

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, April 18, 2018

Call to Order:

Espie Nadal, 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
Andrea DiMango, Director of Technology
Gerard Antoine, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Human Resources
Rosalie Ambrosio, Principal, Willow Road School
Darren Gruen, Principal, James A. Dever School
Dr. Gayle Steele, Principal, Wheeler Avenue School
Espie Nadal, President, Interschool PTA
Sangeeta Pandit, Vice President, Interschool PTA
Pedro Davila, Secretary, Interschool PTA
Jackie Baiardi, Treasurer, Interschool PTA

Welcome:

Espie Nadal welcomed members. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes presented for the February 2017 meeting were approved.

Correspondence:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance 11/30/17	=	\$3,949.83
Total additions	=	\$0.00
Total subtractions	=	\$0.00
Ending balance 8/31/17	=	\$3,949.83

Principals' Reports

Rosalie Ambrosio: Willow Road School

- PARP
- Valentine's Day Sale
 - BEAR, each child gets to pick a book of their choice
 - great feedback from the children and the parents
- HOOPS for Hearts
 - One Kindergarten student raised over \$800
- Living Museum
 - 1st Annual of many more to come

Dr. Gayle Steele: Wheeler Avenue School

- Jump Rope for Heart
- Kindness week in March
 - Students from Memorial JHS came over to read to our 1st Grade students
- Spring Concerts were great and well attended, next one in May
- Talent Show
 - Something different this year, Lip Sync Battle
- PTA hosted a nice weather assembly for grades 1-3
- This coming Friday will be our Pennies for Patients assembly hosted by our Student Council

Frank Huplosky, Principal, Howell Road School – Not present

- Vegetable Garden Project
 - Converting an unused area of the school yard
 - Involving Kindergarten and 3rd Graders
 - Increase their awareness of the earth and its resources
 - will create recipes utilizing the items harvested
 - square foot approach
- Donors Choose
 - Kindergarten teacher did research on a special project for the school
 - Found a technology journaling project
 - received an iPad and a stylus for the kindergarten class
 - also money for an App through a grant
- John Frias Math coach
 - presented at the Howell Road PTA about testing taking
 - study skills and strategies

Darren Gruen, Principal, James A. Dever School

- 4th Grade students went to the Crossroads Farm for the second part of their partnership
 - Planted their seedlings
 - will harvest in the Fall
- 3rd grade had their 2nd Living Museum
 - Great learning opportunity
 - all were in character
- Steam Nights
 - three separate nights so far
 - partners from Adelphi
 - very well attended
- 2nd grade multicultural celebration

- Jump Rope for Heart/ Hoops for Heart
 - We raised approx. \$16k this year and nearly \$100k since it began
 - More than most High Schools
- Spring concert is coming up next week
- Monday Morning at 9am
- Wellness Night and Health Fair coming up on May 7th
 - Lots of activities for children K-3 and 4-6th
 - Parent information night to share what the 5th and 6th graders have learned regarding HIV/Aids education
 - Opportunity for 4th grade parents to learn what the female students are taught about menstruation
 - New Horizons will provide information for parents
 - There will be someone there to speak about Health Insurance/ multilingual
 - Mr. Herman(Willow Parent) will be there to discuss safety and Anti-Bullying

District Administrators' Reports

Constance Evelyn, Superintendent of Schools

- Originally identified \$48 million worth of work during the original walkthrough
 - Board decided that \$32 million would be the target
 - It is time to request an approval for a capital reserve fund
- The budget has a line item for maintenance of the improvements made
- A budget video has been created and is now available on the district site
 - previewed at Wheeler Avenue School
 - meeting was live streamed
- A letter was recently sent to Willow Road about a proposed time change to alleviate traffic
 - Approximately 15 people responded with support and concerns
 - most concerns were from parents with children in North and Willow
 - the Board has asked for proposals to resolve the traffic issues
 - it is important to find a best fit solution
 - I have observed the drop off and dismissal process on numerous occasions
 - a survey will go out today for feedback
- Increase in human capital for security
 - discussion is underway
- Facilities utilization study report did not meet the standard
 - not released, target is now August
- Have attended many trainings and safety committee meetings since the tragedy in Parkland
 - active shooter
 - partnership with Boces and the NCPD
 - former Superintendent from CT came out to participate in the trainings
- Press conference
 - Police officer assigned to every district
 - VS13 may have 2 officers
 - goal is to understand the buildings inside and out as well as get to know the personnel
- Need to create/ practice a reunification plan
 - a sub-committee will begin work on this
 - currently only exists in Farmingdale, they have a Director of safety
 - they practice this plan and advise parents in advance

- Pre-K committee
 - really looking to reinvigorate
 - goal is to improve our relationship with the community
 - this administration is client oriented
 - just the beginning
- Board of Education commendations coming up
- Fantastic Four
 - it has been a good run for this program
 - however this will be the last
 - Decision was made collectively with the Physical Ed dept.
 - we are looking for a new event that encourages district wide participation
 - i.e. District Talent Show

