

SSMS PTA Meeting January 17, 2017

PRIDE Survey: (Dr. Noreen Leahy) RVC Schools receives an OASAS grant to subsidize 1/3-1/2 of Latoya Lamb's, SSHA social worker, salary. The grant requires a student survey of dangerous behaviors. PRIDE survey was developed in 1982 for grade 6-12. It was developed to assess risk (what increased substance abuse rates) and protective factors (what keeps substance abuse rates low) to aid districts design educational campaigns. District previously learned that parental acceptance and attitudes toward underage drinking as a "rite of passage" was a risk. District is now part of coalition which includes Task Force, Youth Council, churches, police, hospitals and rehab centers. Received a \$500,000 grant (\$125,000 over 4 years) which provides for a consultant to interpret PRIDE data. Survey will not include the 7th grade since they don't have enough health education to answer the questions. Survey will probably be administered during physical education classes in the auditorium. Ms. McGinn has a copy that can be seen tonight. The district has a passive consent policy meaning that parent must write Dr. Leahy to exclude child from the survey. Publicizing the survey invalidates it.

Motion to Accept Minutes: (1) Liz Mullen (2) Kara Spinelli

Nominating Committee: (E. Travers) Jean Harris & Jen Lindner from the executive board. Cindy Vaupel, Faith Varley & Beth Ann Schultz-Borrusso from general membership. Irma Altman made motion to accept; seconded by Michelle Sewell.

Treasurer's Report: (K. Garrett) Quick books balance was \$30,175.73 with approximately \$13,000 outstanding expenses. Current balance is \$28,869.25.

Committee Updates:

SEP: (L. Mullen) Hoops for All Sunday clinics, 9-10 am & 12-1pm for grades 3-8 & then 8th grade-aged 21. Sign up at RVCBL website. Contact Patti to help if child needs community service. May volunteer for 1 or more sessions. Diploma options meeting at SSHA, February 7th. Coffee & Share downstairs tonight.

Winter Fundraiser: (J. Milano) Can rent Dark Horse, 3/8, 3/9, 3/21 or 3/22, 7:30-9:30 or 10:30. Will try for 3/8 and start time of 6:30 to encourage teachers to attend after MS MYP professional workshop. Probable teacher discount, 50/50 or scratch off fundraiser, guest bartender-maybe mayor. Maybe cover charge or pay as you go.

Curriculum: (E. Travers) STEAM labs open for 5 years now. Robotics club will be more developed. Coding classes being offered in HS are under discussion. Testing is still a 3 day schedule. ELA may have a 2 page reading passage followed by 7 questions. Will do test on paper to eliminate scrolling. Please notify guidance or Ms. McGinn early in opting out. There are 820 kids in building. Hopefully one day will be able to use the data to drive instruction. Dr. Johnson is still working on 10th grade algebra scores. Reaching out to legislators is making a difference, Kaminisky is motivated to help. Please email mathregents@nassauboces.org.

Reflections: (E. Travers) 13 entries, 7 advanced to county, 2 advanced to states- Tina Johnson & Sophia DeMarco. PTA gave winners Turn of the Corkscrew gift cards.

Presidents' Report: (E. Travers) 2/3 State Aid Forum, 2/28 Public Education Forum. SSMSPTA will email date reminders. Bd of Ed meeting tomorrow night, 7:30, SSHA. PTAs learned of Dr. Johnson's resignation/retirement in The Herald. Bd did not give clear answers but PTA Council put together a statement. Watson is the only school who didn't endorse it because they felt it didn't support Dr. Johnson enough. See Board of Ed & PTA statements attached. Motion to accept PTA statement by Alana Bender seconded by Kristen Schaefer; 17 yeas.

New Business: Alana Bender has shirts to sell. Thanks for using Modells coupon over the holiday shopping season. Box Tops for Education collection boxes in lobby, Rec Center, Bender or Erickson's house.

Teachers' Report: (C. Keogh) 6th grade social studies & art departments will apply for a grant to do an Egyptian Cartouche activity during finals. Music in the Parks (orchestra, wind ensemble & chorale) is due 2/15, cost \$125, talk with music teacher if there's a hardship. 8th grade baby pictures are due 2/3. Will take hard copy if can't upload photo. Yearbook ad deadlines are 4/15, Yearbook info is on SSMS website under news. Selling yearbook for \$50.

