

Valley Stream District Thirteen Interschool Council of PTA's

JAMES A. DEVER SCHOOL
585 North Corona Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580

WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL
1 West Wheeler Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580

HOWELL ROAD SCHOOL
1475 Howell Road
Valley Stream, NY 11580

WILLOW ROAD SCHOOL
880 Catalpa Drive
Franklin Square, NY 1101

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Call to Order:

Sangeeta Pandit, President, Interschool PTA called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Attendance:

Lisa Sells-Asch, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services
Judith LaRocca, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment & Technology
Gerard Antoine, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Human Resources
Daniel Farsaci, Director of Technology
Rosalie Ambrosio, Principal, Willow Road School
Darren Gruen, Principal, James A. Dever School
Frank Huplosky, Principal, Howell Avenue School
Dr. Gayle Steele, Principal, Wheeler Avenue School
Sangeeta Pandit, President, Interschool PTA
Pedro Davila, Vice President, Interschool PTA
Donna Lang, Treasurer, Interschool PTA
Jackie Baiardi, Secretary, Interschool PTA
Jeanette Wilson, Howell PTA
Linetta Plevritis, Dever PTA
Deborah Kalb, Dever PTA
Catherine Dusel, Dever PTA
Christine Balsan, Willow PTA
Adam Erdos, VSCHSD

Welcome:

Sangeeta Pandit welcomed members. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes presented for the December 2016 meeting were approved.

Correspondence:

Thank you note from Wheeler Ave School Garden Club.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$4,483.39

Ending Balance: \$4,483.39

District Administrators' Reports

Lisa Sells-Asch – Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

Speaking for Superintendent Evelyn

- Superkids K-2 fully implemented
- Chrome Books fully rolled out
- RULER program – mood meter in each school (Feb 28th Board of Education meeting, Lisa Sells-Asch will present info on RULER)

Judy LaRocca, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment & Technology

- Continuing initiatives, very committed to coaching teachers
- Math workshop on March 9th, hoping for better turnout than last time (last workshop had about 40 parents)
- Superkids workshop scheduled for April 3rd for parents.
- Lisa's team will present on RULER to parents sometime in May
- New Professional Development room at Howell
- Continue to monitor changes in standards. Will revisit science and social studies to be aligned with NYS standards
- Crossroads Farm visits by students. Plan to make it full circle, planting and going back to see results.
- Still need a parent for Technical Development

Dan Farsaci, Director of Technology:

- Twitter feed growing, more followers, schools providing a lot of info to share
- Using Site Improve, ADA compliant program scans every page on website to make corrections
- Mirror 360, chrome book info right to smart boards

Gerard Antoine – Assistant Superintendent for Business & Human Resources:

- Pension rates came in lower, some savings for the district
- PILOT issue will make it tough but not impossible to pass the budget
- Budget Ambassador's First Meeting is March 9th
- Phase I bond work completed, Phase II will begin in Gyms over the summer at all 4 schools
- Energy performance contract, solar panels will be installed over the summer. Reduce energy costs.
- Smart Schools allocation \$1 million, not sure when we will receive
- Food service run through the high schools, new bid every 5 years. Meeting with Nutrition Committee, putting new bid together to focus on what changes need to be made.

Guest Speaker - Adam Erdos – VSCHSD

- Music Coordinator at CHS district, goal is to get our school's programs more aligned
- Bolster our music programs notoriety, all 4 districts are meeting together for 1st time in 14 years
- Increase amount of time students spend in music each day
- 3 music scholarships given to graduating seniors, one of the largest in the district

Principals' Reports

Rosalie Ambrosio: Willow Road School

- Reflections contest, 2 submissions moving on to county level
- PE leaders from North came in to present, 2nd graders enjoyed learning about healthy eating (how much sugar is in beverages like Coke and Gatorade etc.)
- 4th grade Cotillion dance, learning classic dances

Dr. Gayle Steele: Wheeler Avenue School

- Talent Show, video online, photos on website. Impressed with the courageous kids who performed
- Assembly for 3rd grade, young author from Northeastern Univ "This Test Does Not Define You" prepared them for life's challenges
- Founders Day, honored teachers with 20+ years in district

Frank Huplosky: Howell Road School

- Children learning to give back, Valentines and Veterans projects (cards for veterans and canned food drive)
- National Organization for Environment recognizing a 3rd grade student for his commitment to being an eco warrior. He's done youtube videos and presentations on reusable products, recycling bins in cafeteria
- 5th grade Explorers project presentation on Explorers
- 5th grade Stem project, building balloon cars, principles of motion/gravity

Darren Gruen: James A. Dever School

- Ceremony for intergenerational reader founder Mimi Friedman, dedicated a plaque in school library
- Black History Month, 3rd graders will present biographies on heroes of Black History Month
- Peaceful protest, students in Miss Phillips class had a peaceful protest and a visiting musician joined in spontaneously and sang patriotic songs
- Talent Show grades 4-6, great turnout
- Donna Lang was honored at Founders Day ceremony

Committee Reports

Yearbook Committee (Wheeler)

- Decided on cover, chalkboard series
- Gathering pics, Wheeler has online drop box, every kid has individual folder for photos
- Without internet, parents can drop photos off and Wheeler PTA will scan to drop box

Old Business -

- Nothing new to report on budget, gap elimination is off the table
- Foundation Aid formula will be recalculated, too early to report
- New Business – new Interschool logo, logo for letterhead
- No response to Wellness/Safety topics from PTA, spezio@vschd.com
Wellness committee topics needed, can come to schools if necessary
- Issue brought up by school nurse, girls entering puberty 5th-6th grade, no supplies in bathrooms
Machine in school bathroom? Lisa Sells-Asch will investigate further with school's nurses
District will say misuse of tax payer money, superintendent will look into budget for this

PTA Business

- **No Yearbook reps present**
- **No Old Business**
- **New Business:**
- **PTA bylaws, PTA made announcements in January, need any new language by March**
- **Blood Drive in each school, suggest a district wide blood drive to increase attendance**
- **Interschool logo on website is now active and can access past meeting notes**

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Sangeeta Pandit at 10:19 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 14th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Baiardi

Jackie Baiardi
Secretary
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