



**YORKTOWN PTA MEETING**  
**Monday October 9, 2023**  
**7:30 PM**

- Welcome

Will get notes out ASAP after the meeting. Have decided to stay with written notes rather than recording.

- Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve - approved.

- Treasurer's Report

This report covers September 2023. As shown in the following table, the beginning account balance as of September 1, 2023 was \$41,105.81; the ending balance as of September 30, 2023 was \$44,688.15. Receipts totaled \$6,304.88 and were primarily related to PTA memberships, spiritwear purchases and fundraising. Disbursements totaled \$2,722 and included back to school events such as the teacher/staff welcome breakfast, student BBQ, and a few items approved as part of last year's budget.

<b>Beginning balance - 9/1/23</b>	<b>\$41,105.81</b>
Sept receipts	6,304.88
Sept disbursements	(2,722.54)
<b>Ending balance - 9/30/23</b>	<b>\$44,688.15</b>

- Introduction of New Dean of Students, Juanice Jenkins: postponed to future meeting
- Dr. Clark's update

Thanks to PTA for supporting Dr. Willingham's parent session a couple weeks ago. Recording is available for the full length of presentation. Great information on how we can foster excellence in teaching and learning both from teachers but also from parents' side.

Ms. Jenkins is new dean of students. Wanted to touch on safety and security. A lot going on in the news across Arlington. YHS is fully staffed with school safety coordinators. Have five SSEs and a Lead SSE. Last SSE was added this week that constitutes one additional SSE plus an additional lead that is stationed at YHS and

primarily supporting YHS. Students are doing great job of being where they are supposed to be and focusing on learning.

Intentional focus on encouraging students to be in class on time. One of components in accreditation now is chronic absenteeism. Includes excused and unexcused. 14.6% of students were considered chronically absent last year. For accreditation, level 1 is 15% so came right in. Year before were at 9%. Chronic absenteeism means 10% missed school days. Accumulating two or more absences per month makes student chronically absent. Missed days can add up. Wants to encourage people to plan things on non-school days, e.g. college visits, medical appointments, etc. to try to ensure students are at school.

On safety, do try to communicate what is happening at school. Not to be alarmist but want to keep the community informed. Want to create a community that is caring and wants to be supportive - will share information to the extent possible..

Interims progress reports are no longer happening. Were replaced by weekly updates emailed to families on Tuesday evenings. Those are meant to inform parents on how students are doing on a more regular basis. We are now over half way through the quarter - this is a good time to check in with your student. Check ParentVue and Canvas. Talk to your kids.

Support options YHS has available: 1) Patriot Period - daily 30 minute period of time. Tues, Thurs - SEL. Monday, Wed, Fri is open. Students can get pass to see other teachers during this period to get help. Can do group work, can rest, whatever they need to do. 2) Learning Center in library. If student wants to redo a test or just need to get help, (have math help every other day on even days). Don't need to sign up but do encourage students to make arrangements with their teacher. But for drop in help can just show up., 3) Paper tutoring - this year have additional supports available. Can get a live tutor to interact with students through that platform.

Great time to talk to students about how they might advocate for themselves and reach out to teachers and counselors.

If kids need to retake an assessment, they need to meet with the teacher first for remediation. So these various support options give more opportunities for times that they can see teachers, retake tests, etc.

This coming week is homecoming week. Tomorrow is "anything but a backpack" day; Wed. PSAT day; Thurs. sports day; Fri. Yorktown Day. Have Homecoming football game. Saturday Homecoming dance. Tickets available online.

PSAT - all 10th and 11th graders. Bussing is provided on regular schedule. Test will be done between 11:30am - 12:00pm. Bus run is at 3:10pm so will have staff there to supervise and support students who need to stay at school. Students not required to

stay for the rest of the day. Can leave at about 12. No parent attendance note needed. 9th and 12th will have asynchronous work.

Q: on Paper Tutoring - can students get feedback on writing? Is that something that YHS is encouraging? A: It is new and worth exploring. If a student is feeling like they would benefit from more feedback, this is a service for students to utilize.

We are reaching end of fall sports. Winter sports start Nov. 6. Physical forms can be submitted electronically.

Have choir concert coming up on 10/17. Have a band concert on 11/8. Fall play coming up in mid-November.

For sports, YHS uses a platform called TeamApp. Look up specific sports there to get info on Green Days and once on a team, information gets provided through the app.

Congratulations to our Marching Patriots for placing 3rd at the JMU Parade of Champions and especially to our guard and percussion sections who took honors as best in the class.

Parentsquare - recommend downloading the app. You can receive newsletters, contact teachers, ask questions, etc. Encourage everyone to get connected on that.

- Homecoming Dance Oct. 14 - Need Volunteers and Contributions

Homecoming Coordinator (Namita Singh) - Need more volunteers. Have all the food, snacks, drinks. Need chaperones for 9:30pm - 11:30pm slot. If we can get 5 to 6 people for each slot, we should be fine. There is no dress code for chaperones. Will be held in courtyard with snacks in the atrium. Q: Are there large coolers that they can use to keep the water cold? A: The school can definitely help.

- Varsity Hockey Club Looking for Student Announcer

Want a student to call the varsity games on Friday evenings over at Medstar. Calls game but also motivates audience.

Email secretary of club if you are interested! [yihcvasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:yihcvasecretary@gmail.com). Will also be in PTA newsletter.

- Thanks to those who volunteered for graduation planning

Tia, Diane, Chrissy, Sally - will help with this planning. Katrina will be in touch later this week/next week for time/place to gather to get this up and running.

- Committee Updates

ACTL meeting last week: (Cloe) - English Language Art Dept. presented. Have survey that will relay this back to YHS community to get feedback on the literacy efforts. Survey will go out through the newsletter and also on the website. ELA is focused on secondary literacy. All of APS is making a shift away from balanced literacy and going towards science of reading and structured literacy. This will be more explicit instruction. For example, students hadn't been taught phonics. ELA has a new screener, NWEA Map Reading, that they will use. Also a new SOL to replace existing 11th grade reading/writing SOL. More non-fiction, social studies/science focused. Teachers will start to prep kids to take this test - kids do have to pass it to graduate. Adding SOL 5th grade test and changing the 8th grade SOL to follow new framework.

Another new program coming called Lexia Aspire - training that some APS staff are participating in. Focused on science of reading and explicit instruction. For EL students, bringing on a program called Sun Gauge and have sheltered, grade level course work for literacy. Also reading strategies program is being revamped for structured literacy levels (1, 2, etc.). English Language Arts Advisory Committee main focus this year is on writing. Did survey of kids on how they were doing on writing in college. A mixed bag. Writing Revolution is a new curriculum moving into structured literacy realm. Talking about getting writing coaches (like the literacy coaches), but not formalized yet.

Cloe will send Cristina materials for the newsletter.

- Adjournment

Adjourned: 8:16 pm.