



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING
Monday, January 9, 2023
Meeting: 7:30pm

- I. **Welcome:** Katrina Brubaker, PTA President: welcome to back to new year!
- II. **Approval of November 14th Minutes – motion to approve. Approved**
- III. **Guest Speaker:** Tamarah Stanley, YHS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator
 - a. New employee at YHS – has been an educator for over 15 years. Was a math teacher in the beginning. Then transitioned to school counseling. Helping kids with mental health and post secondary planning. This is first year as DEI Coordinator. Works with students, teachers and parents to support access to pursue opportunities after high school.
 - b. Serves as resource for teachers and also support student affinity groups (e.g. Latinas Leading Tomorrow, Sister Circle, and others). Working with students to build a new affinity group for Native American students which has just started. With these groups, work on leadership skills, take college visits, explore scholarships, to open opportunities to pursue opportunities after high school
 - c. Other student groups that Ms. Stanley supports in conjunction with other programs, including Early Identification Program in collaboration with GMU. Matched in middle school. Then through graduation, get support with academics and college application process. She makes sure that they are keeping their grades/attendance up so that they will be ready to apply to college.
 - d. Serves as resource for teachers. At YHS, main focus this year is on equity. Within curriculum teams, looking at grading for equity strategies. Book on strategies that teachers can use to make practices more equitable for students; for example, late work policy, reassessment policy. Works with teachers to be more culturally responsive in the classrooms. A lot of times, when people hear the word “equity”, they may immediately jump to race. But there are other ways to be culturally responsive, i.e. how do students feel about their place in the school – do they have a sense of belonging and see themselves represented within our building and in the curriculum? Additionally English language learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and what strategies can be used to support students from different backgrounds and supporting the whole child and not just considering the academic portion.
 - e. Will be hosting panel in February for Black History Month. Will have representatives from Halls Hill and have panel discussion about historical connections and experiences in Arlington with the students who are taking US History. Students can engage with panelists about how their experiences align with what kids are learning in their US History class. All students can listen in from their classrooms.

- f. For parents – have equity team and they meet monthly. Have three different sub-committees – 1) school culture and climate committee (how do they elevate students from various backgrounds – when you come into the building, what do you see? Does the building reflect the student population attending the school and make them feel valued and supported) 2) curriculum instruction committee. Looking at implicit bias training that is being done through APS. Having conversations about how to bring this to YHS. 3) YHS Structures opportunity and access committee – focused on representation in courses. Focused on diversifying advanced level course work. Making sure students have support they need within those courses to be successful. Next week and into following week have an "all about AP" panel so kids can learn from other students what AP is like. Bringing in AP Seminar next year to help students feel more successful with AP courses. **Parents can get involved in this if you want to be on the equity team.** Next meeting Jan. 23. Contact Ms. Stanley via email if interested. tamarah.stanley@apsva.us
- g. Q: how diverse is YHS and do you have a profile? Yes! Have school profile on the school website and have an equity dashboard.
- h. Q: do we have profile on how diverse faculty is? Dr. Clark – is it available – might not be on equity dashboard but it is on school profile.

IV. Principal's Update:

- a. Big shout out to Ms. Stanley!
- b. Shout out to PTA families who contributed to PTA High Tea. Incredible spread that made staff feel very appreciated.
- c. Thanks to all parents who contributed gift cards
- d. Thanks to the grants committee – teachers who earned grants are excited.
- e. First semester is wrapping up in the next few weeks. Jan. 23 – 27 are the first semester exams. Schedule is out in newsletter. Patriot period kids can meet with teachers. Online tutoring program. Have supports in place for kids who are struggling and coming up with interventions.
- f. Updates to attendance. Minor changes to communication protocols. More frequent notification for unexcused and unverified absences. Are monitoring attendance for tardies or absences – 3 or more, being assigned to detention. Has been really effective. At this point, do have kids who are chronically absent. Senior skip days are not excused absences. While we enter this stretch where there are no days off, dial in and be in school every day and on time.
- g. Keep sick kids home! Keep hearing about new variants – want to keep schools open.
- h. Quick update on concerns re: arrival times, traffic and safety. Working with PTA to look at possible solutions. Please use student drop off loop! The bus loop is not a drop off loop. Don't drop kids off in the streets. County has decreased speed limit on Yorktown Blvd. between George Mason and Little Falls to 25 mph. Have meeting coming up with Arlington Transportation to look at what can be done. Have already moved one elementary bus stop. Will keep working on this to bring other actions to ensure safe arrival and departure.
- i. This year will do a follow up to last year's sexual assault program – will do a large scale assembly for 11th graders. Smaller groups for 12th graders with smaller group work. Scheduled for March 14.
- j. Drug abuse prevention program. Hearing so much in the community about synthetic drugs, counterfeit pills that are laced fentanyl. Students don't necessarily know what

