

# PTA Advisory Meeting: October 1, 2014

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## Minutes

**Attendance:** *S. Pepper, A. Wasserman, S. Azzarello, V. Conforti, J. Kramer, T. Cabanillas, C. Tognetti, T. Quirk, D. Brennan, K. Mullooly, L. McCormick, J. Getsinger, T. Ditore, R. Cemean, C. Bellino, G. Margolis, D. Stark, V. Wolsky, M. Wasko*

### 1. Introduction

- Purpose of PTA Advisory Meeting is to share information between school principals, PTA, Board of Education
- Jaime Getsinger, the Bee Meadow PTA President will be taking the minutes at each Advisory meeting
- PTA Advisory Meeting Dates:
  - October 1, 2014
  - December 3, 2014
  - February 25, 2015
  - June 3, 2015

### 2. Opening of School

- **District Enrollment as of September 15**
  - a. 26 students down from last June
  - b. 1459 students in all 4 schools not including 11 students who are out of district
  - c. **BMS**
    - 351 students
    - 326 students in general education
    - 17 sections general education
    - 19.2 students average class size general education
  - d. **MTV**
    - 349 students
    - 18 sections
    - 19.4 students average class size
  - e. **SDS**
    - 262 students
    - 16 sections
    - 16.3 students average class size

f. K-5 district wide enrollment 18.4 students per class

g. **MJS**

497 students

• **New Staff**

- a. 19 new staff members were featured in the “Excellence in Our Schools” newsletter, which was distributed to parents and is available on our website [www.hanoverwpschools.com](http://www.hanoverwpschools.com)

• **Facility Improvements**

- a. MTV  
Walking path at Hendricks Drive was repaired which the sidewalk was replaced. Will be 80% air conditioned throughout the year. Partial roof replacement
- b. BMS  
Walking path was raised up because of flooding issues. Quotes are being received to replace lights in parking lot.
- c. SDS  
Whole school will be air conditioned throughout the school year
- d. MJS  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wing will be air-conditioned  
Renovated 4 bathrooms this summer  
Bayer had volunteers this summer that helped paint the media center  
Perimeter and hallways have security cameras
- e. District goal is to have all schools air conditioned within the next few years
- f. All 4 schools have security cameras

• **Technology Updates**

- a. Wireless access upgraded in all buildings
- b. IMacs 20-25 in all elementary schools’ Media Center
- c. 135 Chrome Books district wide  
MTV PTA added 25 chrome books

**3. School Updates**

• **Bee Meadow School**

- a. Assembly Program HIB law held on the second Friday of this school year
- b. Week of October 6<sup>th</sup> is the Week of Respect. Each day there are different activities planned
- c. October 8<sup>th</sup> the students will be going to MJS to see *The Town That Fought Hate*
- d. PTA has been planning a Trunk or Treat for October 26<sup>th</sup> and a Winter Dance for December 19

- **Mountview Road School**

- Successful Back to School Night. Reviewed HIB and Safe Schools. Had food feedback.
- Week of Respect October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Character Education will begin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in October
- PTA held Zeng Tangle for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders
- PTA provide staff with breakfast day after Back to School Night
- Whippany Park "Tomorrow's Teacher Program" will be starting on Friday afternoons where students get to observe in classrooms.
- PTA purchased 25 chrome books.
- Assembly Sleepy Hollow
- Book Fair will also be in October

- **Salem Drive School**

- PTA sponsored a Back to School Picnic which went great
- Back to School Night was a success
- Week of Respect to start October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Students will be making a quilt
- Student Council will start campaigning week of October 6<sup>th</sup>
- Since it is the PTAs turn for the fundraiser, we are looking to build a new playground for the kindergarten with the funds received.

