

## SSMS PTA Meeting October 25, 2016

**Welcome:** (E. Travers & M. Eckrich) Guest speaker unavailable tonight.

**Treasurer's Report:** (K. Garrett) Approximately \$20,423 balance. Fundraiser's end of the week. Please submit forms for reimbursement & check requests. Forms are on the PTA website.

**Legislation:** (C. Vaupel) PTA's advocacy organization. "Where We Stand" is the master document. Every 7 years resolutions are approved. Hewitt member may attend convention & bring tonight's vote. Retentions mean that the PTA is still advocating. There are 12 items PTA is keeping as is. Money may or may not be used to advocate for retentions. There are 9 updates with minor changes. Rescissions are no longer relevant or advocacy is no longer needed. New resolutions: PTA used to advocate against selling greater than 30% DEET products but more recent studies indicate that greater than 30% DEET repellants are safer than previously thought. DEET based repellants are more effective in fight against ZIKA and other insect borne diseases. Resolution is to promote education of the effectiveness of DEET based repellants.

The other new resolution which is being proposed first is to keep GMOs out of school until further research is done. Retentions pass 25-0-1; Updates pass 25-0-1; Resolutions pass 26-0-0

Vote of Confidence that the Hewitt representative, if any, can carry the SSMS PTA vote to NYSPTA passed 26-0-0.

Retention 6 (Ms. Cammarata) Sees many drivers pass stopped school buses when they shouldn't. She has been passed while stopped by a school bus. It is dangerous and needs to be stopped.

**Thank you** to Barbara Barker for picture day. An email was sent the pictures distributed and the retake day is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Return the photos & state your complaint if having picture retaken. Email Barbara Barker with names & grades of siblings if you want a sibling shoot. Parents should coordinate missed period (4,5 or 6) with their kids. Ms. Keogh said that some parents complained about the photos. Alanna Bender suggested looking into another photographer. **Thank you** to Nina for membership and thank you to Alanna for apparel sales.

Always thanks to Caitlin Keogh and Jackie Giacone for teacher's help.

### Committee Updates:

**Membership:** (E. Travers) 491 total members, 53 teachers, 286 female & 150 male parents.

**Fall Fundraiser:** (Irma) 104 tickets sold at \$65pp. Vendors have been generous. 10-12 grand prizes, 20-24 regular baskets with prizes of spas, dinners, etc., wine, beer. The Flour Shoppe is catering. Tent has heaters. Working on a silent auction items for Rao's which you can't get in without a membership. Thank you to the school for donating a parking space. There are door prizes for dads and teachers. Not planning to pre-sale basket raffles. Best bet is to ask a friend to put your tickets in. May be a 50-50 raffle. Thank you to Josie and Jen.

**Apparel:** (A. Bender) ordered for Fall Fitness & can buy at Alanna's home or school. There are headbands, long & short sleeve red tee shirts, sweatpants on sale \$20 for boys and girls. Contact Alanna if you can sell at the Middle School Revue or another school function.

**ADL:** (P. Connors) "No place for hate" school is an offshoot of the Anti-Defamation League. School must participate in a minimum of 3 activities which address bias or bullying and be approved by the Anti-Defamation League. Must be inclusive & sustainable. Committee will meet again to formalize ideas. Ms. McGinn already started the application process. Must do a "Resolution of Respect" with all students by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

"Challenge Day" for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade moves on to the whole school. Another idea is the "Keepers of the Golden Rule" where anyone can nominate. Nominee gets a hand to decorate and hang in the school.

