

Commack PTA Council Executive Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. President Nicole Pérez presiding.

The pledge was said.

President's Welcome:

Regardless of personal opinions on the matter, it bears stating what NATIONAL PTA's position is on certain matters.

From the September 24, 2020 Position Statement on *Inclusive Curricula in K-12 education*: National PTA supports the implementation of diverse and inclusive curricula in K-12 public schools nationwide. PTA is committed to the creation of innovative curricula and the necessary accompanying professional development that support culturally and linguistically-responsive teaching and learning so that the history of all students—including but not limited to African American, Latino(a), Native American, Asian and LGBTQ groups—is accurately represented and taught.

Culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and inclusive curricula should:

- Emphasize academic success for all students,
- Enhance cultural competence by fostering understanding of students' cultures,
- Promote family engagement by making connections between home language and school language, and
- Develop critical consciousness by recognizing racism, classism, and other issues in the world and developing a student's awareness to openly address these situations.

From the July 2020 position statement *Say their names: addressing institutional racism or systemic racism*. Institutional racism is racism embedded as a routine practice within society or an organization, cumulatively and disparately impacting historically disadvantaged peoples. National PTA and its constituent associations must educate themselves and their communities on the disparities among students of color compared to their white peers related to issues such as housing, healthcare, environmental and community planning, criminal justice, and employment. This knowledge is essential to understand the impact of institutional racism on school performance, which is manifested in attendance, discipline, academic achievement, and graduation rates of students of color.

Federal and state policymakers, school district leaders, school administrators and educators should review bias in curriculum, policies, practices, and programs to identify and address those that perpetuate inequities toward children or communities of color, resulting in Black and Brown students experiencing lower school achievement rates, commonly known as the “achievement gap” or “opportunity gap.”

We can eradicate racism and social injustices when we unite as a community regardless of skin color, race, language, or culture. PTA reaffirms our commitment to advocate for all children, including and specifically for Black and Brown children to eliminate the negative impacts of institutional racism.

So that is our charge as a constituent association of PTA. These position statements were shared with Dr. James and the Board by email last week.

Dr. James--Superintendent:

- Thank you for passing the budget and for PTAs’ help.
- Working hard over the summer to transition to a more “normal” school year. We learned lessons and heard you and we are working hard.

Board of Ed—Steve Hartman:

- Thank you for passing the budget and for PTAs’ help.
- Mr. Hueber will be sworn in July 1.
- When we have a community forum and BOE meeting, public participation part is either nobody can speak, or everybody can speak.

Community Relations—Deb Virga:

- Tunnel to Towers exhibit coming to Commack. FDNY will escort truck to CHS on Friday. Community can view FREE Saturday or Sunday. Must register—email D. Virga. This is the kickoff to the 9/11 20-year remembrance. Thank you to Boy Scouts for raising funds.

Recording Secretary: May 2021 minutes were reviewed, and upon motion duly made and seconded, were approved as read.

Treasurer’s Report:

Checking	\$35,917.25
Savings	\$72,286.73
Total in accounts:	\$108,203.98

Be on the lookout for the insurance bill—payment will be due around June 1.

Correspondence:

- None.

Vice Presidents Report:

- No report.

President’s Report:

- Insurance: MAKE SURE YOU ARE PAID UP!
- END OF YEAR transition: please officers, go through the end of year transition checklist and set up your new officers for success! This includes final annual audit, getting the 990 done over the summer if you can, smooth officer transition and planning for next year.
- THANK YOU for your help with getting out the vote for the budget last month. And congrats and welcome to Mr. Hueber—we look forward to working with you. Mr. Behar, thank you so much for all you have done, all the time you have dedicated to PTA and your willingness to meet with us and talk with us. We appreciate so much your service to this community and our kids.
- THANK YOU for your help with Meet the Candidates questions. I want to give a special thank you to Debbie Vilardi and Christine Schultz who, in addition to the officers (April, Lisa, Rebecca, Anita, and

Diana) helped cull the questions. We received 30 responses to the google form with a total combined of 81 questions.

Important dates:

- June 15-16 Senior walk at the primary schools
- June 23-25 District HALF DAYS
- June 25 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- June 28 Cougar Camp begins grades 3-8
- July 26 Reconnecting & Discovery Camp begins grades k-12

Committee Reports:

Arts in Ed:

- No report.

Budget:

- Thank you, Commack.

District Action Awareness:

- Town of Smithtown comprehensive plan—they accepted some amendments to draft including NOT to change the zoning near Old Northport Road so NOT heavy industrial. GOOD NEWS. Keeping it light industrial. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SENT LETTERS.
- Masks—on June 10, NYS PTA came out and said they agree it is a parent’s choice. Sent letter to NYS DOH.

Founder’s Day:

- Need committee members for next year to get started this summer.

Grant Search and Writing:

- Girls with Impact NYS PTA—5,000 scholarships available. Deadline is THURSDAY JUNE 17.

Health and Safety and Transportation:

- No report.

Nutrition:

- No report.

Photography:

- No report.

Reach CYA:

- We have just wrapped up our virtual programs. Youth can still access independent community service activities through our website.
- Our staff was able to provide a Conflict Resolution Training for CMS student council virtually, during the school day.
- Staff provided a Babysitter Training workshop to Commack Girl Scout Troop at our Teen Center.
- Community Clean-ups were very popular, and the kids did a great job!

- Summer Trips registration went well, and many trips have sold out. We kept trips smaller than usual and are offering van transportation for some trips.
- There is still space in our Teen Enrichment sessions in August. Each day includes fun and creative community service projects & games and students earn community service credit.

Reflections:

- No report.

Scholarship:

- The 11 senior scholarship winners were announced at the senior awards ceremonies June 3. It was a lovely ceremony, and we have some amazing students.

SEPTA:

- No report but planning on summer meeting.

Teacher Representative—Mr. Ciani:

- CTA stands with PTA and the BOE and supports diverse curriculum.
- Refilling food pantries. Drive is ongoing right now.
- Excited to close out school year. Thank you.

Website:

- Will work on the calendar. Need names of PTA presidents for next year. Emails and phone numbers. Council—need all the officers with email and phone. A list of website liaisons for next year.

SBMT: None.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Welcome Jennifer Fein and Annemarie Crisci to the Council executive committee next year.

Rebecca and April, you amazing ladies have done so much for PTA and students for close to 2 decades each. I am HONORED to have worked with you, to know you, and know that the impact you have made in our community will be felt for years to come. Please join me in celebrating Rebecca and April. I don't want to ignore the wonderful Diana and Lisa and Anita who will be returning as officers next year! I couldn't imagine doing this with anybody else. Thank you all! Congratulations on everything!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm.
Happy Summer!