



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 8, 2021, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

1) **Welcome and Introductions:** Dana Milburn, PTA President

Ms. Milburn welcomed all the PTA meeting and presented the agenda for the night's meeting.

2) **Principal's Report/Q&A:** Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal

a) **Return to Hybrid and Virtual Yorktown Updates:** Dr. Clark

Dr. Clark provided updates on the return to school for hybrid students. He discussed all of the communication mechanisms that have been sent out over the past week and emphasized some of the most important content relevant to students' return to school. In addition, Dr. Clark updated parents on the school-wide assembly that was held during Patriot Period today. All the logistics of returning to school were covered and explained to the students.

Dr. Clark also reported on the Equity Team meeting that was held today. Last month, they organized a presentation for students on housing equity in Arlington which can be found on the Yorktown website. Dr. Clark thanked the John Langston Civics Association for presenting this information. They will be doing a video series on the history of segregation in Arlington and Dr. Clark encouraged families to look for this. The Equity Team is also planning an Intro to Equity lesson; they have identified how to make education more equitable in terms of grading, curriculum, etc.

Other notes from Dr. Clark:

- A Counseling Update will be sent to families tomorrow for information on course planning for next year. Course confirmations will be sent to families later this month in order to firm up plans for next school year.
- Athletics and Activities: Now that students are returning to school, there will be some opportunities for in person club activities, however, YHS is still encouraging most students to continue to participate in their clubs virtually. Season 1 of sports has finished up and Season 2 is underway. YHS will allow for some spectators at these sporting events, but it will mostly be limited to the families of the athletes. Season 3 will begin in April.

b) **Questions and Answers:** Dr. Clark

- **Can you address the issue of Senior Experience given that the AP exam schedule is not finalized yet and could overlap into June?** Senior Experience is moving forward; it will look different this year, but seniors are being asked now to find their own experiences. Most will likely be virtual, however some students may be able to find something that can be done safely in person. It does look as though YHS is on track for the AP exams to be held at home will be in June (except for World Languages which will be May 21). If the AP exams are in June, seniors will need to coordinate with their mentor and explain that they may have to be out on a certain date if it overlaps with an AP exam. YHS is planning to provide the seniors with more information (including Senior Experience) by Spring Break.

- **AP Exams:** Arlington is scheduled for the AP Exam Schedule 3; parents can go onto the College Board website and see the schedule of the actual dates. APS will announce them as soon as they have the finalized information.
- **Lunch Periods:** 4th and 5th period teachers should be notifying their students as to what lunch period lunch they have. If your student does not know, have them ask their 4th or 5th period teachers. This information can also be found in Canvas. Students are being encouraged to eat outside – there are many good areas for students to eat outside including the outdoor amphitheater, the courtyard, and the tennis courts. YHS has enough room for seating 110 students in cafeteria; if it is raining outside, the school will open the aux gym for additional seating.
- **Will students have assigned lunch seats?** No, but some tables will have barriers for students sitting within 6 feet of each other. Other spaces have 10 feet or more in between seats. Teachers are keeping seating charts in the classroom for contract tracing, but, not for lunch.
- **Are you making sure that students stay only in the assigned outdoor areas so that they are not wandering the neighborhood?** Yes, YHS will have a staff member/teacher monitoring each of the eating sections to ensure students are not wandering off. Students will not be allowed to eat in cars or order food in.
- **Ms. Milburn asked if the PTA has any funding that they could provide, should the PTA consider contributing to any outdoor seating?** Dr. Clark will get back to the PTA with his thoughts because of specific types of furniture need to meet certain requirements.
- **Are assemblies generally recorded? Specifically, today's assembly so that parents can see it?** Yes – a link to the assembly is on the website – go to the scrolling pictures and click on the image for the assembly.
- **Will SAT or ACTs be held at Yorktown?** Yes – YHS is working with The College Board to accommodate 200 testers. The school is encouraging families to pick one day and not both. If your child is a junior, look out for SAT testing announcements.
- **How are the kids split between the hybrid/virtual days and approximately how many students will be in the building on any given day?** The split was determined alphabetically (to keep families together) and each day, there will be about 775 students in the building.

