

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, December 14, 2016

Call to Order:

Sangeeta Pandit, President, Interschool PTA called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Attendance:

Constance Evelyn, Superintendent
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
Anesia Pandey, Wheeler PTA
Catherine Dusel, Dever PTA
Tony Spezio, Valley Stream Teachers Resource Center

Welcome:

Sangeeta Pandit welcomed members. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes presented for the October 2016 meeting were approved.

Correspondence:

Thank you note from Mini Grant winner, Mr. Rosenfeld

Principals' Reports

Rosalie Ambrosio: Willow Road School

- American Education Week was a success, school had over 200 visitors.
- Parent Teacher Conference feedback from parents overall was positive.
- Winter Concert coming up, very impressed with music program at Willow
- Field Trips (K & 2nd grade to theater performance and 5th grade to Whaling Museum)
- Teepee Ted for 1st grade, in house

Dr. Gayle Steele: Wheeler Avenue School

- Field trips, Long House came to visit, Native American experience in the school
- raised \$1,700 for UNICEF for Halloween
- Student Council vote complete
- Coat Drive successful
- American Education Week was well attended
- Talent Show Auditions have begun
- Holiday Boutique
- Lunch with Santa
- Giving Tree, staff takes a tag off the tree for needy family and fulfills their Christmas list
- Winter Concerts, looking forward to it

Frank Huplosky: Howell Road School

- Winter Concert, outstanding, level of professionalism for winter concert, kids take it so seriously
- Harvest Baskets: Faculty & Staff donate to families in need for Thanksgiving
Donated 21 baskets this year – gift cards and sides for Thanksgiving dinner
- Project Owl –Library on wheels for incoming Kindergartners (library delivers to houses at 6:30am and they pick up/drop off – all volunteer run)
- Mini Grant Winner – Little Free Library, materials came in last week and will be running soon (Spring)

Darren Gruen: James A. Dever School

- Red Ribbon Week – fun, engaging activities to get the message out
- Winter Concert – wonderful district music program in VS 13
- School Spirit Days – every Friday in December
- In house Field Trips - in house, saves money
- -DNA Lab for 5th grade
- -Native American Long House

District Administrators' Reports

Lisa Sells-Asch – Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

- Update at BofEd – inclusive education, thank you for supporting teachers/families (update posted to website)
- SEPTA meeting, well attended. Discussed transition from elementary to high school
- Pre K visits, services needed (we develop them as needed)
- Inter District Wellness – workshops need better attendance. They need feedback on topics people want to see
- Wellness Week (1st week in Feb)

Judy LaRocca, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment & Technology

- Math in focus (k-6), professional development for teachers, implementation training
- Coaching teachers in/out of classroom
- Parent Workshop for Math – 40 parents attended, positive, trainer explained Math in Focus, help support kids at home with program
- Next week Board of Ed meeting, instructional coaching topic will be addressed
- Jan 20th – Super Kids, Cass will be coming to sing songs in K-2 classes (maybe not every class)
- Parent Rep for Professional Development committee (need 1-2 parents, meet 3x a year)

Dan Farsaci, Director of Technology:

- Projectors installed today for rooms that need,
- 2 rooms cant have smart boards, Interactive tv's going in those rooms
- Twitter account, all events are being posted on it - @vs13usfd on Twitter
- Smart Notebook 16.1 update implemented for Chrome Book, teachers can push content to their smart book

Constance Evelyn – Superintendent of Schools

- -December-January beginning of budget season, (actually 12 months a year constantly thinking about financial resources/human resources) –My role here is to be a change agent.
- Struggling Math performance of boys in lower grades
- Addressing issues – inclusive ed, core programs Math & ELA
- Instructional technology – storage of data, protection of data,
- Teaching/learning, principals/teachers/aides, all being taught/coached
- Budget – NY State has created a storyline that creates winners/losers
Gap elimination, some ppl got more and some got less
Foundation Aid formula (winners/losers, upstate/downstate, NY City vs everyone else)
- Pay attention to Title I formula, buildings are brand new upstate
- Aid is over 90% upstate, we are at 55%, most districts on LI are low aid rate b/c we're considered wealthy and our buidlings are not as up to date.
- Rick Tims – financial planning for schools (Rockville Centre has joined his program)
- Overturn every rock to ensure VS 13 gets what they deserve
- Solar panels going up this summer over new roofs

Tony Spezio – VSTRC

- can laminate, 8.5x11, make posters, FREE (grant from state funded)
- Color posters, made a large check for Wheeler
- Offer training center, anyone in district can come not just teachers.
- Transfer Old tapes to dvd's
- Open 3 days week
- Variquest program for visual learning tools
- Ipad training
- Located in basement of Memorial, 3:30-6pm
- PTA's can access their services

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

- Nutrition
School Lunches – actively looking into menus, not enjoying lunches
Last nutrition meeting, gave suggestions, tried to reach food service
Raise \$, could vary menu options
Lots of cheese, nutrition point of view not great
Somewhat a monopoly, since we're wedded to other VS districts
Even to switch vendors will cost \$\$ before menu is even touched, metropolitan area not easy access to fresh food
Regionally food service varies with access to fresh food/farms

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Sangeeta Pandit at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Baiardi

Jackie Baiardi
Secretary

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