Principals' Report: (S. McGinn) Music department out on a show in the cafeteria during lunch. Ms. LaGuidice sang, Mr. Lee played triangle, Mr. Pomponio & other teachers performed. 6th & 7th grade Conga lines. This is the 3rd year. HS Choraleers sang in the hallway through the day. HS kids ran recent Robotics

tournament which hosted 33 teams. Challenge Day is coming up. Get in your 8th grade permission slip; missing about 70. Will tie in with "Because I Said I Would" J. Pascerella said next meeting is 2/6, 7:30 at Rec Center. Alex will be there. All are welcome. Each month has a new challenge such as Bone Marrow Registration Drive. One girl is going across the country searching for her match. Alex is offering to waive \$30,000 speaking fee for education. (S. McGinn) had Inclusivity & Respect Week with the message treat others as you would like to be treated.

Winter II sports is only girls basketball & wrestling. Soon it will be Spring season with many athletes, so please get medical forms together early. Nurse office is organized now but will be less so later.

The inauguration will be broadcast in the auditorium and may be viewed in individual classrooms at the teacher's discretion.

The hydroponics lab is in a small classroom. Custodians and tech teachers built it with PTA grants. Grow peppers, tomatoes, a banana tree. May include coffee beans & saffron. Miscalculated the amount of water needed over break but plants are recovering. Tour tonight.

Motion to Adjourn: Irma Altman, seconded by Michelle Sewell.

Board of Education Statement 1-4-17

For the past 3-4 weeks, the members of the Board have been asked questions from the community concerning the future retirement of Dr. Johnson from our School District.

On November 2nd, at a Public Work Session of the Board of Education, Dr. Johnson read the following statement... "On the Personnel Actions Report, the Board of Education acted to extend my contract until June 30, 2018 at which time I intend to retire from this District as its Superintendent. It has been and will continue to be a privilege to serve this community and to provide to its children an outstanding education. I would hope that we do not focus on my retirement, but rather on the unfinished work yet to be done. My retirement is a long way off. Tomorrow will be no different than the days that have preceded it. You have my unwavering commitment to provide the leadership needed to keep this District on the road to excellence for every child that we serve and that commitment to do so until my last day of service as Superintendent of Schools."

The Board agreed with Dr. Johnson to focus on the District's business rather than dwell on his future retirement in June of 2018. We applaud Dr. Johnson's unwavering commitment to the needs of our students and community reflected in his November 2nd statement.

With Dr. Johnson's desire to complete unfinished business, the Board negotiated a 1-year extension of Dr. Johnson's contract which was to expire in June 2017. This will provide the Board with sufficient time to develop a transition strategy that includes the important task of ensuring that our new educational leader will continue to foster and provide the educational excellence that this community deserves and expects to receive.

We know that change is difficult and change after 30 years can be overwhelming. We are a dynamic District, one that continues to push forward and is never satisfied with the status quo. Together with our administration, teachers, staff, and certainly our parents the Board will seek out and find a new leader who will continue to build upon the strong foundation that has been fostered by Dr. Johnson and achieved under his direction.

We are reviewing the process for selection of our next Superintendent and anticipate we will provide a tentative timeline for this process shortly.

Rockville Centre's PTA leadership was surprised to learn recently of Dr. William Johnson's negotiated departure as school district superintendent in June, 2018. Since 1986, this district has benefited greatly from the vision, intellect, compassion, and tireless efforts of Dr. Johnson as school superintendent. South Side Middle School is profoundly grateful for Dr. Johnson's dedicated service and continues to support his leadership. During his tenure, our school district has been repeatedly recognized as a top-performer both state-wide and nationally, due in large part to the signature programs and policies that Dr. Johnson successfully initiated and implemented in our schools.

If we are to now enter a new era of leadership in our school district, we advocate to the Board for a transparent search process that includes our parent leadership as school district stakeholders and as decision makers in this process moving forward. A hallmark of our district and source of its strength is the unique and robust collaboration between the superintendent and our PTAs. In building upon the legacy of Dr. Johnson's contributions to our district, we request that in the search for a new chief administrator, the continuation of this critical relationship be a priority and prerequisite for consideration of incoming district leadership.

We are committed to working collaboratively with Dr. Johnson, our Board of Education, and the teachers, administrators, and staff of the Rockville Centre district to ensure the continued strength of our school district during this time of unexpected transition.