



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING AGENDA Monday June 7, 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) **Membership Vote on Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2021-22 PTA**

Leadership: Jillene Bushnell; Sally Granade; and Leigh Ann Lindquist, Nominating Committee

Ms. Milburn introduced the nominating committee members and Ms. Granade read the proposed list for next year's slate of PTA Officers. After reading the list, Ms. Granade asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With no additional nominations being presented, Ms. Granade called for a vote. The following slate of PTA Officers for the 2021-22 school year was unanimously approved:

- Dana Milburn, President
- Kate Sheehey, 1st Vice President
- Katrina Brubaker, 2nd Vice President
- Christine Shelly, Communications Vice President
- Dan Sennott, Treasurer
- Julie Halferty, Secretary

3) **Our Thanks to Outgoing Secretary, Berrin Ozbilgin:** PTA and Board

On behalf of the PTA and Board, Ms. Milburn thanked Ms. Ozbilgin for her work over the past two years serving as PTA Secretary. Ms. Milburn also thanked parents of graduating seniors, Meredith Purple (former PTA President) and Maureen Robinson (former External PTA VP) for their work the previous two years serving as PTA Officers. Ms. Milburn thanked all three for their guidance over the past year.

4) **Approval of May 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes:** Berrin Ozbilgin, PTA Secretary

Ms. Ozbilgin stated that the link to the minutes from the May 10, 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 called for a vote to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

5) **Update on Senior Picnic, Details and Needs:** PTA Board, On Behalf of Holly Radus, Graduation Party Committee Chair

Ms. Milburn reported that there are currently 40 parent volunteers signed up to help for the Senior Picnic. Ms. Radus has arranged for 15 tents and multiple lawn games. Many members of the PTA have stepped up to help in organizing this event and as a result, preparations are in very good shape. Ms. Milburn reminded senior parents that their students need to sign up in

order to attend the event; we will need an exact number of students attending to ensure that the appropriate amount of food is provided.

6) Next Year's Graduation Party: PTA Board and Berrin Ozbilgin, Incoming Graduation Party Chair

Ms. Ozbilgin and the Board discussed alternatives to holding the Graduation Party on a boat, since last year's YHS student and parent survey (which included next year's Seniors and their parents) had shown a preference for a party on land, tickets have become too expensive for some students, attendance has been below 50% in recent years, and other factors. More to come next year from Ms. Ozbilgin and the Graduation Party Committee.

7) Our Thanks to Our Event and Committee Chairs and Coordinators, both "Graduating" and Continuing: PTA and Board

Ms. Milburn thanked the following parents for their work as Event and Committee Chairs. All have done a wonderful job and the entire PTA appreciates all their hard work over the past year!

Graduating/Outgoing Chairs:

- ACTL: Susan Land and Gary Bogle
- Graduation Boat Party: Holly Radus
- Family Network: Royce Sherlock and Dianne Vandivier
- Grocery Receipts: Melanie Nordwall
- 12th Grade Representative: Ashley Rehr
- 9th Grade Representative: Liz Allan
- SAT/ACT Prep Test: Michele Kile
- Science Fair Liaison : Sonja Schulken
- Social Work Liaison: Kenny Kaye
- Spirit Wear Sales: Karen Perez
- Staff Appreciation: Lori Stultz
- Teacher of the Year: Jennifer Helsel
- Teacher Grants: Jennifer Gold and Meg Sharp
- Vision Screening: Janet Pence

Continuing Chairs:

- Art Show: Angela Sakell
- Homecoming: Valerie Brennan
- Membership: Sharon Levin
- 12th Grade Parent Representative (moving up): Jennifer Leonard
- 11th Grade Parent Representative (moving up): Tia Alfred
- Reflections: Mary Cantwell
- Social Committee: Amy Westhoff
- Staff Appreciation: Rabia Oubenadi
- Volunteer Coordinator: Jamie Pilot
- Web Coordinator: Jenny Shanker

New Chairs:

- Graduation/Boat Party: Berrin Ozbilgin
- Grocery Receipts: Claudia Cox
- 10th Grade Parent Representative: Sarah Hobbs
- 9th Grade Parent Representative: Brinton Warren
- SAT/ACT Prep Test: Lori Schimenti
- Social Work Liaison : Liane Kluge
- Spirit Wear Sales: Cici Schultz and Emma Baker
- Teacher Grants: Ellen Scotti-Belli and Fran Cloe
- Vision Screening: Anne Betz

Following Ms. Milburn reading through the above lists, a few outgoing chairs reported on their experiences and discussed what they enjoyed most in their roles. Ms. Sherlock and Ms. Vandivier discussed how fulfilling it was to function as a clearinghouse for the YHS community, finding free webinars on a variety of parenting topics. From there, they both enjoyed narrowing down guest speakers to come to YHS and give presentations. Mr. Kaye reported that in his role he found great fulfillment in helping provide assistance to those in need within the YHS Community. Ms. Milburn asked Mr. Kaye to provide her with his feedback as to what he feels will be the best approaches in the following year to ensure that the PTA is able to continue effectively providing support to YHS families in need.