- **Memorial Junior School**

- First week of school went smoothly.
- Week of Respect will begin October 6<sup>th</sup>. Color Games is the theme. Students will earn points.
- Each student will receive a color games t-shirt. Received funding from the Substance Abuse Committee
- October 7<sup>th</sup> is Picture Day, Dress to Impress
- Wednesday is Superhero Day
- Thursday is Sports Day. Character Education starts as well.
- Friday is Blue and White Day and Rachel's School Challenge Assembly
- Back to School Night is October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Outdoor Education for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade is for 2 nights at Fairview Lake with over 200 people which include staff, parents and students

- **Special Education Initiative**

- Focus is to educate children where they live and to keep expanding and having our door always open.
- Created new self contained classrooms grades 3-5

#### 4. Curriculum Updates

- **Summer Curriculum**

- a. Large push to revise curriculum over July and August to Common Core Standards
- b. ESL revised and tweaked curriculum so they could implement it in September
- c. October 13<sup>th</sup> teachers will have training which will focus on Chromebook support.
- d. MJS 6<sup>th</sup> grade math is Envision, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math is Pearson

- **Chromebook Initiative**

- a. Goal is to increase Chromebooks by next year. At this time there are 135 Chromebooks in the district
- b. Students will practice with the Chromebooks for the PARCC test in the spring
- c. Google Drive for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Each student will get a student username. Teachers will be able to use in classroom.

#### 5. District Goals

- a. Each spring a survey is sent out through survey monkey to staff and parents. Questions asked: What are we doing well? What can we do better? And what concerns do you have? District goals are posted on district website at [www.hanoverwpschools.com](http://www.hanoverwpschools.com)

#### 6. Emergency School Notification System

- **Alert Solutions**

- a. Everyone is enrolled in Alert Solutions. The challenge is making sure families' information is updated.

- **Field Testing**

- a. Ready to test MJS parents with Powerschool and Alert Solutions
- b. Three ways for parents to get in touch for emergencies/closings  
Emergency Alert  
Hanover Schools Website will be updated  
Call 973-515-2400 6:00 a.m.

#### 7. NJASK and PARCC

- **How are test results used?**

- a. Basic skills placement, accelerated math and gifted programs
- b. District factor grouping-I classification  
A-J A- lowest socio economic  
J-highest
- c. Aaron Wasserman meets with representative from each grade at each school.
- d. Darrin Stark is the district testing coordinator

- **Which tests will be given this year?**
  - a. PARCC which is computer based as an end of year assessment.
  - b. Common Core aligned.
  - c. Grade 3-8 only Math and ELA
  - d. 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Science will be NJASK
  - e. Measures more real world skills
  - f. Practice assessments will be available
  - g. March- performance based assessments
  - h. Results in by the end of September

## **8. Recreation Updates**

- **Masquerade at Malapardis**
  - a. October 25 from 2pm -4pm
- **Bingo/ Movie Night**
  - a. Wednesday night before Teacher Convention
- **Santa Claus is Coming to Town**
  - a. December 6 from 2pm- 4 pm
- **Basketball-TBD**
- **Wrestling**
  - a. 10/21 7pm-9pm open registration
- **Skiing**
  - a. 10/15-11/15 open registration
  - b. 11/20 parent meeting

## **9. Board of Education –Special Presentations**

- **Audit Report-September**
  - a. Clean audit (no recommendations)
- **2012-2013 Special Education Compliance- September**
- **Testing Report-October**
  - a. Test results from spring ( Darrin Stark)
- **Open-November**
  - a. One year seat open, two people have expressed interest
  - b. Must be a resident of community
- **Musical Group- December**
- **Preliminary Budget Discussion- January**
- **PARCC Assessments –February**

- **Budget Presentation-March**
- **Open- April**
- **Teacher of the Year-May**
- **Annual HIB Report-June**
- **Student Recognitions**

**10. PTA Hot Lunches**

- **Vendors**
  - a. BMS Simply Gourmet
  - b. SDS- Simply Gourmet
  - c. MTV-Mamma Mia's
  
- **Volunteers**
  - a. BMS- Volunteers are scheduled through December. Everything is going well.
  - b. SDS- Having some trouble getting volunteers.
  - c. MTV- Everything is going well.

**Next meeting is December 3, 2014**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jaime Getsinger*

*Bee Meadow School PTA President*