**Yorktown High School PTA Meeting**

**Monday, September 17, 2018 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Meredith Purple, YHS PTA President called the YHS PTA meeting to order at 7:35 pm. There were about 40 individuals attending.

Ms. Purple, welcomed everyone and introduced PTA Officers present including, VP Internal-Jayne Bolzano, Secretary-Ashley Rehr, Treasurer-Jenn Vogel, and VP Communications-Marianne Lavelle.

Next, Ms. Purple welcomed Tannia Talento, Arlington County School Board member and liaison to Yorktown High School. Read more here: ([https://www.apsva.us/school-board-members/tannia-talento/)](https://www.apsva.us/school-board-members/tannia-talento/)

1. **School Board Welcome and Remarks**

Ms. Talento brought a handout (attached) based on an APS School Board Slideshow and discussed each of the different slides in the handout. As part of the discussion, Ms. Talento named all current school board members including Reid Goldstein, Barbara Kanninen, Monique O’Grady, and Nancy Van Doren. Some highlights from the presentation by Ms. Talento include:

* 27,522 APS student recorded for first day enrollment
* The school board will adopt names for schools that are opening/moving/changing in September 2019.
* APS has a “Strategic Plan”
* APS has a communications plan
* APS has construction updates
* APS moved to 2110 Washington Blvd, Arlington, 22204, 2nd flour
* Engage with APS! Has all details on the information above
* School Board has open office hours, please check the schedule online

Ms. Talento ended her presentation by saying that she is happy to come back to speak to the PTA and update YHS families in the future.

1. **Principal’s Report**

Ms. Bridget Loft, YHS Principal, introduced Vice Principal Scott McKeown ([Scott.mckeown@apsva.us](mailto:Scott.mckeown@apsva.us)). Mr. McKeown discussed the parent group formed during the 2017-18 school year, that focused on drug and substance abuse. This year the group will continue with a focus on school safety which will include substance abuse issues as well as issues related to the safety of students at YHS. The group will meet for 1 hour prior to the PTA meetings each month. The first meeting will be Monday, October 15th, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Please contact Mr. McKeown for more information. All are welcome to attend. Mr. McKeown emphasized that all you had to do to join the parents group was just to show up 1 hour prior to the PTA meeting.

Ms. Loft then introduced Kim Chisolm the new Yorktown’s new Substance Abuse Counselor. Parents can reach Ms. Chisolm at kim.chisolm@apsva.us.

Ms. Loft thanked all YHS families for donating to the Welcome Back Breakfast hosted by the YHS PTA in August. Ms. Loft said the entire staff looks forward to the breakfast hosted the morning after Back To School Night and appreciates all the hard work of the volunteers and the donations by YHS families.

Ms. Loft encouraged all families to “opt in” for the YHS directory (a new Virginia General Assembly law requires families to “opt in” rather than “opt out” of the directory which is produced by the YHS Activities office staff. This year the directory will be online only.

Ms. Loft reviewed upcoming dates:

9/20: Activities Fair for student during lunch

9/25 & 9/26: Freshman elections for Student Government

9/26 BTSN

Counseling sponsored laugh more stress less week; Oct 1 -5

Oct 12 Columbus Day no school

Oct 8 spirit week with theme days

Oct 10 ER

Oct 11 interim reports

Homecoming: Oct 13

Oct 15 PTA Meeting

Ms. Loft provided an update on the status of repaired student laptops. On the morning of Friday, September 14th, all APS high schools were instructed to collect all laptops that had been assigned to freshman, transfer students who are new to APS, and any MacBooks which evidenced problems with Global Protect, Wifi, Airwatch or other network issues so that Information Services personnel could reimage and address these issues. While Information Services did share that an update for the rebooting issue was resolved, many of these devices have other issues that require intervention.

Currently, the only device Information Services is instructing schools to return are those devices which were physically broken (broken screens, mouse/touchpad, keyboards, or internal fans running on high) and have been repaired. There are only six of about 650 devices with these issues. Those six students received their devices yesterday. Ms. Loft and school personnel are continuing to monitor the situation.

**Financial Reporting**:

Ms. Purple offered to let anyone see the audit and it is also posted on the PTA website. Ms. Purple offered a motion to approve the audit and it was agreed to by voice vote. On behalf of the YHS PTA, Ms. Purple will submit the audit to VAPTA.

Ms. Vogel presented the YHS PTA budget for the 2017-18 school year. Please see attached copy.

The budget was approved by voice vote.

**Key PTA Objectives for 2018-19 school year**

The PTA President presented PTA objectives for the year. These include the following:

1. Opportunities for students to socialize and grow their school spirit and sense of community at Yorktown High School.
2. Parent-focused events for parents to meet and make connections, as well as a continued focus on providing timely, relevant information.
3. Updated budgeting and approach to fundraising.

**Chair Reports**

**Membership:** The PTA Membership Chair reported that as of today, the PTA had 461 paid members resulting in $5054.00 in dues. Ms. Debbie Pearson also reported that the No Frills Fundraiser had raised $13,621.00. Everyone was encouraged to join the YHS PTA. Information may be found at: [www.yhspta.org](http://www.yhspta.org).

**Community Read:** The Community Read is a joint project between all county high schools, libraries, and APS. It includes an author visit and books will be made available in the library. This year the book is entitled: “Monday’s Not Coming.” The author is Tiffany Jackson. The book was selected by Library Services.

**Boat Party**: Mr. Mike Cantwell is the Chair the Senior Boat Party graduation event. It is a drug and alcohol free celebration for all graduation seniors. The night is fun and includes, the boat, food, music, entertainment, and prizes. Volunteers are needed from all grades. To volunteer, please email Mr. Cantwell at [boatparty@yhspta.org](mailto:boatparty@yhspta.org).

**Family Network Event:** The chairs for Family Network are Ms. Royce Sherlock and Ms. Diana Meighan**.** Two events are planned and the first is on October 24th and will be on paying for college. Other events will include ACT and SAT prep help, mental health and anxiety, and possibly something on a gap year.

**Other PTA News:**

Parent Social: There will be a parent social in October for all parents on Thursday, October 25th at the Westover Beer Garden. If you want to volunteer, please get in touch with Inga Middleton.

Vision and Hearing Screening: These screening tests will be performed at YHS on October 24/25. The Chair, Mary Cooper needs volunteers.

Reflections: Reflections entries due Oct 12th and information is on the website.

Grocery cards: Please remember to re-link your grocery cards at Harris Teeter and Giant. This is a tremendous part of the PTA budget and easy to do when you are grocery shopping. Please know that you can also link your Amazon account. Just go to smile.amazon.com and sign in and shop.

Open Volunteer Positions: Fundraising Chair, 9th Grade Parent Rep,, Website assistance, Judges for Science Fair.

Spirit wear: The Spirit Team will sell t-shirts at Back To School Night.