8) Report on PTA Chairs' PTA Chairs' Positions Still Open for 2021-22 School Year: Jamie Pilot, Volunteer Coordinator, and PTA Board

The following PTA positions are still open, and we need volunteers to fill these roles:

- ACTL, Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning Representatives (2, plus alternate)
- Family Network
- Fundraising/No Frills Fundraiser
- Hospitality
- Science Fair Liaison
- Teacher of the Year

Ms. Milburn asked that parents get involved by volunteering for one of these positions. If anyone has any questions, they can contact Ms. Milburn or Ms. Pilot. Tia Alfred expressed interest in the ACTL position and Janet Pence indicated that she would like to reach out to Ms. Milburn after the meeting regarding one of these positions.

9) Volunteers for PTA Annual Financial Audit (3-Person Committee): Dan Sennott, PTA Treasurer

Mr. Sennott reported that every year there is a PTA audit completed in July after the end of the PTA's fiscal year. A three-person committee reviews the books at a one-time meeting. The meeting is usually no longer than a couple of hours. The Board needs to reach out to non-board members of the PTA because the auditors cannot be anyone with the authority to sign checks. This is a nice opportunity to understand the finances of the PTA and the committee will meet in late July at a time that is convenient to all. Janet Pence volunteered her husband, Greg Pence and provided his contact information. She said that he has done this before for other PTAs

(Nottingham) so is experienced in this. Meredith Purple offered to help if they cannot find a remaining two people.

10)Principal's Updates and Q&A: Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal

Dr. Clark thanked all Board members and outgoing and incoming chairs. He stated that their work makes a big difference at YHS, and the school appreciates all the leadership and support for our students, teachers, and the whole community.

Dr. Clark also thanked all who helped with the Senior Prom Reception. The students had a great time. He also thanked the PTA in advance for help in organizing the Senior Picnic. All in all, we were able to end the school year with some nice activities for our graduating seniors and the school will be using this experience as they try to plan for opening up in the fall with some fun activities for our other students.

Dr. Clark thanked the PTA for the gift cards for students and for all their help in funding the spring Staff Appreciation Lunch.

Dr. Clark reported that this would be the last week for in-person hybrid learning. Next week is final exams and they will be 100% virtual but on a synchronized schedule. YHS has made an adjustment to final exams to ensure that this year's finals cannot hurt a student's grade; the exams are optional for students that are happy with their year-end grade, and they can only improve a student's final grade if a student chooses to take the exam.

Graduation will be held on Friday, June 18th at 10:00am. Each graduate will be able to bring 4 guests. In addition, there will be a live stream of the graduation which will be done professionally and will be accessible on You Tube and some other local formats. Also, the Senior picnic will be held on June 16th. Dr. Duran has updated the APS mask policy: vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask if outside on school properties, but, if anyone is not vaccinated, they must wear a mask outside on school properties. This policy will apply to all upcoming outdoor senior events.

The staff and administration are busy planning for next school year. Students will be back five days a week, however, there has not been a determination yet as to whether students will need to wear masks within the school building. Dr. Clark reported that the school is planning some welcome back activities for our students, especially the rising 9th and 10th graders that have had little to no experience at YHS prior to this year.

Dr. Clark reported that this has been a busy time of year for YHS athletics with district and regional athletic events. Currently, we have both our boys' and girls' soccer teams competing in the District Finals. Congratulations to the boys' lacrosse team that won the district tournament. The YHS virtual art show is now available online and displays all the artwork our YHS students have been working on this year. The link to the spring YHS Choral performance was provided in our newsletter. Finally, this year's Literary Magazine was just published this year and can be found online as well.

Looking forward to next year, August 2nd is the start date for the fall pre-season practices. Parents with students interested in participating in a fall sport should download the TeamApp

application and sign up to receive updates from the sports in which their students are interested. Parents can also go to Yorktownsports.org to find out more information.