3) Approval of February 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes: Berrin Ozbilgin, PTA Secretary

Ms. Ozbilgin stated that the minutes from the February 8, 2021 PTA meeting were provided in this week's PTA Newsletter and asked if there were any questions or concerns. With no questions asked, Ms. Milburn moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4) Financial Report: Dan Sennott, PTA Treasurer

Mr. Sennott reported that the PTA currently has a balance of approximately \$67,000. In the past month we had some incoming funds from the Amazon Smiles Program (approximately \$300) and \$82 from membership dues and the no-frills fundraiser. The PTA paid out approximately \$6700, most of this went to teachers grants and staff appreciation. Thanks to our Staff Appreciation Chairs for distributing small treats in the teachers' mailboxes this week. If any PTA

members wish to confirm that they had paid their membership dues for the year, please send an email to Mr. Sennott at treasurer@yhspta.org.

5) Ratification of Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 PTA Leadership: Dana Milburn

Ms. Milburn reported that our current PTA Secretary, Berrin Ozbilgin, will be completing her two-year term this spring and so therefore, the PTA is looking for an individual to fill the PTA Secretary role. The first step in filling this position requires the establishment of a Nominating Committee and we currently have three volunteers to serve on this committee: Jillene Bushnell, Sally Granade, and Leigh Ann Lindquist. Ms. Milburn asked for a vote to approve these candidates for the Nominating Committee; the candidates were approved unanimously. They will now look to recruit potential candidates for the PTA Secretary position with the hope to present any candidates at the April PTA meeting.

6) APS Budget Update: Susan Land and Gary Bogle, Arlington Council for Teaching and Learning (ACTL) Representatives

Mr. Bogle reported that he and Ms. Land had attended a presentation provided by Bridget Loft, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Loft discussed the APS budget proposal for the upcoming school year and how learning may be impacted by any budget cuts/proposals. Mr. Bogle reported that \$3.5 million needs to be cut from the teaching and learning budget and to close that gap, the School Board have asked various departments to tier the amounts of the cuts. If additional funding is received from the federal government, the reductions would be eliminated from consideration starting with Tier 3 and moving up. Below are a list of the three tiers and the reductions to be made at each level if necessary.

Tier 1 Reductions:

- Tier 1 department reductions
- Tier 1 school reductions
- Reduce new budget requests
- Reduce funding for MC/MM
- Use 50% of remaining available reserves

Tier 2 Reductions:

- Tier 2 department reductions
- Tier 2 school reductions
- Additional reduction in new budget requests
- Additional reduction in MC/MM funding
- Replace 2% COLA with \$500 one-time bonus
- Use additional 25% of remaining available reserves

Tier 3 Reductions:

- Use additional 25% of remaining available reserves

Although there will be some cuts, there will be some improvements as well. Ms. Land reported on the following areas which will see budget increases/additions:

Increased Staffing and Services for Students with Disabilities:

- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and Cued Language Transliterators (CLT)
- Change planning factor for PreK assistants from 1.0 per class to 2.0 per class
- Additional funding for hearing officer/contract services

Additional Resources for English Learners:

- Additional funding for translation of documents
- Translation specialist
- Director of English Learners

Instruction and Mental Health Supports:

- Screeners
 - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Universal Screener
 - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) to replace PALS to determine reading levels in elementary school
 - Mathematics
- Student Behavior and Climate Coordinator
- Teaching & Learning Data Coordinator
- Gifted Services Specialist
- Resource adoptions – English Language Arts, French, Spanish Immersion Language Arts
- Testing Materials
- Reinstatement of FY21 one-year reductions
- Addition of school-based positions funded annually from contingency

Funding for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: This office was founded in December of 2019 to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion

- Professional Development
- Convert 10-month employees to 12-month
 - Family and Community Engagement Supervisor
 - Equity Specialists
- Stipends for Equity Influencer Team and FACE Action Team Coordinators (these groups help to keep some of our underserved communities engaged)
- Professional services, program costs, travel costs

A parent asked if Mr. Bogle or Ms. Land knew of which department reduction of tiers one and two are? They reported that Ms. Loft did not give details of those in the presentation, but, since this is still a working budget, the specifics for departments and schools many not be finalized yet.

