

Commack PTA Council Executive Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. President Angela Cicalo presiding.

The pledge was said.

Superintendent: Sari Goldberg

- 4/24 – Last Terra Nova parent workshop.
- 4/11 – Secondary marking period ends. Parent Portal will be closed for a week.
- State ELA Assessment is 4/11 and 4/12.

Board of Ed: None

Community Relations: Deb Virga:

- 4/24 – 8th grade Transition night.
- 4/28, 10:00-4:00 at CMS – Marion Carll Green Day Jamboree fundraiser.
- 5/4, 7:00pm, CHS South Gym – “Dancing with the Teachers” fundraiser.

March Minutes: Were reviewed and stand approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

General Fund:

Share Draft Checking \$ 44,389.25

Scholarship: Savings \$ 18,509.55

Total: \$ 62,898.89

We did collect over \$18,000 for KidsArt. Once the company is paid, and each unit's profits determined, each unit will be notified of their proceeds which will be distributed at the beginning of next school year. Modells earned \$458.07. We received another \$38.50 in scholarship donations from the community.

Correspondence: None

President’s Report:

- It is time to think about selecting SBMT parent representatives for next year. PTA is responsible for selecting SBMT parent representatives. The parent term is one year and must be posted, interviewed and selected EVERY YEAR. This is very important and must be done every year.
- The District Calendar meetings are underway. If you have not already met with your principal or building calendar representative – please do so soon. It is important to get your dates on the calendar early.
- Budget Presentations at PTA meetings are scheduled –5/7 @ 7:30pm Hubbs; 5/8 @ 9:45am MSIS; 5/10 @ 8pm CHS. Please make necessary arrangement and be prepared with necessary AV equipment.
- Thank you to Diana and the Nominating Committee for meeting and developing next year’s slate, which will be announced later.
- Thank you for a wonderful Disabilities Awareness week in all buildings
- Quick reminder – tomorrow is the Town of Huntington Library budget vote and trustee election.

- All units please remember to review all PTA letters and memos that are distributed to ensure that they are positive about the district and PTA. Also make sure that it is clear that the event is run by PTA, and not the building. This may seem obvious, but please take the time to review.
- If anyone is interested, up here on the desk I have the presentations from both budget workshops and the full budget.

Dates to Remember:

4/12 - BOE meeting and Budget Adoption at HUBBS, 8pm

4/20 – District AIE meeting – RH @ 930

5/1 PTA Council “Meet the Candidates” night at MSIS, 8pm - if anybody would like to help out that night or help organize, please let me know. We have 1 BOE position up for election this year (Jarrett).

5/7 PTA Council meeting and budget presentation

PTA Events: April 14 – Reflections Showcase; May 17 Spring Conference at Villa Lombardi’s, May 31 New Officer Training.

Committee Reports

Advocacy:

There are several Take Action email forms on the NYS PTA website in support of legislation championed by the New York State PTA. Please visit <https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/take-action/> to send an email to your legislator in support of:

- a) Family Engagement Initiatives that provide increased funding and programmatic support for ALL schools or districts that wish to participate; support for parent and family education on critical issues facing students and funding for parent and family organizations that are uniquely positioned to foster meaningful family engagement efforts on a statewide basis.
- b) Expansion of and access to Career and Technical Education and STEM opportunities throughout the State.
- c) Additional dedicated funding for English Language Learners especially for school districts with high populations of diverse language speakers.
- d) Finally, an issue that is dear to all our hearts: NYS PTA urges all parents to send a letter to their members of Congress urging them to support legislation to keep children and schools safe from gun violence.

Arts in Ed:

KidsArt orders are due to ship around 4/30. Profits were higher than the fundraiser we used last year, Artistic Creations. Profits were down slightly from the last time we used KidsArt (2016) but that may be attributed to decreased enrollment and lack of familiarity with new families. CMS participated this year on a voluntary basis and the cards created by those students were fantastic. The profits are as follows and will be distributed to each building in the Fall: IH \$807, NR \$640, RH \$598, WP \$669, BIS \$1829, MSIS \$1622, CMS \$280. Profits will be used to bring in an additional art program for each building.

