

SSMS PTA MINUTES APRIL 27, 2017

Meeting began 7:35pm.

Budget Presentation: (Mayda Kramer, Chris Pellettieri, Liz Dion) 0.57% increase to tax levy. Solicited questions about budget. Q: What is health insurance premium impact? A: negotiated with bargaining units to increase their participation. The district is lower this year. Q: Why aren't PILOT programs revenues on a separate line in the budget and with local reserves? A: Pellettieri- no one asked for it to be separate; Dion- it's broken out online. Payment In Lieu Of Taxes- real estate developer tax breaks, lower than assessed valuations. Increases over 15 years until tax assessment is at valuation. Q: Can there be a community meeting on this? A: Dion- it's online in a Powerpoint on the main page of the website. RVC has little say in PILOTS. RVCDOE is asking Town of Hempstead, Santino's office, to allow schools to have input in granting PILOTS in the future. IDA board makes the decision. Hempstead Town says development is good for community.

Budget Vote is May 16th, 7:00am-9:00pm. Absentee ballots, applications on RVC Schools.org. Application requires original signature. Send to children in college. Can be done by mail and returned by May 16th. Election includes school budget vote, library budget vote, and 2 BOE seats. There are 5 candidates for the 2 open BOE seats. There is a live stream candidates forum on school channel. Email questions to RVCPTAcouncil@gmail.com or bring questions to the forum, May 1 at SSMS.

IB/AP distinctions and costs questioned. US News & World Report rated SSHS low because IB did not submit information to the magazine and magazine only considered AP. IB schools can only be Bronze or Silver rated if they have some AP classes, therefore SSHS is Silver rated. L. Dion defended IB as it creates a learner across all subjects and includes a community service component. Ranking was an IB issue, not a quality of RVC education issue. Two years ago RVC didn't make "the list" either based on algebra scores in 9th grade and changes in US News & World Report methodology. Q: Should we try to opt out of rankings? A: Pellettieri- working to find out why IB didn't submit data. L. Dion- try not to focus on rankings. Q: There are rumors that ratings are down due to high opt out? A: Pellettieri- absolutely not. Maya Kramer not seeking reelection to school board, praised people who work for the district. Q: Is it appropriate for BOE to write editorial "Why We Don't Care About Rankings?" A: Dr. Johnson has a letter on the website and BOE is considering a letter.

Motion to Accept Budget : Made by Donna Downing; seconded by Faith Varley. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: (K. Garrett) \$31,834 was balance at the end of March. Outstanding check for \$956.86. Challenge day billows \$8181 when \$6,000 was budgeted. Overage came from a rope trip with BOCES. Didn't receive BOCES credit since didn't do activity last year. \$12,048 with half paid by BOCES and half paid by PTA. Last year district paid for the rope trip.

Presentation of Slate for 2017-2018 SSMS PTA Executive Board: (F. Varley) Co Presidents: Emma Travers & Irma Altman; VP Fundraising: Josie Milano & Jen Lindner; VP Membership: Stefanie Giangregorio; VP Communications: Anita Meehan; Treasurer: Faith Varley; Recording Secretary: Pegi Connors; Corresponding Secretary: Marie Eckrich; Delegates to Council: Maria Yarris & Michelle Sewell; Alternate Delegate to Council: Alanna Bender; Teacher Reps: Caitlin Keogh & Jackie Giacone
Advisors: Shelagh McGinn & Marie Eckrich

Vote to Accept Slate: made by Emma Travers, seconded by Jean Harris.

Robots (F. Varley) competed in Louisville, Ky with 40 plus countries with one robot and one hydroponics robot. Will be broadcast June 11th CBS sports. Fox 5 interview of Ms. McGinn is

on website. District added \$20,000 to budget for MS and HS robotics.

Ms. McGinn must not propose a MS budget greater than \$0.

Committee Updates:

Ms. Cammarata said selling diploma cards for \$10 each for the informally adopted school in Massassa.

SEP: (E. Travers) Bow fundraiser was a success.\$3839 raised fir SEP scholarships. May 16th, 7:30pm is the next Coffee & Share at the HS. Challenger baseball and Topps program holding ongoing registration.

Teachers Report: (J. Giacone) Ms. Quinn's Home & Careers is collecting used markers for recycling at Crayola. 6th grade aquarium trip. 8th grade Spanish exam was administered and some may receive prizes. 8th grade French also awaiting scores. Tests are done after school, voluntary, free and not towards grade. Yearbook available. Kids can check list outside Ms. Keogh's room to see if receiving a yearbook. Direct any questions to Ms. Keogh.

(A. Bender) apparel available at parent orientation & concerts. Box Tops collection is ongoing.

Presidents' Report: (E. Travers) Attend May 1 Candidates Forum and May 3 BOE meeting. Vote for 2 candidates May 16.

Principal's Report: (S. McGinn) School will sending letter regarding Netflix series 13 Reasons Why at the principal's meeting tomorrow. Series depicts teen suicide, bullying, rape and communication problems. Teens won't pick up on mental health issues. Book released 2012. Netflix has parental controls. Kids shouldn't watch suicide and rape.

Studio in Art bio-art is from a PTA grant. The play is next week, Friday at 4:30 and Saturday at 7:30. Tickets are \$4-\$5.

8th grade won't take math assessment but will take NWEA, Earth Science and Algebra review. Community Service posters will be displayed in the gym. The MYP booklet is due tomorrow. MYP project is nor graded but the process is important.

Motion to Adjourn: Shelagh McGinn seconded by Maria Yarris.