



## YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, March 14, 2022, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

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

Ms. Milburn welcomed all to the PTA meeting and presented the agenda for the night's meeting and introduced the YHS PTA Board members.

**2) Principal's Report, Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal**

Dr. Clark provided updates regarding planning for next year's school year. YHS successfully obtained a reduction in class size by one student per class allowing for improved student teacher ratios. This allows teachers to better address student individual needs. There is an upcoming early release for teacher professional learning.

The following week 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are scheduled to take the writing SOLs. Therefore, there will be a longer third period and no patriot period on Tues through Friday. After the week for SOL, the school will have spirit week.

In response to concerns around sexual harassment and assault, YHS held an assembly with juniors where Arlington County Police and staff addressed the issues. There will also be a guest speaker on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

Next week with extended 3<sup>rd</sup> period there is a Your Voice Matters Survey for students, parents also to complete a survey. The survey covers a variety of dimensions regarding schools' safety and trusted adults, etc. There is also a survey as an SEL screener for Students and Parents. This addresses things that impact grades and responsible decision making. There is a plan to do this survey every few years.

The Superintendent's Proposed Budget includes a reduction of class sizes by 1 student. There is also a planned increase for staff compensation. This includes reinstating step increases lost in prior years due to budget crunches and shortfalls. With budget increases YHS can increase its Equity in Excellence by .5 staff which allows for a whole staff position for the program.

As previously addressed, YHS is looking to have an AP Capstone program implemented.

YHS Community Response to Sexual Harassment concerns includes 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders receiving information during the PE classes and there was a presentation in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade assembly. This included covering Title 9 and Project Peace.

The Orchestra received a Superior rating at the recent competition concert. There is a musical Annie upcoming which is the first in a few years. Spring sports are underway with boys' soccer have a home game this week, lacrosse, baseball, and crew. The grilling club is a popular club at the school.



Senior activities include a prom on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Westin in Ballston. Graduation will be at Constitution Hall on June 16<sup>th</sup> followed by a graduation party at State Theater. There will be a Spring Fling on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Spring Fling is a dance that is open to all students. Arlington Tech and students who home school attend YHS prom and graduation party.

SEL update include the main goal of empowerment to develop key skills of respecting others, community, and self. This is done through work with teachers in classes who find ways to teach these skills during the lessons.

Weds is an early release day for students and teachers and teachers will work with departments and see how they can teach the skills in SEL. The advisory model is to have the same patriot period teacher for all four years. The SEL lessons are delivered by advisors and in assemblies. There will be an SEL Speaker on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to address critical life skills with empirical outcomes on school success.

Dr. Clark concluded with thanking the President of the PTA and the PTA for support in SEL.

### **3) Presentation by PTA President Dana Milburn**

The President addressed the recent Bell/Schedule Revision Process for students of all ages. The survey was pulled up during the meeting and the options were not optimal for teenagers who must get up early and not get enough rest. Much of the scheduling is driven by the bus transportation runs. The complications in the scheduling include after school activities for high school students. There has been talk for years to give teens a later start. Dr. Clark stated the latest high schools' students could be released is 3:30 to meet the demands of after school activities.

Upcoming activities include the March 21<sup>st</sup> SEL event which addresses how we create calm during chaos. Keith Metheny is a well-respected teacher and author on the topic. On April 7<sup>th</sup> there is an Executive Functions and College Event. Movie Night in the Courtyard is on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Spring Dance is on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the chair managing this event handles it exceptionally well.

The Nominating Committee needs volunteers, and we hope to have a vote in May and will need a slate of new officers listed in early April. The nominating committee works for a defined period to figure out who will carry forth the good work of the PTA. Most of the Board is turning over. According to the PTA By Laws we can extend the length of time officers serve but it has been traditional that people serve for two years. The President, two VPs, and Treasurer will be open.

PTA Committee Reports:



Janet Pence is addressing a Boot Camp for college preparation to include how to develop an essay. This will be piloted the last week before school starts and Marymount University is willing to provide the space for the event. There will be speakers to talk about college selection and a one-hour tutorial on how to help your kid through the essay process.

The committee for the graduation party presented on the plan which has been discussed for the past several years. The plan is to select the State Theater as the venue following the 2020 survey regarding the continuing with the Boat Party versus other options.

Historically YHS held a Boat Party event for graduation starting about 25 years ago. The goal was to provide an alcohol-free event ending at 3 am. Over the past 25 years the student body has doubled in size. The cost of the event is now about \$60 per student. During the past three years only 40 to 50 percent of the class attended the party. There were lots of complaints that the prices were too expensive and 3 am was too late and inconvenient for parents to pick up the kids. It is also very difficult to get volunteers to assist with the boat party and to chaperone the boat party. Finally, the boat company has been very difficult to work with this year. The Boat Company refused to return the PTA deposit in 2020 when the event was canceled due to Covid. Instead, the company offered a discount for a future cruise. The Boat Company changed hands and not only are they difficult to work with they raised the prices for the event. If next year's graduation party committee wants to revisit a Boat Party, they can decide if they want to hold it with the Boat Company.

The Graduation Party committee contacted other schools and reviewed other venues and surveyed current seniors. W-L holds a Boat Party event and breakfast for students after the party. Fairfax High schools hold all night events at schools and the students are locked in. Some schools have no events.

The Survey results for 2021 classes and beyond found students wanted a land-based event and parents overwhelming preferred a land-based event over a water-based event.

The final thoughts are a land-based event would be more inclusive and with a lower price more students could attend. The teachers and class officers were happier with the venue change because of price and the length of time for the event. Many students said the \$60 tickets were too expensive, the boat was too crowded, and some kids were seasick. The State Theater has a full outdoor option in the event of Covid outbreaks. Also do we really want to risk putting kids on a crowded boat.

The Spirit Wear sales are up and there will be more marketing and size options.



#### **4) Financial Reporting: Dan Sennett, PTA Treasurer**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dan Sennett. The current balance of \$59,000. There were deposits of \$650 and \$236 from Amazon Smiles.

#### **Announcements and Adjourn – Dana Milburn**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.