CMS USDAN scholarship & CHS AIE scholarship winners have been selected and names will be released pending notification. USDAN matches a \$1000 scholarship from PTA Council for a CMS student attending their summer camp. The CHS scholarship winner receives a \$1000 award from PTA Council.

Next district meeting for AIE is on 4/20 @9:30 @RH

Budget:

Over the past several weeks, the Board of Education has met with District Administration and the community to review and discuss the 2018 – 2019 school budget. The following are the highlights of these presentations.

Academic Programs

Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade will continue to have access to existing instructional programs, which include low class sizes, enrichment opportunities and the Movement in the Arts program. In addition, the District will be implementing a new assessment for grades 3 through 5, the TerraNova. The TerraNova offers an age appropriate assessment of student progress in a variety of subjects.

I also have copies of the projected elementary school class sizes for your review.

At CMS, 6th graders are for the first time being offered a choice in the type of Wheel Class they can take. In Art students can choose between a traditional art class or a class that specializes digital art and animation. In

Technology students can select a traditional tech class or a class that focuses on design challenges. Health and FACS (Family and Consumer Science) classes will continue to be offered without a choice.

CMS will be sending 5th grade parents additional information about these offerings during the orientation process later this spring.

At CHS, students will continue to have access to enhanced opportunities through the Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate Program as well as numerous elective courses. The District is proposing to add the following elective courses pending student enrollment:

- Investigations in Humanities
- PLTW Principals in Engineering
- American Sign Language 4
- School and Community Leadership
- Horticulture
- Video Highlights

Security

Next year's budget will include the following enhancements to the District's security system:

- Classroom locksets at CMS and CHS which will cost \$263,500
- Upgraded security radios for \$15,000
- Security vehicles for \$15,000

Please note that this in addition to the security the District provides at all schools during the school day, evenings and overnights.

The District Security Connector Group is being formed to develop a request for proposal for a Comprehensive Security Review from an outside agency. This is being funded through the facilities budget.

Facilities

Enhancements to facility budget include:

- Replacement of snow removal, custodial and maintenance equipment
- Replacement of playground equipment for Sawmill and Rolling Hills

Technology

The District is continuing to upgrade IT infrastructure, Security, IT servers and computer devices as needed throughout the school district.

Athletics

After careful analysis and consultation with Section XI the District has decided not to expand JV sports at the High School. This was due to many factors not limited to scheduling challenges within Section XI, limited facilities and other logistical issues.

Transportation

The District plans to offer 65 large buses, 64 vans (plus 3 additional vans) for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Based on feedback from administrative staff, the District will continue the Bus Matron program at its current funding and staffing levels.

Special Education

Due to an increase need for services, the District anticipates an increase of 3.4 teachers and 4 teacher assistants for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Additional sections will be added at Wood Park, Sawmill and the secondary schools.

Dr. James and his staff also discuss the fiscal impact the Budget will have on the community. Highlights include:

- A Budget-to-Budget increase of 1.16%

- Proposed tax levy increase of 2.51%
- This is UNDER the state proposed Tax Cap of 2.91%

On April 12th, the BOE will formally adopt the budget during the monthly BOE meeting. And finally!!!! The Budget Vote will take place on May 15th.

Disabilities Awareness:

- Thank you to grades K-8 for bringing in Arts in Ed programs for Disabilities Awareness. Thank you to Council for providing funds for this.
- ASL high school students visited elementary schools and read books to them.
- Thank you to all who participated.

Education: None

Environmental:

- Brentwood School District is suing Heartland.

Health and Safety:

- Next blood drive is 6/6 at Sawmill from 1:00-7:00.

