**YHS PTA Meeting Monday, September 11, 2017**

**Meeting called to order**

PTA President Kathy Mimberg, called the meeting to order and welcome attendees at 7:35 p.m. in the YHS Library. An estimated 50 YHS families attended the meeting.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Kathy Mimberg, PTA President introduced Mrs. Bridget Loft, YHS Principal, Mr. Reid GoldStein, Arlington County School Board member.

Mrs. Mimberg also indicated the order of business including:

* A vote on the PTA’s 2017 – 2018 budget;
* An overview of the PTA activities for the year ahead;
* Information on the upcoming Challenge Racism Workshop series at YHS this fall;
* A new meeting format that highlights an issue each month for parent discussion and also including committee reports on the printed agenda.

**Arlington County School Board Report:**

Reid Goldstein is the school board liaison to YHS for the 2017 – 2018 school year. He made brief remarks and is planning to return in the fall to speak longer and answer questions. He may be contacted at Reid.Goldstein@apsva.us.

Mr. Goldstein briefly discussed:

* The APS Open House which will take place on Saturday, September 23 from 10-a.m.-2 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School. (200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.)Topics to be discussed at the Sept. 23
* And that he will attend the YHS Back To School Night on Wednesday, September 27.

**Challenging Racism:**

* Marty Swain, a retired social studies teacher would like everyone to join the conversation and learn how to challenge racism in Arlington and in high school. Michelle Chang, a parent who took the class also spoke and emphasized that it was very interesting and worth taking.
* Please register by October 1st.
* Michelle Chang, a parent who took the class also spoke. She said the class was interesting and it was great to dive deeper in the subject and recommended parents jump in and sign up.

**Principal’s Report:**

Mrs. Loft explained that she took the Challenging Racism Class a few years ago and recommended that YHS families take the class. Mrs. Loft also discussed key dates in September and rumors that she has been hearing around YHS. First, key dates:

* Mrs. Loft met with freshmen last week and will be meting with sophomores, juniors, and seniors this week. Mrs. Loft will cover expectations for the year.
* School pictures are Wednesday and Thursday, September 13 and 14.
* Please support the YHS band on Saturday 9/15/17 for their fundraiser.
* Freshman elections will be on September 20.
* PSAT will be on October 11 and all students come to school including freshmen and seniors and should arrive no later than 8:19 am.

Mrs. Loft then addressed some rumors going around YHS.

* Food Trucks: A county ordinance prohibits food trucks within 100 feet of a school. In past years, some students visited the food trucks and then faded away and did not return to school or returned late. Food trucks do not come to Washington – Lee high school or Wakefield high school. As a result, the county ordinance will be enforced.
* Bathroom Doors: The exterior doors have been removed from some bathrooms. There is still a wall so that bathroom equipment is seen from the hallway. APS has worked hard to ensure privacy. Some bathrooms are been highlighted as needed further review for privacy and Mrs. Loft is checking on that. The doors were removed because some students use the restroom to vape and smoke and this prevents other students from access. Removing the exterior doors solves some of the problem. Mrs. Loft hopes to convent to all students that school is about the business of learning and the bathroom should not be used to avoid class or use illegal substances.

Additional Issues:

Seniors: yes, seniors may go off campus for food provided seniors have a signed form.

Wifi: there was an outage last week but it seems to be resolved.

Printers in library: APS information services removed desktops but they are coming back along with printers in September. Mrs. Loft asked staff to encourage google classroom and canvas i.e. Go digital.

Patriot period: Patriot Period starts this week. Mrs. Loft has heard good things about Patriot Period but will look at ways to see how best to use this time. She will have a staff committee for input. The library is popular place for student during Patriot Period, but because of space limitations, once the first 120 get in the library it will close.

Student phone during lunch: Students may use phone during lunch and classroom transitions. There may be reimagine issues with some apps.

Senior Experience: There are no changes with senior experience.

Mrs. Loft answered questions about lockers, drug abuse, Apple MacBooks for 9th graders, Canvas, the best way for parents to stay informed on YHS news, and the importance of addressing student and parent concerns early on.

**Approval of PTA Budget:**

Michelle Rinn, PTA Treasurer discussed details of the budget for 2017 – 2018. She mentioned we are a non-profit 501©3 tax exempted organization. Dawn Bova moved that we approve the budget. It was approved by voice vote.

Michelle Rinn also discussed the audit of the PTA, grocery cards, amazon smile, and the boat party. An audit of the YHS PTA is done to maintain the PTA tax exempt status. The beginning balance is $

And the ending balance is $

Families were encouraged to donate to the Welcome Back Breakfast for Teacher on September 28th.

**PTA News:**

Kathy Mimberg highlighted PTA Issues:

* Committee reports listed on agenda.
* Future meetings will include substance abuse, meeting with School Board Liaison Reid Goldstein and cultural competency.
* Also considering a parent coffee so parents can say hello.
* Family Network will have three programs including college financing, stress and mental health and substance abuse.
* October 11th, PSAT testing day will include specific lessons for 9th graders on drug abuse.
* Kathy Mimberg is also reviewing possible changing to PTA bylaws with are required by the VA PTA and streamlining teacher grants.
* The Senior Boat Party will be revamped and moved to a newer bigger boat that will provide a lot of the food, games, dance floors, and include a field trip to check out the boat.
* Encouraged parents to sign up for the YHS PTA emails newsletter. 1600 families receive the news currently.
* Mrs. Mimberg also thanks Yvonne Brandt for al her work to create a new YHS PTA web site.
* The boat party chairs indicated that a new boat, The Spirit of Washington, will be used for the 2018 Senior Class which has more space for students and will also include food as a part of the ticket price.

**Mrs. Loft discussed the newest Capitol Improvement Plan for YHS:**

* Mrs. Loft highlighted the process and timeline for the Capital Improvement Project that will be conducted at Yorktown next summer to expand the school's classroom space. APS must confirm plans this November in order to prepare for the construction work to be completed by September 2018.
* YHS will be under a 5/7 model for class room use. YHS has 8 periods a day and 7 are academic.
* A priority will be to give teachers planning space.
* Another priority will be planning for testing space. During the 2015-16 school year, YHS students took 2200 AP exams.
* Mrs. Loft indicated that YHS has 1985 students with an additional 300 more student coming in Fall 2018. APS will spend $4 million to improve YHS to accommodate the additional students.
* Three staff members, one science teacher, one special education teacher, and one health and PE teacher, along with Mrs. Loft, Mr. Rooks, and Mr. McKeown will be on the committee considering internal modifications that will take place at Yorktown in summer 2018. Two parents, Kelly King, and Carol McCoskrie will also serve on the committee.
* This group will meet weekly to talk through needs and reach out to parents and families. A plan is anticipated by early November and plan is expected to reach the school board on 2/1/18. Construction will begin and end over summer 2018.

A motion to adjourn was made and the meeting ended at 8:47 pm.