

South Side Middle School PTA Meeting May 2, 2016

Presentation and Acceptance of Minutes: Motion to accept by Michelle Sewell; second Karen Bohn.

Treasurer's Report: (T. Garrett) Outstanding checks are \$275-PTA insurance and \$6202.87-AIM.

Nominating Committee Slate Presentation: (D. O'Leary) Proposed Executive Slate 2016-2017

Co-presidents- Emma Travers and Marie Eckrich

Treasurer- Karl Garrett

Recording Secretary- Donna O'Leary

Corresponding Secretary- Marianne Bochillo

Fundraising- Josie Milano & Jen Lindner

Membership- Nina Valdebenito

Council Delegates- Michelle Sewell and Colleen York

Alternate Delegate- Maria Yarris

Communications (via email)- Jean Ludwig

Vote and swearing in is June 15, 2016 PTA meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Grant- no update
- AIM -no update
- SEP (M. Pederson) Coffee & Share at SSHS, May 26th, 7:00-7:30pm. Dr. Gary James will speak at 7:30 about Apps for special needs children. S. McGinn will ask for SEP representative at May 11th 6th grade parent orientation. Next year Hewitt will have a self-contained kindergarten class for nonverbal autistic children. Hopefully the class will continue to the upper grades.
- Curriculum- no update
- Nutrition- no update
- Drug & Alcohol –no update

Principal's Report: (S. McGinn) MYP authorized and approved SSMS as an IB World School.

Board of Education Presentation: (Mayda. Kramer) showed scenes of district video. Budget Vote is May 17th at SSHS. 7am-9pm. We are under 8% tax cap with a .84% increase. Children will see no difference.

(Dr. Johnson) congratulations to SSMS administration, teachers and staff on MYP approval. MYP review had no negatives about SSMS.

Not cutting school services at this point. BOE and Dr. Johnson come to PTA meetings every year to encourage voting on budget to overcome no votes. Bring entire family to vote. There will be another SSMS election for students. There will be a \$750,000 decrease in expenditures if budget doesn't pass.

Thank you in advance. (M. Kramer) absentee ballots are available on the district website.

(John O'Shea) is running uncontested. A segment of the population will vote "no" so need PTA to reach out to people to vote yes. Two library seats are also uncontested so there won't be a lot of fanfare this election.

(Gail Getty) SSMS not responsible, but what is happening with Watson renovations problem? (J. O'Shea) contractor is making corrections at their own expense, not the district's expense. SSMS construction this summer is replacing mortar and repointing.

(Dr. Noreen Leahy) summer program is at Hewitt with a strong enrollment; some classes are already full. PTA vote to support budget: yea-22, nay-0, abstain-0.

President's Report:

- (T. Garrett) Police Commissioner said youth disturbances down from 600 to 100 this year. Opiate and narcotic use is relatively low but seeing it more in people in their 20s. There's an increase in use among HS and MS ages. Not a lot of problems at Molloy. A pill costs \$40 while a deck of heroin costs \$8. RVC PD see 1 opiate overdose/month in community. Doesn't think bodega near MS is a problem but is worried about deli at 6 S. Park Avenue. Burglaries were 200-300/year but down to 14 this year. There are care break ins for change to buy heroin.. Nick DeLuca, the youth officer, is willing to speak at a

school assembly. Marijuana continues to be a problem. Can correlate crime stops to marijuana. If a person is found with only marijuana then issued a Desk Appearance Ticket.

T. G. doesn't know next Narcan training. It is sponsored by the county. Training discusses Vivitrol. Some upcoming trainings are at Floral Park HS 5/11, E. Meadow Fire Department 5/19, Long Beach City Hall 5/23, Our Lady of Lourdes Massapequa 6/15.

Principal's Report cont.: (S. McGinn) SSMS Robotics Club went to Kentucky where there were 203 teams competing. Kids said they are in the top 200 of the world. (Dr. Johnson) Agenda book cover contest for 6th-8th grades. Must have only 3 colors and school theme but any student can submit. Students vote on the cover at the budget vote May 17th.

Darcy Gilgrist running 6th grade aquarium trip and is emailing list today.

"Wizard of Oz" play is this weekend. Concerts are coming up.

May 11th is 6th grade parent orientation which will have student volunteers.

Encourage kids to attend extra help. (R. Cammarata) Finals schedule is posted on website.

(J. Pascarella) Collecting 8th grade iPads and will offer repairs through Cell Mechanic. Price list is posted on high school web site. Parents are responsible for cost of repairs. 6th & 7th grade will keep their iPad over the summer. Students keep iPads throughout middle school & get new ones in high school.

Don't know if iPads off line over weekend. PowerSchool will be off line over summer. iPad apps will be online over summer. Lightsail is a web based program.

8th graders don't take math or science assessments because they take regents.

PowerSchool can't print previous report cards so call the school or email Ann Feminello to print prior report cards. May be able to view comments if click on "blue" top of grades.

Regents grades are usually known by 8th grade breakfast. Counselors reach out to parents quickly if child fails regents & needs summer school. Passing grade is 65. The conversion chart is on the NYS website.

Last year one student had 88 % of test correct but could only get an 86. All common core math tests are graded this way.

To pass Earth Science, one needs to know the reference table and what the question asks. Teachers prepare students well for the tests. Some apps are available that create quizzes on topics. Review sheets started today. (N. Valdebenito) There's also a website to take practice tests. PowerSchool will also indicate reviews. 99 Ways to Pass.

New Business: (A. Bender) During 8th grade graduation parents couldn't take pictures or see because kids were standing up while names being called. Ask your kid where they are sitting. J. Pascarella suggested maybe having kids line up in the back. Families get 2 tickets/child. District videos ceremony. CDs have been made in the past by someone in high school but don't know if they'll do it for middle school. S. McGinn will ask Dr. Zuar.

Staff appreciation luncheon is Wednesday, May 4th, run by Donna Scala & Liz Kerns. Drop off salads/desserts just passed security desk in hallway before 10:00am because it's the same day as 6th grade orientation. Think ok on contributions. Liz Kerns will email tomorrow if need something. A parent volunteer will be at the table. First lunch shift begins 10:30am.

Next PTA meeting is June 15th.

Motion to adjourn by Liz Mullen; seconded by Gail Getty.