

PTA Advisory Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2016

MJS Computer Lab II

Minutes

Attendance: M. Wasko, R. Carroll, L. McCormick, C. Tognetti, S. Furda, V. Conforti, D. Brennan, M. Anderson, D. Mascolo, C. Bellino, C. Schabacker, D. Stark, A. Wasserman

Meeting called to order at 10:07am

1. Newsletter

Mr. Wasko presented the newsletter to those in attendance, highlighted areas of interest, and announced it would be going home through backpack delivery.

2. New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC)

Every three years schools are monitored by the New Jersey Department of Education via the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) based on the following indicators: Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Personnel, and Operations. Mr. Wasko shared that Hanover Township Public Schools will be formally monitored next year (2017-2018) by the New Jersey Department of Education. Representatives from the NJDOE (State and County Offices) will tour our district, meet with staff, and review district records to ensure compliance with the QSAC Standards. Mr. Wasko handed out the "Achieve NJ Implementation Checklist." A pre-monitoring AchieveNJ visit is scheduled for 12/7/17.

3. 2017-2018 District Calendar

Mr. Wasko distributed a draft copy of the calendar. Attempts were made to be as consistent as possible with the high school. It will be finalized and shared in January 2017. Snow day procedures indicated on calendar. Half-days were subject to change, with message reminders being sent out as they approach.

4. 2017-2018 District Budget

The formal budget process for the 2017-2018 school year began in October/early November. The members of the administrative team are in the process of preparing the "building/department" level budget proposals. The preliminary budget will be completed in January/February, followed by Budget Presentation Meetings with our PTA's and senior citizens.

5. School Updates

Mr. Stark: Bayer visited all three elementary schools to present "Making Science Make Sense" to all 4th grade classes. Always a big hit with teachers and students.

Miss Bellino: School performances were well under way with more scheduled throughout the year. Specifically, the holiday shows are a wonderful collaborative effort with hundreds in attendance and the cooperation of MTV, BMS, and SDS and the music staff with the schools rotating the weeks each year.

Mr. Camean: 3M Ingenuity Grant will benefit all four HT schools. Spoke about 3D printer and EZ robots. Technology teachers will incorporate into curriculum.

Mr. Anderson: Spoke about book fairs and the benefits to both students and the libraries; Week of Respect; Jets "Upstanders of the Week; the outdoor education trip; thanked the PBA and Ace Gallagher for the sweatshirts for the students; 7th grader won Patriot's Pen essay contest; a cappella choir performing at Bayer; Pride and Passion event at WPHS.

Mr. Wasko: The Jets selected an essay by Mr. Becker, PE teacher, about how MJS was a "school of character". Lorenzo Mauldin came and recognized MJS for its commitment to preventing bullying.

6. Curriculum Updates

Mr. Wasserman highlighted Bayer and 3M grants to help implement a virtual STEM lab. Spoke about Next Generation Science Standards. All sciences will be themed, as opposed to one topic per year, to be able to delve deeper each year. Miss Bellino spoke about Hanover Township being a model district as to how our music department is run. The Pride and Passion concert is a big part of this.

New report cards made a smooth transition. All PTA members in attendance agreed feedback was positive. Mr. Wasserman stated they would constantly be checking for issues and improvements each quarter.

Hanover Township Educator Academy: Differentiated Professional Development. October 10th "Teachers Teach Teachers" was a success with sessions on writing, reading, projectors, ELA, and Razkids to name a few.

School Climate Surveys will be live through December and January and the data collected will be used for curriculum and school safety.

7. Board of Education Updates

- Dan Breen: re-elected to a 3-year seat
- Steve Furda: re-elected to a 3-year seat
- Trish Mattia: New member, elected to a 3-year seat
- Cathy Slattery: leaving in December 2016 (BOE member since April 2010)

8. Instant Alert

Field test successful. Alert Solutions II is similar to Honeywell in that families can manage their own accounts. General information will be emailed only. Emergency information will be broadcasted across all forms (phone, email, text). Suggestions were offered: for town and schools to coordinate messages to avoid repeats, have a pause before message to accommodate for answering machines. Mr. Wasko will send out letter with more information soon. Emails to families will be limited to non-profit, kid organizations. Flyers will no longer be sent home for various town/organization activities – these will be sent as one email each Friday.

9. Recreation Updates

Mrs. Brennan: Looking forward to Chili Cook Off. Santa event on December 10, coordinating with a Toys for Tots drop off point. On February 20th there will be a Traveling Teens preview with a trip to Aquatopia for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Looking forward to the Basketball Pep Rally and the start of the season.

10. Looking Ahead

Holiday Winter Concerts are being rehearsed and everyone is looking forward to them. The next BOE meeting is December 13, 2016.

11. "For the Good of the Order"

MJS PTA spoke about how she's been receiving feedback about emails. Parents want the info in the body of the email as opposed to having to follow a link and log in. Mr. Wasko spoke about difficulties with email communication. Facebook was brought up as a solution with pros and cons represented. Mr. Wasko stated FB is a big decision due to liability and policing of posts and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29am.

Respectfully submitted by Rosemarie Carroll, Co-VP MTV PTA