



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2020 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Meredith Purple, PTA President

Ms. Purple welcomed all to the meeting and introduced new YHS principal, Dr. Kevin Clark.

II. Principal's Report – Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal

Dr. Clark began his report by sharing a bit about his background in education; he has worked both as a teacher and an administrator in schools in Arlington and Falls Church. He explained that at Yorktown, he would like to focus on collaboration and on supporting teachers in teams. He also wants to ensure that YHS has both equity and excellence in our education. Dr. Clark stated that he likes to be transparent and have a lot of open communication. He does not plan to make any major changes mid-year; instead he will use this second half of the year to see how things are working at YHS and what are the school's strengths and what areas need improvements. Dr. Clark will be engaging with parents, students and teachers in the coming months to see what everyone thinks.

Dr. Clark gave a few business updates: He asked that parents complete the Your Voice Matters survey. He also announced upcoming events including Academic Planning Night on January 22, early release on January 15, and no school for Martin Luther King Day on January 20 and grade preparation day on January 31.

At this point, Ms. Purple asked parents to present any questions/concerns to Dr. Clark. Issue addressed included grades being entered into the gradebook in a timely manner, tech problems with the students' laptops, focusing on the Senior class who now have their 3rd principal at YHS, disparity of math help at Yorktown in comparison to Washington-Liberty (Math lab is only 2 days per week and only covers content through Algebra II), the possibility of looking into a low cost provider for SAT/ACT prep at the school, and access for all students to the APS Prime Internship. Finally, there was discussion about the possibility of changing the Yorktown weekly schedule to include Patriot Period five days a week (versus the current 2 days a week); this would be consistent with the approach that the other Arlington high schools take. Parents also expressed concern that currently, there are too many restrictions with Patriot Period in terms of students being able to move freely about the school (requiring passes) and some parents would like to have that considered as well.



III. Approval of December 2019 Meeting Minutes – Meredith Purple

The minutes were approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Vogel reported that the budget seems to be on track with the exception of the PTA being a bit under budget with the No Frills Fundraiser, however, there will be a No Frills Fundraising drive in February and hopefully that will help to get our numbers up. Ms. Vogel also report that the PTA switched to Stripe as our payment platform (in place of PayPal). All went well with the transition and the benefits are that it has lower fees and it does not require that the account be tied to an individual person which should help with the transition of PTA officers. This is a backend change, so, parents making any payments should not see any changes in the process.

V. Officer Reports

- Ms. Purple provided an update on the Boat Party working group. A survey is almost ready to go out to obtain feedback on location options for the graduation night event. The group is going to survey both the parent community and students. Hopefully we will have the results of the survey by March or April. These results will be provided as information for decisions to be made next year. We are surveying the students but the survey will be coming from the PTA (as opposed to the school), so, Ms. Purple asked that parents help in encouraging their students to fill out their survey.
- Ms. Purple reported that the YHS Teacher of the Year was selected and that our candidate will be forwarded to APS for the county-wide selection.
- The No Frills Fundraising drive will begin in February; YHS does not hold an auction or sell anything for fundraising. The PTA tries to keep it simple with just a donation. We are a bit down from where we were last year at this point, but, hopefully with the drive in February, our numbers will increase.
- Ms. Purple announced that we will be needing volunteers to serve in various Officer positions for next year's PTA. In March the PTA will establish a nominating committee and in April that committee will present candidates to Board. Ms. Purple asked for volunteers for both the Officer positions as well as the nominating committee.



- Ms. Lavelle reported that the PTA has increased the number of parents on the weekly email list by approximately 500 bringing us to a total of 2800 parents on the mailing list.

VI. **Committee/Chair Reports**

- Anne Paris reported that she shared our concerns from the December meeting with the Advisory Council on Instruction.
- Jennifer Gold reported that the Grants Committee plans to put out an announcement to teachers to apply for Winter/Spring grants in mid-February with a submission deadline of March 1. Once the submissions are in, the Grants Committee will meet to determine which grants will be approved (this will take approximately 3-4 weeks). The committee will also meet with Principal Clark to run all grants by him before giving a final approval.
- Paula Cohan reported on the Boat Party. To date, 45 tickets have been sold; the committee will be giving a big push for ticket sales in the weeks leading up to Spring Break. Fundraising for the event will also be starting soon and we will be asking local business to make donations to help offset some of the expenses. The committee will be meeting regularly leading up to the event.
- Royce Sherlock reported that there was a good turnout when Ann Dolin came to YHS to discuss the ACT/SAT. She was also approached by Mom's Demand Action to see if there might be interest in having them come to the school to provide a 20 minute presentation on gun safety.

VII. **Announcements** – Meredith Purple

- Your Voice Matters Survey – Ms. Purple also encouraged all parents to take this survey.
- Superintendent Search Process -- APS is in the process of starting their search for a new superintendent; this will be a nation-wide search. There will be a few community meetings for families to provide their input. The first two will be held on January 22 at 7pm at Washington-Liberty High School and Kenmore Middle School (Kenmore's forum will be in Spanish). There will be two more meetings on January 25 at 10am at Dorothy Hamm Middle School and Wakefield High School. Families will also have an opportunity to fill out an online survey that will provide feedback on what the community would like to see in a Superintendent.
- APS is planning to make some changes to the elementary school boundaries. There a couple of moves happening within specific elementary school programs; once these changes happen, then new



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boundaries will be made. Interested parents can find information about these changes on the APS website. Please let Ms. Purple know if you cannot find the information and she will direct you to it.

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