Lisa Sells-Asch – Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

- Committed to our Inclusive practices
 - engaged with a professional developer for a couple of years now
 - as a result of a survey more development will be available
 - One full day back in March
 - feedback has been phenomenal from both veteran and new teachers
 - Another full day will be scheduled for each school in May as a result
- Created a Student and Parent guide to inclusive learning
 - being reviewed now for any edits
 - will decide what is the best way to distribute, open house or parent teacher conferences
- More Full day models for next year
- Pre-school committee
 - Kindergarten registration is now available at Lisa's Office (8am-4pm) in addition to the General Office at Kent Rd.
 - please promote this, not many packets have been received to date
 - Kindergarten screenings will be held end of May and beginning of June
- Gearing up for Summer programs
 - 3rd year of Kindergarten readiness program
- ENL is preparing the exit exam
- Victory Games for the physically challenged
 - partner with BUDDY athletes
 - will take place June 1, 2018
- Propio Language Services
 - translation services for staff

Judy LaRocca, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment & Technology

- All teachers grades 3-6 had another full day of the Wonders professional development program
 - robust with technology
 - word work, grammar
 - going really well
 - all parents will receive a writing piece sent home at the end of the year
- Met with professional development committee yesterday to discuss year end survey
 - went over information from the mid-year survey
 - asking the teachers for more feedback in May
- Curriculum committee will meet this week
 - New science program implementation

- Budget pending, new science program for grades K-6
- see exciting new science projects happening on twitter
- Pilots are going very well
- Attended Music programs in three schools
 - all are recorded and live stream is available
- Just finished two days of ELA testing
 - went very smoothly
 - tests are untimed similar last year
 - reduced number of questions
 - Willow and Dever saw a 10% reduction in Opt-Out
 - District is at 37% currently
 - Although there is not a consequence for these numbers the Federal Government has set a 95% participation rate
 - Under the new requirements we will need to formulate a plan as a district to increase our participation rate
 - this will include outreach to the parents on this topic
 - Math testing will be in May, two days
 - Science tests will also be coming up
- Everyone is encourage to attend the upcoming board meeting on 4/24
 - Darren and Rosalie will be presenting an update on their building goal
 - Frank and Gayle presented at the previous meeting
- Each Principle has done an amazing job assessing the needs of their buildings and creating a plan to address
- Education committee meeting
 - Multicultural activities were discussed
 - encourage all buildings to create some sort of activity around this
 - Darren suggested added a multicultural element to the Lights On night since all are present for this

Gerard Antoine, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Human Resources

- It's Budget time!
 - Presentations are going on at the different buildings
 - Budget is \$51,496,380 = 3.32% budget to budget increase
 - tax levy limit is 2.54%
 - Additional money received through state aid, \$900k +8% over LY
 - transportation, Boces, and foundations
 - Budget newsletter will be going out
- Capital Reserve
 - we are putting on the ballot a \$10 million reserve to be funded over 10 years
 - will not impact the tax levy
 - will help accomplish facility updates that were not approved in the original pilot
- Bond work
 - Phase I complete
 - Phase II almost done
 - water fountains, PA systems, windows and doors
 - Phase III
 - start over the summer
 - lots of work at Wheeler

- auditorium with air conditioning, cafeteria relocation/ expansion, front entrance
 - site work
 - playground resurfacing
- Energy performance contract
 - new roof allows for solar panels (possibly May/ June) and LED lighting upgrades
- Summer school
 - All held at Wheeler and Dever(Special Education and Kindergarten readiness)
- Human Resources
 - attended a diversity workshop at Boces
 - invited candidates to the district for more screening

Andrea DiMango, Director of Technology

- Great News
 - Architectural plans for security project submitted to the State were approved
 - vendor has Mid-May potential start date
 - APP is available
 - currently a soft release to the technology committee
 - big release planned for September
 - spread the word
 - All labs were upgraded with newer desktops
- The Education Foundation donated 3D printers for all four buildings, thank you
- Three year plan
 - improving infrastructure
 - coding curriculum, requested by teachers
 - training on technology coming
- Boces partnership is going very well in terms of teacher training
 - coding work with K-2 classes
 - also Google classroom training with the teachers, all at capacity
- PLEASE FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

Committee Reports

- 2018 Yearbook has been completed
 - submitted waiting for the draft
 - Final delivery will be end of May
 - thank you to the Wheeler Chair for all of their efforts

New Business

- Sangeeta conveyed a message from a Willow Road parent
 - the idea of a time change will be damaging to their schedule

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:13AM

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro Davila

Pedro Davila
Secretary
Valley Stream District Thirteen Interschool Council of PTA's