Dr. Clark reported that on June 16th and 17th YHS will be having collection events for students to drop off any textbooks, athletic equipment, library books, etc. Seniors should also drop off their APS issued computers on these days. Thursday, June 17th is the graduation rehearsal date when students will pick up their cap and gown; any students that have any unreturned items will not be able to get their cap and gown until all items are returned to YHS.

Q&A:

- What are students supposed to wear to graduation? The gowns go over their clothes, so students can wear whatever they would like to be wearing after the graduation ceremony.
- Will teachers be taking attendance for finals? Dr. Clark suggested that students should check in with their teachers to see if attendance will be required.
- When is the final senior experience seminar? This will take place on Tuesday, June 15th at 10am. Student that participated in the program will be divided into groups of about 10 students and will meet with a teacher to discuss and share their experiences with each other. These seminars will be held virtually. The groups are currently being finalized, so, students should receive an email sometime mid-week with their seminar link. Seniors do not need to do anything else for finals week.

Dr. Clark's final words for this year were that students have really rallied and accomplished incredible things in a very challenging year. Teachers had to learn how to teach virtually and have worked so hard to be sure that their students were able to learn. Finally, Dr. Clark appreciated the support of the parents for their students and the school as a whole.

11) Members Thoughts/Ideas for Planning PTA's Work for 2021-22; Feedback on this Year Relevant to Next Year: PTA Board

Ms. Milburn asked the PTA what the members would like to see the PTA do next year for our students, families, and staff. Also, what immediate needs do parents see for our students up their return in August and what in-person events might students enjoy. The following suggestions were made:

- Have a cupcake party on the Friday before school starts; keep it easy and informal and maybe hold different parties by class. This would provide the students with a chance to see friends that they haven't seen in over a year.
- Community building activities which would allow for students to reconnect (especially those that have never been in the building).
- Reach out to students that are entirely new to YHS (transfer students) and include students that were new in both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. Hold an event just for these students. (Dr. Clark does have a welcome program, but perhaps PTA can provide addition support to this area).
- Have food trucks visit for social activities. Perhaps have an ice cream truck visit for an ice cream social. Possible consideration to do this on the first day of school so that all students are there and can participate if interested.

- One parent requested that if we do anything food related at the school, the PTA ensures that students clean up after themselves and do not litter.
- Possibly have donuts available on the first day of school in the morning.
- Because many of the above ideas could get expensive, consider having parents contribute a donation to make these events happen.
- Possibly hold an event the weekend before school starts (on Saturday?).
- Needs on re-entry Anxiety: Possibly have PTA webinars on resilience, executive functioning skills, etc. Provide students with executive functioning reminders of operating in an in-person school environment (how to study, turning in work in-person, taking tests in-person, etc.)
- Possibly do a regular Patriot Period topic on executive functioning. Students need repeated reminders on best practices.
- Ask YHS to provide a note to students prior to the start of the school year as to what to expect in classes when most students return full-time to school. Dr. Clark pointed out that we have found some of the online learning has allowed for different approaches that worked well, so the school is hoping to identify what was best about in-person school and what was best about virtual learning and combine these to create a new way of learning.
- Maintain a schedule of opening grants to teachers the very first week of school. This would be up to the Grants Committee to decide, but the PTA will suggest it.
- As for programming for parents, many parents indicated that they liked the approach of having webinars as it was easier to participate from the comfort of their own home. The PTA will consider continuing to hold some virtual presentations.
- Make sure that teachers do not continue to rely fully on technology and get back to some paper and pencil work.
- PTA is considering alternating monthly meetings between in-person and virtual to accommodate as many parents as possible.

No further suggestions were made, however Ms. Milburn asked that if any parents had any further ideas or suggestions for next year, to please reach out to her at any time during the summer.

12) Financial Report: Dan Sennott, PTA Treasurer

Mr. Sennott reported that the PTA currently has a balance of approximately \$55,600. In the past month we distributed a few grants reimbursement checks for teachers amounting to \$3060 and we received some incoming funds from fundraising in the amount of \$439. In addition, the PTA has received a check to be deposited from Harris Teeter for grocery receipts in the amount of approximately \$3000.

13) Announcements: Dana Milburn and PTA Leadership

Ms. Milburn reminded members that they can contribute to the PTA No Frills at any time of the year and if your company provides matching contributions, please consider asking your company to match your gift.

Ms. Milburn also reminded members of the following upcoming events:

- Wednesday, June 9th: Turning 18 – Rights and Responsibilities that Come with Coming of Age
- Thursday, June 10th: Supporting Your Student with College Essay Writing
- Wednesday, June 16th: Senior Party/Picnic
- Yearbooks to be distributed in July

14) Adjourn – Dana Milburn

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.