

PTSA 4/25/13

Next PTSA meeting: May 30th, 6:30 pm

Attending: Jim Chapman, Betsy Serapilio-Frank, Jen Reisch, Kate Kressmann-Kehoe, Jane Cherin, Dianna Green, Erwin Hylton, Annette Hylton, Lindsay Phillips, Joan Kinsella

Introduction – Kate Kressman-Kehoe

March 21st minutes were approved.

Principal's report – (Kate reported from Deasure Matthew)

Meeting with Central Office was successful. Scheduling plans have been modified and should meet IB requirements. Have a verbal assurance that the staff needs will be met.

6th and 7th grade parents may need to advocate for honors classes.

PTSA Commencement Meeting notes –

Present at meeting – 3 parents and School Principal

5/23/13 IB night for current and incoming students. WFA PTSA to be rescheduled so parents can attend the IB night.

Appears that the neediest students will be impacted most by budget cuts at Commencement as some services for these students will be eliminated.

Classes < 25 students may be vulnerable.

IB diploma program course may be ok, but courses that prepare students for IB may be vulnerable.

Need to get clarity on honors classes and accelerated classes. Encourage parents from younger grades to be vocal about this issue.

What are next steps? The PTSA position is that we are encouraged by the progress and are awaiting contact from Central office regarding final budget and other issues. Scheduling issue should be ok. The IB coordinator is back in the budget.

Parents may need to push for a follow-up meeting.

Title One Funding -

Federal funding dollars allows school to support parent engagement. Monies can be used for mailings, printing, food , speakers, etc.

Last year we received \$3000. Family fun night survey – results were positive (it was fun and students learned something).

Title one seminar in May – Trista Wilson will attend. She can get specific things approved then for next year.

Funds can not be used for parties and celebrations unless they involve some academic component, i.e. academic showcase.

Reviewed some ideas for next year:

Newsletter, IB Middle Years Night, IB night primary program, Gym & swim or family fun night, parent session for IB terminology, preparing for NYS assessments, internet safety, talking to your teen about sexuality, Elections, staying smart over summer, International week, Year end celebration, orientation and open house, Financial program session, Healthy cooking for kids and parents.

Noted that the coffee with the principal are not well attended.

Session on talking to your teen about sexuality

Lindsay gave over view of program.

Health Educators administer the one hour session.

Helps parents on how to speak about the topic to their teens.

There is a longer program (would involve other schools as well) – 6 weeks.

School needs to decide if they are comfortable “hosting” this seminar. Discussed how this is a sensitive topic. Contact Lindsay Phillips for more information. (Emily Lynch/Salena Morgan - Highland Family Planning 279-4890)

SBPT -

Open positions for next year, 2 year commitment

Lindsay proposed the group vote at next meeting to delay elections for SBPT to fall

Need outreach to parents to fill next year’s positions.

PTSA leadership for next year

Joan Kinsella to reach out to parents, optimally run and then resign in the fall with new leadership. These are key roles in providing parents voice/community building in their school.

Open positions:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

SBPT – 2 positions will be vacant

Other –

Movie night volunteers – Annette Hylton, Jen Reisch, Makita Saloane, Diana Green

Day of Caring volunteers needed for May 22 – 24.

Wilson commencement PTSA – Jim Chapman gave overview

3 parents and principal were present

Teachers voted “Yes” on flexible 9 day schedule. Kids who need remediation stay for 9th period.

82% of current kids would be in RAMP up. This RAMP up extra period is just for 9th graders (every other day). Exactly what it will involve is uncertain.

Questions remain regarding what to do with 15% of kids not in RAMP up program.

Summer – 3 week remediation opportunities.

Teachers voted to move to 4 marking periods for high school with 5 week progress reports.

SIG (grant) teachers have to vote next week whether to apply.

Parent resource center, attendance support, co-op resource position are being cut.

Commencement PTSA seeking officers for next year and SBPT members.

Next PTSA meeting: May 30th, 6:30 – 8:30pm.