Ms. Milburn provided a graph that highlighted where APS's money comes from and she pointed out that 79.9% of the budget come from Arlington County. In addition, Ms. Milburn reminded PTA members that all links to the APS budget information could be found in this week's newsletter and suggested that parents with questions or concerns about APS funding not only reach out to the School Board, but, to the County Board as well.

PTA member Janet Pence asked if a single letter could be prepared with concerns about the APS budget and have multiple parents sign it. Ms. Milburn indicated that she would ask the

CCPTA to see if they have any thoughts about whether the PTA could send such a letter or if it would need to come from parents separate from the PTA. Ms. Milburn also suggested that we could check with other schools' PTAs. Ms. Pence agreed to assist in writing a letter and Ms. Milburn asked that if any other parents are interested in participating in this to let her know.

7) Staff Grants: Jennifer Gold and Meg Sharp, PTA Grants Committee Chairs

Ms. Gold reported that the Grants Committee met about two weeks ago. They received a total of nine proposals of which six were approved. Of the three proposals that the PTA is not funding, one will be able to be fulfilled by the school. Two of the requests were technological devices and it is against our policies to fund technological devices, so those requests were forwarded to Dr. Clark for consideration. He was able to fund one of the requests because it was for a monitor to be used by the yearbook staff, however, the other request was an iPad for an individual teacher and that could be complicated if other teachers request the same. One more grant request of note that was approved by the Grants Committee is to provide a one-time funding to Arlington Tech of an amount up to \$2000 to cover expenses of supplies, field trips, conferences, etc. for YHS students that take a course at Arlington Tech. The YHS students' expenses are not funded by Arlington Tech, so, the PTA Board will recommend an amount of funding to cover expenses for our students.

In total, the PTA will have provided approximately \$10,600 in grant funding this year. Many of the grants were for software applications that the teachers could use to assist students during virtual learning. This cycle, the physics teachers asked for circuits for students to complete labs at home and there have been a lot of art and music related requests since students need to participate in those classes at home. In addition, the Grants Committee approved funding to print the literary magazine this year because the class was unable to raise funds to print their magazine last year.

8) Announcements: Dana Milburn and PTA Leadership

Ms. Milburn reported that the PTA is looking into distributing yard signs for our graduating seniors. The PTA is working to determine the logistics of this including whether to ask parents to help fund the signs. In addition, the PTA is considering how to distribute the signs (i.e. would we have enough parent volunteers to help distribute the signs or would we need to ask students to pick them up at school). Jennifer Leonard has been looking into this for seniors and she knows a parent that can help provide the signs at a good rate. Ms. Milburn suggested that we may need to pull together a committee to figure out the logistics of this and to work with other APS high schools and their PTAs to ensure that all high schools are on the same page. Haru Connolly volunteered to help with this effort and she and Ms. Leonard said that they would reach out to the Yorktown community via Facebook pages to try and pull together a team to help look into organizing a committee to purchase and distribute the senior signs.

One question asked was that since we are not having a boat party and not all of the senior dues have been used, could we use those funds for senior signs? Ms. Milburn responded that she hoped it could be a possibility, however, the PTA and the Boat Party Committee are still looking into possibly holding some kind of graduation celebration with some thoughts of

an outdoor event with food trucks and a DJ. This is likely to be cheaper than the boat party, so, we might have some extra funds for the signs, but we are not able to know just yet.

Ms. Milburn reported on other updates. Our movie showings of Selma and Onward had about 130 families participate; Black Panther only had about 25. The Executive Functioning event that was held earlier this month had about 500 people sign up and throughout the evening we had more than 200 parents at a time, with attendees coming in and out. The PTA will be posting these presentations on our website, so if parents missed an event and are interested, they can find them there. Janet Pence is still working on a developing a virtual cooking activity for the students.

Ms. Milburn also provided a few brief highlights from the newsletter, with emphasis on the upcoming resiliency event – this presentation will help parents to learn more about what a social emotional learning curriculum could look like.

9) Adjourn – Dana Milburn

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.