



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 9, 2019 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Purple welcomed all to the meeting.

II. **Approval of October 2019 Meeting Minutes** – Meredith Purple

The minutes were approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Loft said this is her last meeting that she will be attending as Principal of Yorktown. She expressed her gratitude for the support of parents and the PTA over the years that she was at Yorktown. Ms. Loft thanked the PTA for the grants which were issued this fall. She discussed an example of one grant that was used for the Food & Fitness class in which the students baked cookies from the book *With the Fire on High* by author Elizabeth Acevedo. The author came for Yorktown's Community Read and the cookies were provided during this event.

Ms. Loft reminded the PTA that the Student Government Association is sponsoring a toy drive; students can donate toys in 3rd period. There will be an early release on Wednesday, December 11. Winter break will be a full two weeks this year.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Jenn Vogel, PTA Treasurer

Ms. Purple reported for Ms. Vogel that all looks fine with the PTA accounts. We are down a little in terms of no frills fundraising, but there will be promotional pushes to raise money for this fundraiser throughout the year.

V. **Officer/Committee/Chair Reports**

Ms. Purple reported that the principal search is on track. There are no details as to whether or not the Yorktown community will get a preview of the



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selected candidate prior to the Board of Education meeting on December 19th, or if we will be notified following the meeting. The PTA will keep parents posted on any updates that may come from the Board.

The ACT practice test was held on November 23rd and raised \$1,800 for the Junior class; these funds will go into their senior year account. There will be an SAT practice test and an SAT Subject Test practice held later in the school year.

Ms. Middleton reported from the Social Committee that we do not have a huge turnout at parent socials, so they have been hesitant to continue doing them. There was some discussion about possibly providing better promotions and possibly targeting the socials by grades instead of the whole school. Ms. Middleton indicated that they will work on some of these ideas.

The PTA will hold some parent involved meetings once the new principal is at Yorktown. The Hospitality Chairs are ready to help coordinate this. We will most likely have an event in January.

Ms. Gold reported that grants went out in early November; all feedback has been good. It was suggested that we include information about the grants that were issued this fall as an update in the email that is sent out to promote the No Frills Fundraiser. We hope to have some photos and details of the grants so that parents can understand how the fundraiser helps to support the students, teachers, and school. Approximately half of the grants budget was spent for fall grants, so, there is about half of the budget left for the spring grants.

Ms. Sherlock reported that we have a presentation on December 10th from Ann Dolin. She will discuss the differences between the SAT and ACT tests, when to take them, etc.

Ms. Cohen reported on the planning for the Boat Party. The committee will be



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holding their second meeting December 10th. The committee positions are all filled. The party will end at 2:30am this year; the contract increased by \$1,700 this year due to a change in management. Additionally, we were not able to change the pre-fixed menu to include dessert, but, we sign a waiver and ask for parents to provide dessert. To date, we have sold 34 tickets -- ticket sales and efforts have just started. We may look for some parents to help with selling tickets and making calls for fundraising. The seniors will be voting on a theme in January.

VI. New Business/Parent questions or comments

A question arose about an increase in fights at the school and at sporting events. Ms. Loft explained the steps the school has taken to address the issue of fights at various sporting events and it is being addressed with the booster parents as well. Yorktown is making some changes in their scheduling to address some of these concerns.

VII. Announcements

Ms. Purple discussed upcoming Spring PTA meetings and asked if there are any specific presentations that parents would like to see at the meetings. Two suggestions were to have had a school board member come and talk about things going on in the county and having a substance abuse counselor come for a presentation. The January meeting will primarily be to introduce the new principle.

In addition, Ms. Purple announced that we are looking for almost an entirely new board, so, she asked for parents to consider volunteering to serve on the board.

VIII. Advisory Council on Instruction (ACI) Discussion—Anne Paris, YHS PTA ACI Representative

Ms. Paris explained that she wanted to ensure that she is representing the Yorktown parents concerns appropriately and so she asked parents to share any concerns they had about the Arlington County Curriculum.

The ACI is aware of concerns about the writing program withing Arlington County schools and ensuring that our students have sufficient writing skills



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when they graduate. Several parents agreed that this was a concern and discussed a variety of issues in regard to the writing program at Yorktown.

A second concern discussed was the use of technology. Some parents suggested making the school provided laptops optional so that students with their own computers at home can use that; other parents felt that providing the computers was helpful in ensuring that all students have access to classroom resources and assignments.

Another concern presented was the limited support for special education students in AP and intensified courses. Special education students are supposed to be provided the support they need in order to participate in AP and intensified courses, but, Yorktown is currently not providing that support.

It was recommended that the ACI consider a way to incorporate study skills/note taking skills into the high school curriculum so that students will have these skills as their coursework becomes more challenging.

A final request for consideration was that Yorktown have the same option for a daily “intervention” (Patriot) period that the other two schools in the county have. Plus, Patriot Period tends to be cancelled in the weeks prior to the end of the quarters which is when students likely need opportunities for support the most. Ms. Loft explained that they are looking into this second issue and hoping to make a change this year. Creating a daily Patriot Period may require more substantial work within the Yorktown community, but can be taken up with the new principal.

- IX. **Adjourn** – Meredith Purple
Ms. Purple Adjourned the meeting.