



## YORKTOWN PTA MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 10, 2020 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- I. **Welcome** – Meredith Purple, PTA President  
Ms. Purple welcomed all to the meeting.
  
- II. **Approval of January 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Meredith Purple  
The minutes were approved by voice vote.
  
- III. **Principal's Report** – Scott McKeown, Asst. Principal for Dr. Kevin Clark  
Mr. McKeown reported on the following items:
  - The previous week was National Counselors week, so, Mr. McKeown asked parents to thank the counselors for all their hard work with our children.
  - Students will be doing completing a School Climate Survey conducted by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education. The survey will be completed during Patriot Period one Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mr. McKeown asked that parents complete the Your Voice Matters survey. The PTA Newsletter will have a link to the survey or, parents can go to the APS Engage website page and find a link there. Parents expressed concern that perhaps the initial email requesting parents to complete the survey may not have been received by all parents. Mr. McKeown will look into this concern.
  - Spring sports tryouts will begin Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>; please check the YHS Athletics page for more information.
  - Next week is Choose Health week, so, the school will be addressing healthy eating, healthy relationships, etc..
  - This spring, our juniors and seniors will be receiving information in an interactive format related to consent, rights and responsibilities on turning 18, interacting with the police, and the risks of substance abuse.
  - The Spring Fling dance will be held this year on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.



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

Ms. Vogel reported that there has not been much change in the budget since January. The no frills fundraiser budget line is still down from the previous year, however, there have been contributions coming in since the February No Frills drive has begun. The grants fund still under budget partly because we have only received reimbursement requests from about 3-4 of the 10 grants approved. Jennifer Gold will send a reminder to the teachers to ask that they submit their reimbursement requests.

**v. Officer Reports**

- The SAT practice test was held last weekend at Yorktown. The test was administered from Capital Educators and Phil Pine come back to YHS on February 18<sup>th</sup> to provide test results, analysis/explanations, etc.. There will be a practice SAT subject test held at YHS on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Students will be able to take 1-2 subject tests and we are looking into providing another ACT practice test that day.
- Ms. Gold reported that we are about to start the next cycle for grant requests. The application will be available from mid this week thru the end of the month.
- Ms. Sherlock reported that the Family Network is hoping to host an event with parents and students addressing issues of either substance abuse or mental health.
- Ms. Purple announced that the PTA is looking for people to volunteer to participate on the nominating committee for next year's PTA officers. We need 3 parent volunteers. The Newsletter has a sign-up genius in which parents can sign-up or you can email Ms. Purple directly.

**VI. Student Safety/Substance Use** – Scott McKeown, Asst. Principal, Kim Chisolm, Substance Abuse Counselor, Det. Tim Koch, School Resource Officer

Mr. McKeown began the discussion with an update on where YHS stands in terms of these issues which include alcohol, drugs, tobacco/vaping, and



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weapons. YHS has had very few incidents and the number of incidents continues to go down. He believes that two things have made an impact: after school detention and restorative practice. After school detention goes until 6:45pm and it is staffed by the counseling office. As a result, the counselors are able to do some restorative practices while the students are in detention. This has been helping the YHS suspension numbers to decrease.

Mr. McKeown also addressed transparency regarding these issues. The school will give as much information as possible to the parent body as quickly as possible to ensure that parents know that their children are safe. However, certain information pertaining to students will not be provided to protect their privacy.

Mr. McKeown then introduced Detective Koch and Ms. Chisolm.

Det. Koch has been at YHS 3.5 years and generally gets involved in a situation if it is something that crosses a criminal boundary (i.e. something that needs to be reported to the police). Generally this does not mean that anyone will be arrested, but he investigates the situation and tries to help students find any resources that they may need to help them through a difficult situation.

Ms. Chisolm has been at YHS for about 2 years and she spends most of her time with students talking about illegal substances and how they impact our lives and our families, their implications for their future, getting something on the record before going to college, etc.. Yorktown's approach is forgiving, and Ms. Chisolm works with students to discuss what they could have done differently. Her office is located in the clinic and it is designed that way for confidentiality (vs. being in the counseling office where many students are going in and out.) Students can meet with Ms. Chisolm even if it's not about substances, this can include: boyfriend/girlfriend issues, upcoming parties, family issues, etc.. Everything stays confidential with Ms. Chisolm; she only calls the assistant principals or parents if she needs them to be part of the conversation.

Ms. Chisolm explained that she does have an open-door policy, but, due to CFSR 42, if a student comes to her, the conversation has to stay confidential between her and the student. However, if there is a risk of harm to themselves or others, Ms. Chisolm does need to contact parents about it.



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She informs students of this before their conversation begins, so that the students know that their conversation is confidential.

- VII. **Adjourn** – Meredith Purple  
Ms. Purple adjourned the meeting.