



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 14, 2022, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

1) Welcome and Introductions: Dana Milburn, PTA President

Ms. Milburn welcomed all to the PTA meeting and presented the agenda for the night's meeting and introduced the YHS PTA Board members.

2) Principal's Report, Dr. Kevin Clark, Principal

Dr. Clark addressed questions and concerns related to the threat to YHS the previous Thursday causing the school to go into a lockdown. He addressed the use of long guns by the police who responded and were clearing the school for safety. There was a question regarding how some students were processed differently in leaving the school over others. This was due to the location of the threat to the school in relation to where the students were in the school. The responding police came to the school and took over. The first students encountered by the police experienced what the police term as a "hard clear" where they use long guns etc. Once the threat was determined to be non-existent by the police they moved to a "soft clear" of the school for the rest of the students. The police rapidly cleared the building as quickly as possible. The bathroom located on the second floor was the location of the initial reported threat.

To allow the kids to decompress from the event, the teachers were instructed to move any due dates and tests from Friday to a later date. A few students did not come to school on Friday but its better for the kids to return to normal routines.

The teachers entertained students during the lockdown by making popcorn and watching the Olympics. Dr. Clark and the PTA expressed appreciation for the staff and the stress they were under in handling the situation. The staff did a great job of being aware of the student needs during the crisis.

A student took a picture of another student in handcuffs during the lockdown and posted it on social media. The APS Communications Team was on site during the crisis and could quickly share by later that afternoon that no threats were found in the school.

Dr. Clark went on to routine business, stating we are halfway through the school year. There is a lot going on with course request forms and planning for next year's classes and staffing needs. There are two more quarters and then final exams, so students have a lot of opportunity to connect with teachers, get help, and get grades up before the end of the year.

There are several upcoming surveys to look for 1) Survey of the climate and working conditions, and 2) SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) survey/screener from Panorama gathering data on students' perceptions of SEL skills and competencies. The surveys will help understand



components of what helps students be more successful. We encourage everyone to take the surveys so Arlington can get a handle on how the kids are doing and what the needs may be for the kids. Encourage your children to respond thoroughly.

There will be a course registration process over the next few weeks where students will be meeting with counselors. There is also an upcoming budget request with a focus on salaries for teachers to make sure APS is in the top 3 highest paid local counties at the high school level. There is also an important approach to decrease student/teacher ratios. Many classes are over 30 students. This impacts teachers' abilities to pay attention to all students when the class sizes are so large.

In upcoming events, Orchestra is holding a concern next Thursday 02/24/2022. There are planned diversity activities for Hall's Hill and celebrating John Langston. The school will be launching the first oratorical contest in collaboration with the Langston team. Hall's Hill is a historically black neighborhood near YHS.

Dr. Clark expressed appreciation for feedback on issues around sexual assault. The school is working with student groups in 9th and 10th grade during health class to provide instruction from Project Peace/Title IX reporting requirements, etc.; and there will be student assemblies for 11th and 12th grades.

The girls' basketball and boys' basketball teams are doing well along with the wrestling team. Spring sports starts next Monday with soccer, lacrosse, outdoor track, and crew.

Graduation is scheduled for June 16th in Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Prom will be scheduled on June 3rd at the Westin in Ballston.

3) PTA Business, with PTA Board and Chairs

Ms. Milburn announced that the presentation by Ms. Hamill, YHS SEL Coordinator, needed to be postponed to the March PTA meeting, due to a family emergency. Thank you to Dr. Clark and the staff for how well they handled the lockdown situation and helped the kids get through it.

PTA Committee Reports:

The Graduation Party Committee reported on status of party planning for the Senior Graduation Party. As background in 2020 the PTA submitted a \$1,200 deposit for a Boat Party for seniors for June 2020. The Boat company refused to return the deposit when the pandemic made the boat party impossible, and instead held the deposit over for a possible later event for the PTA. In addition, they added a \$3,000 discount as an incentive not to fight their keeping the deposit. They repeated that hold-over in 2021, leaving the possibility of using the Boat for



2022, and have agreed, also, to a hold-over to 2023, in case next year's Committee chooses to return to the Boat Company.

Over the course of a couple of months in the fall, this year's Graduation Party Committee reached out numerous times to the Boat company, which has changed owners in the intervening time. When they were able to reach the Boat Company, they said they would honor the deposit, but that prices have increased since 2020. The boat rental now would be \$17,000 (rather than 2020's approximately \$12,500, canceling out most or all of both the deposit and the discount) plus about \$2,000 in transportation costs for students to get to and from the boat. It is estimated the cost of a Boat Party would result in a per ticket price for students in the \$60 to \$70 range. With the boat party, students would have to be at school by about 9 pm and would be picked up by parents at the school around 3:00 am.

The Committee explored holding the event at the State Theater as an option and recommends that the party be held there. This option will be about half the price of the boat rental, and the staff there are helpful and accommodating, showing that they're eager to work with us to host the event. The event location rental is about \$4,500 and offers a light snack menu to choose from for the event. The ticket prices for the State Theatre would be estimated to be around \$15.00 per ticket (to be finalized later, depending on fund-raising levels to off-set costs). The State Theater option allows for holding the event around 8:00 pm to 12:00 am.

Family Network Chair Janet Pence reported on offering the Virtual Mock ACT on 02/05/2022. On the day of the test the capacity for Zoom was exceeded. To accommodate they are extending the registration date to 02/23/2022. The company will give feedback to students who took the test.

On April 7th, there will be a presentation on Executive Functions in College and preparing to launch.

The YHS PTA Grants cycle starts tomorrow through 02/28/2022.

4) PTA Meeting Minutes: Julie Halferty, PTA Secretary

A motion was presented to approve the PTA meeting minutes for October, November, and December of 2021 and January of 2022. The updated PTA By Laws were presented and passed by vote.

5) Financial Reporting: Dan Sennett, PTA Treasurer



The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dan Sennett. There was a beginning balance of \$68,579.00 and an ending Balance of \$67,381.00. There were deposits of \$734.00 and debits of \$1,932.00. There are still about \$8,000.00 in checks outstanding from fall grants.

Announcements and Adjourn – Dana Milburn

Final announcements include a new provider will be supporting the PTA IT. The PTA will add a Thank You Meal for the Staff with an expense of up to \$1,000.00 or roughly \$4.00 per staff member. All agreed to the plan. There was a motion for approval of \$1,200.00 in snacks for the staff and \$300.00 for cookies for police. All approved the motion. There will be an SEL Learning Event on March 21st and March 23rd.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.