**Drug & Alcohol:** (L. Gonzalez) State Senator Todd Kaminisky present & said we are losing the heroin battle. Thinking about bringing "Too Good for Drugs" to lunch/study for 10-20 minutes beginning with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in January 2017. Can bring drugs to any precinct at any time instead of just the Drug Take Back days. Youth Officer DeLuca said there's a problem with Baldwin Beverage selling to underage kids. There's also a fake ID problem; link's on the PTA website. 58% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders admitted drinking, 47.9% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders admitted drinking. Katie Schumacher spoke about "Don't Press Send", mindfulness, "mediation" to help distressed kids. Also take phones away at home. Steven Dodge of SLATE (Saving Lives Addiction Through Education) came last year and spoke about how drug use is to cover up what was going on in life. Kids liked him & former South Side students so kids related to them. Steven Dewey, who spoke here last year and showed MRIs, is speaking at the Long Island Youth Coalition conference at Hofstra, December 9<sup>th</sup>; tickets are \$20pp.

**Curriculum:** (S. Quilty) NYS is revising MS Common Core testing standards and invites teacher feedback. Parents should also complete survey at Aim High NY through November 4<sup>th</sup>; link is on website. Plan is for new standards and new name by Spring but will implement in next year's curriculum so test will still be mismatched and behind by 1 year. A few years ago there was a planning to overhaul Science standards. NY's restarting its review of Federal standards but keep getting pushed back due to Common Core disaster. Changes will trickle up to regents. 8<sup>th</sup> grade doesn't take the math assessments because they take the regents. There's a new scoring scale which could be less onerous on kids and NY may rescale for last 2 score so scores could increase for geometry. Due to poor scores in some districts, regents scores were disregarded and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter became the final grade. The conversion charts make it easy to get 60s but only 1 way to get 84 (considered mastering); it's impossible to get a 96 or 97. Last year's test was more true to how kids performed during the year.

**PTA Council:** (M. Eckrich) SSHS open house is November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, is in lieu of spring club fair. Letter sent home. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is BOE public works session, November 21<sup>st</sup> is BOE meeting, November 16<sup>th</sup> is SEP coffee & share, 8-9pm.

**SEP:** (K. Lynch) Dr. Leahy to speak about diploma options. (E. Mullen) Bear with us through changes. Look at SEP Facebook page for info. Hewitt has new self-contained classroom. Please contact Liz with RVC activity suggestions for kids with different developmental delays, learning or on spectrum.

**Reflections:** (C. Vaupel) "What Is Your Story" Art contest. There are 6 categories. Students may submit in more than one. Flyers will be distributed this week & are online. Due November 16<sup>th</sup>. Kids should see Mrs. Ryan with questions. 8<sup>th</sup> grade identity unit just completed. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will receive extra credit for participating. Last year 1 student was recognized at state level in 2 different categories.

**Presidents' Report:** Staff Welcome back breakfast was great; need volunteer for next year to run it. Winter ACE brochures are available November 21<sup>st</sup> and there's a link on the district app and page.

**Teachers' Report:** Curriculum members completing the Aim High Survey. History Club is collection Halloween candy for troops overseas. Box will be in lobby at the end of the week. Ms. Keogh requests photos of school functions be submitted to the yearbook. PTA photographer's Carrie Sitterly.

**Principals' Report:** (S. McGinn) E. Rockaway, RVC, Oceanside & Lynbrook are presenting an event at Oceanside MS November 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am, Saturday. Rosalind Weisman is the keynote speaker. She is the author of Queen Bees and Wannabees, the basis of the movie Mean Girls. There will be breakout sessions. Alisa Glickman Rogers, Oceanside MS principal, spearheaded the event. Turn of the Corkscrew is providing books for the events and also donated to the Fall Fundraiser. TVs need to be raised in the library. The auditorium got new speakers. The Broadway Revue is Friday, 4:40 & Saturday, 7:30. Fixing courtyards and only 2 leaks after the torrential downpours. There was a lunch assembly today about Halloween. No clowns because worry if on the street & someone thinks they're a bad clown. No cross gender unless someone significant. No weapons, no masks. Must be able to do work while in costume or be able to take it off. Told kids that they may be stopped by police if in large group and have large bag. No silly string or eggs- do them in your own backyard. Rose began 8<sup>th</sup> grade MYP and mentors being assigned. DC, MSG & science museum trips all safe.

**New Business:** none

**Motion to Adjourn:** Cindy Vaupel, seconded by Alanna Bender.