Legislation: None

Nutrition:

- Nutrition week was a success; every principal served lunch at least once.
- Lunch went well on the early dismissal day.
- Breakfast surveys due 4/13.
- Next year there will be a Whitson's app so students can order lunch.
- Whitson's has listened to student feedback at meetings.

Photography: None

Reach:

- Summer trips for grades 6 and up are posted online; online registration is May 5.
- Info is on Backpack News at CMS and CHS.

School Based Management:

- Team met and finished re-writing the District Plan, sent it to the Board.
- Units should have a letter for next years' members posted this month and have interviews in May.

Scholarship:

- Winners of the \$1,000 scholarships have been chosen and will be announced at the CHS Awards Ceremony in June. Thank you to all readers.

School Board:

- Budget was reviewed; school safety and Marion Carll was discussed.
- CHS students did a great job at Albany Day.

SEPTA:

We are hosting our Paint a Bottle fundraiser on April 18 at the green Turtle in Hauppauge. We are also accepting nominations for our board.

Administration Report: Dr. Keingstein: Budget information was presented to the board. Special ed numbers have gone up and more students are being placed in outside-of-district programs. Staff is being added.

Annual reviews are underway in all buildings. Primary and intermediate schools are finishing the second trimester. Fifth to sixth grade orientation is April 23 and eighth to ninth grade orientation is April 24. An expert on community employment spoke to the staff at CHS.

SEPTA COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SEPTA Reps- Tina D'Angelo (Burr) Science fair went well. Ducks Game is coming up for Burr, North Ridge and Indian Hollow. Debbie Vilardi (CMS) Make a Wreath fundraiser at Bar Louis, April 11 from 7-9 PM. Family Fun event scheduled for May 5. Students were allowed to walk out to hallways, but not go outside during the walkout. They also were able to write letters during lunch periods to support the cause. (CHS) The next meeting is Thursday March 21.

Budget- Special Ed is making up about 10% of the district's budget, over two million dollars. Class sizes are stable. Tax cap is 2.9% and the budget increase is 2.5%. Meetings are Thursday this week and the board adoption is April 12. Please vote on May 15.

Nominating –

See above.

Our next Support Meeting will be at Panera in East Northport on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 10 AM. Next regular meeting is April 18 at North Ridge @ 7:00 PM. Mrs. Ryan will explain the current budget and ask answer any questions. Lauren Marra of Marra and Glick presented *Managing the Behaviorally Challenged*.

Teacher Representative – Arlene Wynn

- NYS ELA Assessments are 4/11 and 4/12 for 3rd-8th graders.
- CTA is celebrating Autism Awareness Day on Monday, April 16th, by wearing shirts with student created designs.
- Primary school “Log Off, Turn Off and Go” Night is April 23rd.
- 5th grade parent and student CMS orientations will be held April 23rd.
- 8th grade parent and student Transition Night will be held April 24th.
- CHS Honor Society inductions are happening this month.
- NYSUT Teacher Convention is at the end of the month. Ms. Wynn will be attending.

Website:

- Commack is transitioning from eBoards to Teacher Pages. PTA's will have a year to transition and will be allowed to have a page on the website.
- Training will be provided in the fall.
- Council should determine if we want to keep our outside website provider.

New Business:

- Cougar Camp registration for grades 3-8 is on Commack website.
- Smithtown Library Regents review schedule to be posted. Signup is 5/7 online.
- Membership payments due 5/31. Make sure to use credit vouchers by then.
- The Nominating Committee met and nominates the proposed slate for Council Board for 2018-2019:
 - President – Diana Michel
 - First VP – Tara Darvassy
 - Second VP – Rebecca Ben-Ezra
 - Corresponding Secretary – April Haupt
 - Recording Secretary – Kate Van de Berghe
 - Treasurer – Nicole Perez
 - Past President – Angela Cicalo
 - An election will be held at our next meeting, May 7th.
- Audit Committee was formed:
 - Lisa Silverman, Tonia Lopes, and Eileen Gaeta

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm. Next meeting is May 7th at 7:30pm at Hubbs.