



## YORKTOWN PTA MEETING AGENDA

Monday, May 8, 2023

Meeting: 7:30pm

- I. **Welcome:** Katrina Brubaker, PTA President
- II. **Approval of April Minutes:** approved
- III. **Mary Kadera:** School Board Update and Q and A

Budget for next school year – school year officially starts July 1. Specific to high school – additional school safety coordinators. Have created a new role called Dean of Students that will be rolling out first in the 3 main high schools. Full time focused on student conduct and respectful interactions between students and school culture. Position was requested by school principals. Also have folks coming in as intervention counselors – created for wellness, mental health, and substance abuse needs. Will have intervention counselors at all high schools and middle schools. Primary role is to do 1:1 counseling and small group counseling with students beyond what current counselors can do with limited bandwidth.

Had work session last week on Thurs. night on standards-based grading. 2 staff members from YHS came to talk about their experiences with piloting equitable grading practices. The PIP related to grading and assessment is under revision right now. Will come before school board in June. Teachers who have been piloting these practices working with dept. of academics now to talk about what changes are necessary prior to expansion.

In process of developing a policy that will govern how we set up school calendars from here on out. Should not need to go over the same stuff every year. Establishes a framework that can use to set calendar. Draft policy is up for comment through May 19. After public input, staff goes back and make changes that reflects feedback from public. Then goes to Board for review, then will come formally as an information item and then finally as an action item. Have received a lot of comments so far. If have insights or feedback, can share with Mary. But also send comments to [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us).

Q: What prompted the Board to do this policy so that we would have the framework?

A: Went through calendar process with calendar committee. Same topics come up every year when talk about the calendar. Length of breaks, religious holidays, etc. every fall. Discussion as passed last calendar about whether it would be more efficient to establish a policy rather than to restart conversation every year. So asked whether it would be more efficient to establish the criteria for the calendar in a more stable way rather than revisit every year. Want to have 180 instructional days. Goal would be to design a calendar going multiple years out. For staff members, this would

be good for planning. The current draft policy actually mirrors the least popular calendar option last fall. So if you have concern, make your voice heard.

Mary is doing open office hours tomorrow from 7 – 9 am or email her directly.

IV. **Principal's Update:** Dr. Kevin Clark, YHS Principal

Updates: Thanks to PTA contribution for staff appreciation – thanks to Rabia! Thanks to the community for donating gift cards.

Hands to Heart – last week trained over 1000 kids in CPR, AEDs and narcan. Had trainers from VA Hospital Center and fire dept. PTA fed them breakfast and lunch.

Laugh more, stress less week coming up. Majority of AP tests done. Last week with seniors. Will have a dunk tank in the courtyard. Sr. picnic next Fri. at 11:30. Seniors go into sr. experience the following week and then out for a couple weeks before they return for graduation.

Spring athletics going into post season play offs.

Next week – Tues spring coral concert. Thurs – spring band concert. Fri - Jazz on lawn. Spring orchestra concert on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Doing a lot of work looking forward to next school year. Working on the schedule and staffing. Hiring new teachers. Looking to collaborate with PTA on theme of “excellence of teaching and learning”. Working on science of learning and how to get teachers and students to think about teaching and learning strategies.

For seniors – senior families get 4 tickets for graduation. Have form on website to request additional tickets. Will try to accommodate additional requests. This is the last week to fill out the form so if need additional tickets, need to request this week. Will be able to notify families of additional tickets after the request period closes.

Next school year fall sports – start at beginning of August. Physical any time after May can count for the next school year. Going to do an online submission form (will replace paper copy). Coaches will have immediate access to data base of who has submitted the form.

Theater: have one-act plays next week.

Q: What do the seniors do between next week and graduation?

A: Senior experience – have to do full work weeks from May 22 – June 9. Out in the community doing jobs or internships. Working with mentor who monitors their hours. Do a seminar format and break seniors into groups of 10 and they share their experiences. Gives kids an opportunity to network and get a head start.

Some kids do stay and finish graduation requirements if they did not sign up for senior experience.

Q: Can communication be sent to parents to let them know when the seminar takes place? Do kids need to write a report?

A: Dr. Clark will check with the coordinator to see if info can be sent to parents. Info is all on the canvas page for students.

Q: Do seniors still have homework assigned during senior experience?

A: No, senior finals took place at the end of April so by May 19 grades should be finalized with the exception of kids that need additional time to get grad requirements.

**V. Event Notes and other items (Katrina):**

a. Thank you to all for making teacher appreciation week a success and thank you to Rabia for organizing each day

b. **Senior Picnic-** PTA May 19th- See Sign Up Genius. Drop things off in the morning and then can pick them up at the school.

c. **Movie Night- Moved to June 9th-** Dana Miburn is the lead contact for this event. We will need people to help the evening of the event and donate items for the free concessions. If you have any questions, contact Dana at [dmd@rcn.com](mailto:dmd@rcn.com)

The sign up geniuses links will be in the newsletter

d. **Senior grad party chairs:** have secured the 80s them and have party advertised on instagram. Can scan QR code to buy tickets. \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door. Need to make sure they have enough food, prizes. Fundraiser – partnership with Unique – raised \$1053. Got 6500 pounds of donated items. Earned a credit for the Uhaul. Can do it again in the fall. Encouraging people to sign up to volunteer – freshman, sophomore, junior parents – please volunteer! Particularly looking for male chaperones.

Janet – program tomorrow night on transitioning to summer and what kids should keep in mind for planning for future college applications. Interest in webinars this year has markedly declined. Had hoped to put on a turning 18 program but attendance is just too low. Attendance has been a problem all year long. Would be a good idea to share flyers with other PTAs. Have not broken 100 on any of the webinars.

a. **Chair updates: Reminder we will need these positions filled for next school year 2023-2024**

Updates from our current chairs- Internal VP , Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraiser/Grocery Receipts, Family Network- Janet Pence is stepping down

**VI. Treasurer's Report:** Michelle Cowan, PTA Treasurer: Not a lot changed since last report. Balance is around \$45,000 by end of April data. In May and June, there will be more disbursements given the end-of-year and senior events. On track overall with expenditures.

VII. Looking forward to next year and thinking about how to conduct meetings. Should we continue zoom? Do we need to meet every month or every other month? Would like to do what Wakefield has done – PTSA (parent teacher student association). Would allow us to get more direct feedback from students.

Katrina's president email address is working again.

**Need folks to volunteer to fill empty slots.**

VII. **Adjournment** - Thank you for attending