



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 10, 2018 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

I. **Welcome** – Meredith Purple, PTA President

Meredith Purple, PTA President, welcome everyone and thanked them for coming!

II. **Approve Oct. Meeting Minutes** – Meredith Purple

A motion was made to approve the October meeting minutes and it passed by voice vote.

III. **Principal's Report** – Bridget Loft, Principal

Bridget Loft, YHS Principal, thanked all parents for the snack attack and said all teachers and staff looked forward to the event and enjoyed the food! Mrs. Loft highlighted several upcoming events:

- Early Release is on Wednesday
- The theatre department will be presenting Mamma Mia (December 13, 14, 15) and there are band (December 17) and choruses concerts (December 18) over the weekend
- The Winter Break begins on Friday, December 21st and YHS starts up again in the new year on Monday, January 7th
- Academic planning night will be on January 30th and it will be for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders and an AP Panel will be a part of the night so that parents and students can learn more about these offerings.
- The YHS web page features facts on Patriot Period. Please see this link to learn more: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hrIPpU0IL8UxWwX_xRDlgnWeYxhlljwh1pexxVCpj0w/mobilebasic
- Ms. Loft discussed the MacBook Air repair and replacement charges communicated in the Dec. 3 PTA newsletter. (<https://mailchi.mp/yhspta/yhs-pta-weekly-update-1232018>)



- Ms. Loft shared that the charges are a policy adopted by the School Board in May 2018, and are system-wide, not Yorktown-specific. Ms. Purple encouraged parents who have concerns about the policy to contact the School Board. PTA members at the meeting provided input that the policy should be clearer about who determines if charges are owed, how those decisions are made and whether there is any appeal process. Members also felt that APS should be clearer about how parents can refuse APS devices for their students. Ms. Purple has shared that input with CCPTA leadership for their upcoming discussion of the policy.

IV. Parent School Safety Group

The group meet with 9th grade Assistant Principal Emmet Conroy. Questions were asked about what happens if a student uses illegal substances on APS property and what are student/parent legal rights when questioned by school officials or the police. It was suggested that perhaps this information could be put in written form for parents.

V. Treasurer's Report – Jenn Vogel, PTA Treasurer

Jenn Vogel, PTA Treasurer, presented the PTA budget for December. Ms. Vogel stated that the PTA has started to pay out grants to YHS teachers. Spirit wear purchases are going well while Membership dues are down so please consider joining or renewing your PTA membership. The deposit for the Senior boat party has been made.

VI. Officer/Committee/Chair Reports

a. Officer reports

There is a joint project for all high schools called Arlington High School Community Read 2019. Library services selected the book, which is called "Monday's Not Coming" by Tiffany D. Jackson. Ms. Jackson will be visiting all 3 high schools as well as a community fair at Central Library. Read the book and join the conversation.



Communications: Good news for PTA Communications! VP of Communications, Marianne Lavelle was able to add many YHS parents to the YHS email newsletter. However, open rates have not been that high for PTA email news. There was general discussion on this issue.

Community Foundation Scholarships: YHS provides funds for PTA Scholarships for YHS Seniors going to College. This is administered through the Arlington Community Foundation. The PTA has no role in making the decision. The PTA will collect information about the scholarships and discuss funding during the spring. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Ms. Purple at President@yhspta.org or Ashley Rehr at secretary@yhspta.org.

Student Agenda: YHS provides student agendas to all YHS students. Due to a paperwork error, the PTA did not fund the agenda's last year and after discussion, it was decided that the PTA budget would be amended to allow for payment of the agendas beyond the \$2,000 allocated in the 2018-19 budget and already paid to YHS.

- b. Parent Family Network, Diana Meighan and Royce Sherlock. The Parent Family Network is considering several interesting meeting ideas including a follow up on substance abuse perhaps focusing on "tools and techniques" to handle bad or difficult situations. The chairs will review ideas and be back in touch. The chairs are also looking at hosting the movie called "Angst." This focuses on anxiety and stress. See more here: <https://angstmovie.com>



VII.

- a. Teacher of the Year Nominations are due December 17th. Please nominate a teacher who makes learning fun and interesting.

- b. Drivers Ed at YHS. For those students interested in taking driver's education, the school will be offering a semester course during the 2019-20 school year. Students can sign up during the normal course registration process. Those students who are currently looking for options for completing driver's education can look into the online VADETS course. More information can be found here: <https://yhs.apsva.us/post/drivers-education-information/> or on the YHS Home page.

VIII. New Business/Parent questions or comments

IX. Announcements

- a. Upcoming PTA meetings

January: Ms. Purple indicated that the January PTA would focus on transportation and parking and would have a speaker. Speakers include: Kristin Haldeman, APS Director of Transportation.

February: Will include an update on substance use and counseling and Ms. Kim Chisholm, YHS's substance abuse counselor, will present.

Grocery receipts/Amazon Smile are a big part of YHSPTA budget....keep spending for your school.

X. Adjourn – Meredith Purple