

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

PTA Advisory Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2015

*Attendance: M. Blanchfield, C. Tognetti, A. Wasserman, R. Carrell, L. McCormick, J. Getsinger, J. Kramer, C. Bellino, G. Margolis, D. Stark, D. Mascolo, S. Azzarello, D. Brennan, T. Quirk, T. Ditore, R. Camean, C. Grau, R. Mooney*

1. Opening of School (Robert Mooney)
  - a. District Enrollment – Class size handed out
  - b. Review of New Staff in the Schools
  - c. Facility Improvements
    - i. Playground at SDS
    - ii. A/C in 5 classrooms at MJS (school is not yet fully air conditioned but close)
    - iii. Automatic door openings in girls rooms at MJS
    - iv. Second round of lighting at BMS will complete the lighting
  - d. Technology Upgrades
    - i. 500 chromebooks and carts
    - ii. New Social Studies Series
    - iii. Google for Education (training will be on Columbus Day)
    - iv. Next Generation Science Standards with History Channel ties will go into effect at MJS in 2016
2. School Updates
  - a. Bee Meadow School (Darrin Stark)
    - i. 100 chromebooks
    - ii. RazKids – K-2 and Special Ed
    - iii. Battle of Books – 3-5
    - iv. PTA Fun Day on 10/6
    - v. Week of Respect
      1. Monday – Blue for anti bullying
      2. Tuesday – Fun Day
      3. Wednesday – Arms around BMS
      4. Thursday – Day of Tolerance
      5. Friday – Yellow for respect
  - b. Mountview Road School (Carmen Bellino)
    - i. 100 chromebooks
    - ii. Similar Week of Respect activities to BMS

- iii. “Power of One” assembly during week of 10/12 covers strategies to stand up to bullies
    - iv. WPHS students work with K-2 in Tomorrow’s Teacher’s program (character ed)
    - v. Guidance counselor now at each school
    - vi. Tech Ed specialist at each school
  - c. Salem Drive School (Roberto Camean)
    - i. 100 chromebooks
    - ii. Block Party – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of school
    - iii. Benches and bike racks in the playground
    - iv. Back to School breakfast sponsored by the PTA
    - v. Jaguar news announcements is a newscast that streams the morning announcements by the 5<sup>th</sup> graders
      - 1. Pledge
      - 2. Spanish word of the day
      - 3. Character Ed quotes
      - 4. AM announcements
  - d. Memorial Junior School (Michael Wasko)
    - i. 200 chromebooks
    - ii. School theme – Making a Difference one Day at a Time
    - iii. Parent portal going live
      - 1. Grade 8 – October
      - 2. Grade 7 – November
      - 3. Grade 6 – December
    - iv. Flyers now being sent via power school
      - 1. 380 successful deliveries and 275 opened
    - v. Week of Respect
      - 1. Door decorating
      - 2. Speaker on 10/7
    - vi. Monthly calendar and quarterly newsletters are on the website
  - e. Special Education (Greg Margolis)
    - i. Dedicated chromebooks for Special Ed (5-8 per school)
    - ii. Integrated pre-school pilot includes 4 students
- 3. Curriculum Updates (Aaron Wasserman)
  - a. Summer Curriculum
  - b. Chromebooks
  - c. Full Day Kindergarten
  - d. Social Studies program
- 4. District Goals (Robert Mooney) – handed out during meeting
- 5. Crisis Management
  - a. All restrooms are now equipped with speakers so students and staff could hear the announcements during a crisis
- 6. Emergency School Notification System

- a. Alert Solutions
    - i. Power School product that replaces Honeywell
    - ii. Flyers will be e-mail only
    - iii. School closings get text, phone call and e-mail.
  - b. Field Testing
7. NJASK and PARCC (Darrin Stark)
- a. Results will be back to schools in mid-November
  - b. 2-3 weeks later they will be sent to parents
  - c. Cannot be used for placement
  - d. Cannot compare to NJASK
  - e. This year's testing will be only one session – April 4<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Language Arts will be 75 minutes/day
  - g. Math will be 60 minutes/day
  - h. Middle School has 7 testing units
    - i. MJS can do 2 grades in one week or 6 days
    - ii. Plan is not yet finalized
  - i. Elementary Schools have 6 testing units
    - i. Elementary schools have ability to do 3-5 in one week
    - ii. Plan is not yet finalized
  - j. Schools will receive sample test items on 10/23
  - k. Chromebooks in classrooms and iMACs in computer classes
8. Recreation (Denise Brennan/Tom Quirk)
- a. Basketball
  - b. Wrestling
  - c. Masquerade at Malapardis – 2 to 4 pm on October 24<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Escape from Zombieville/Monster Mash Party – Middle schoolers on 10/30 from 7 to 8:30
  - e. Ski Club
  - f. Santa Claus – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Christmas
  - g. Bunny Trail – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday before Easter
  - h. Hanover Township Day – First Saturday after Labor Day
  - i. Recreation now accepts credit cards for all but summer camp and the pool can be done at home)
  - j. Middle School Police/FD/Sherriff's office program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
    - i. Starts 10/13 on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 through 11/24
    - ii. Will have sheriff dogs, fire extinguisher drills, tours of police station
  - k. Lego 2 day camp during teacher's convention
9. Superintendent Search (Robert Mooney)
- a. Ads placed on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Applications due 11/9
  - c. Review apps until 12/2/15
  - d. 2<sup>nd</sup> round of finalists

- e. Superintendent by July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - f. Ability to provide input on superintendent search
    - i. Administrators – 10/19 at 1:30
    - ii. BMS Staff - 10/19 at 3:20
    - iii. Public – Media Center 10/19 at 7 pm
    - iv. MJS Staff – 10/20 at 3 pm
    - v. SDS Staff – 10/8 at 3:20 pm
    - vi. MTV Staff – 10/22 at 3:20 pm
10. Other
- a. Power Walk Friday
    - i. Starts 10/16 and end the Friday before Thanksgiving
    - ii. Schools to select 2 location to meet
  - b. Next Meeting is 12/2 at 10:00 am in Computer Lab at MJS

Prepared by: Michelle Blanchfield, MJS PTA President