they are taking and can overdose very easily. County recently put out messaging about what Arlington is doing to inform families and students but also to have staff trained on how to administer naran. YHS has this stocked at the school. Want to have a presentation for students so they are aware about how to protect themselves, friends – to understand what an overdose looks like and how to get help. Still need to set the date for this presentation. Planning a school wide presentation for juniors and seniors. 9th and 10th will get this presentation in health/PE.

- k. Course selection process – students getting CRF in Jan. Next week there is an academic planning night on 1/19 – info on counseling website. Friday. 1/20 – electives fair during all three lunches (also people from Career Center come). Session Thursday night 2/2 for rising seniors. CRF due Friday, 2/10.
- l. Offering AP seminar this year – primarily for students in 11th but can be taken by students in 10th – 12th.
- m. Offering “AP consult” – for kids who are taking first AP class or more than 2 AP courses. This is a support class that will provide instruction on skills and make time for them to get work done.
- n. Have 33 AP courses at YHS. Think through what they are trying to accomplish and focus on what is relevant. Don’t have to take all APs! 6 total APs is the benchmark that they are looking at.
- o. Shout out for activities – Grilling Club had a burger contest today. Dr. Clark was one of the judges. Athletics going well.
- p. Budget season is coming up – Dr. Duran has shared that it will be a neutral – no big increases but no big cuts. Continuing programming around literacy and mathematics education.
- q. 1/16 – Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. No school on 1/30.

V. YHS PTA Committee Updates:

- a. Have positions that need to be filled –
 - i. Second VP – be on executive board and support some of our other committees and events
 - ii. Volunteer coordinator
 - iii. Fundraiser and grocery receipts chair
- b. Mary Cantwell – Reflections contest – three winners from YHS – Grace Fetting, dance choreography; Carson Wallin, music composition, Jack Roosa – photography
- c. Lori Schimenti – mock ACT and mock SAT – turnout was a bit low compared to last year. Had 150 students for both mock tests and got \$2500 in donations. Shout out to Capital Educators who offer services for free
- d. Kristen Shattuck and Susan Kelly – Awarded over \$9000 in classroom grants this fall. Directly benefitting about 1200 students with indirect impact on entire school community. Spring classroom grant applications will open 2/6.

VI. President Notes:

- a. Big Thanks to Rabia Oubenadi for organizing the Holiday Tea for the Teachers and Staff – thanks to all for donated needed items. All teachers and staff enjoyed all the treats!
- b. Science Fair – we need volunteers – Jan. 28. Have another email going out about that. We give you breakfast 😊

- c. Katrina has been talking to PTA at Wakefield about doing a parent night session on drug issue. Looking to do that in March. If you want to be involved in planning that or want to be on panel, let Katrina know. Send email to president@yhspta.org.

VII. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Michelle could not be here but sent report for Nov. and Dec.
November – ending balance of \$52,649.08. Dec. ending balance of \$56,330.02. Receipts total \$6145 including receipts related to spirit wear purchases and membership dues. Disbursements total about \$2464, includes dues to VA PTA, insurance, teacher grant reimbursement. All line items remain on track.
- b. Having issues with treasurer's email – if have issue with reimbursement, sent to Katrina and she will send to Michelle. PTA President email does work.

VIII. Meeting adjourned.