurricular activities starting in January. This will be communicated to all in next few weeks.

MJS PTA- Valerie Conforti- PTA President

Transition in leadership. Over 90 families have joined PTA.

Just completed virtual book fair.

Currently updating the By-laws

PTA Meeting tomorrow night

HTEA- Diane Mascolo

HTEA struggling with raising money for philanthropic fund. Looking for some suggestions on how to raise funds.

Looking Ahead- Mr. Wasko

BOE Meeting Dec 15th

There will be BOE Member Recognitions for service and Teachers of the year 2019-2020 Recognitions

Mr. Stark will present a District testing report

District Report must be presented prior to January 1st.

January 7, 2021 there will be a reorganization meeting

January 26th Student Recognitions for the Patriots Pen Essay Contest and MJS Poster Contest Winners

Public Relations:

Salem Drive – Seedlings were distributed to 4th grade at Salem for Arbor Day

Rob Endente of township and Mr. Rockland will choose the Township Poster winners

3M funded a technology grant to the district \$1200 for the Patriots Pen Essay contest Winners

For the Good of The Order

Snow Day? Closing schools

We do have 3 built in snow days in the calendar. Safety first decision. A delayed opening is not an option this year due to our half days. State will permit for schools to go virtual if needed due to safety. Traditional snow day will not go by the wayside. Mr. Wasko believes every child should experience a snow day and build a snowman, go sledding etc. But will use judgement as regional district with other superintendents.

If dangerous conditions we will implement a snow day.

Carol Tognetti, BOE President- Thank you to everyone in town PTA's, Schools and teachers for all hard work and making this a great place to be involved.

The Next Meeting is March 3rd, 2021.

