



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING AGENDA
Monday, September 11, 2023
Meeting: 7:30pm

Welcome from PTA President: Welcome everyone!

- I. PTA Board Member Introductions
 - a. Katrina - President - has been in PTA since daughter was Freshman (now graduated!) Was VP for a couple years before coming onto this position.
 - b. Cristina - Communications VP (primary role is to do the newsletter)
 - c. Karin O'Leary - Internal VP
 - d. Michelle Cowan - Treasurer
 - e. Katie Beasley - External VP
 - f. Kellie Stewart - Secretary
 - g. Jill Gaspar - Volunteer Coordinator. New to the position and managing volunteer list. A lot of eager incoming families have volunteered.
 - i. **Only position that is vacant is graduating committee.** Jill also fills the middle school liaison role (has child at Williamsburg)
 - h. Volunteers:
 - i. Chloe Chin - Advisory Council on Teaching and Learning (ACTL) rep for YHS. First year in this role - first meeting on Wednesday.
 - ii. Lori Schimenti - third year coordinating mock ACT and SAT practice test opportunities. Third party company that offers the test. Good opportunity to practice test in real environment.
 - Oct 28 - mock ACT
 - Jan. 6 - digital mock SAT. Digital SAT doesn't start until March so this will be their first opportunity to try it out. Will send the announcement to Cristina for newsletter and then also put it in PeachJar.
 - iii. April Maddox - Arlington County Reflections Chair for past 6 years. Will do it for YHS this year. Would like to get more submissions. Theme for this year's contest is "I am hopeful because..."

(Note: other committee chairs not present in the meeting)

- II. Introduction of New YHS Assistant Principal, Ms. Danielle Harrell
 - a. Ms. Harrell been with YHS for 2 weeks. Third year with APS. Last two years was with virtual learning program before. Spent 23 years in Cleveland, OH. Has been an Assistant Principal and a Principal. Spent some time working with the OH Dept. of Education as

Director of Pupil Services. Also taught middle school and elementary for 10 years. She will be supporting class of 2027 in her new role. Welcome Ms. Harrell!

- III. Dr. Clark's Update:
- a. Wanted to express gratitude to PTA and those who supported teachers during pre-service week. Some parents came and helped to set up and brought food. Were fortunate to welcome Dr. Willingham, a cognitive psychologist from UVA, who presented to YHS staff and led full day of professional learning. Great way to start school year. Theme for staff this year is around excellence as part of "Equity, excellence and empowerment" - have rotated through these ideas every year as a theme. Thinking about best instructional strategies and best ways we can support students to take ownership of their learning and to support learners. PTA sponsored half of the pre-service work and PTA is going to have him come and do a parent session. This will allow parents know what kinds of strategies YHS is working with and also, how to support students to use organization tools and schedules to be successful. Session is week after BTSN - Wed, Sept. 27 at 7:00 pm. Link will be in PTA and YHS newsletter.
 - b. First two weeks are going well. Students are excited and working hard.
 - c. Counseling team doing a great job managing schedules. Deadline to pick new class passed last week. Deadline to drop a class level is Sept. 29.
 - d. Want parents to be aware of supports available. Patriot Period - on Tues/Thurs have advisory. Their Patriot Period advisor is with them all four years. They do SEL lessons. Academic check ins. On Thursdays students can request a pass for academic interventions or to do retakes. On other M-W-F, can see teachers, work with group of peers - can use time as needed - even to relax. Encourage parents to talk with students about how to make good use of that time.
 - e. Have Learning Center support options. Have staff there all day, after school, and during lunches where students can come in for help. If they need to do remediation or do makeup tests, can do it in learning center as well as library. Can also be used for small group testing. Or if they have missed a couple days, can go get caught up in Learning Center.
 - f. Paper tutoring - expanded version that students have access to this year. Pretty high utilization rate at YHS last year. Really a lot that Paper service can do for kids.
 - g. Instructional update - policy and implementation procedure - centered around grading for equity and making grading motivational and bias resistant. Grass roots movement over past few years but this year it has been formalized in the school board policy. If a student takes a test and doesn't do well, can have a retake opportunity with a revised assessment. Usually have to meet with teacher first so the student can show teacher that they are ready to take a reassessment. In classrooms that implemented that last year, students and teachers felt like it helped focus kids around the learning and also reduced test anxiety. Late work can't be penalized until up to the end of the teaching unit. Really want to emphasize that we want kids to chase the learning. Grading practices have been set up previously to reward extra credit and other similar behaviors. But grading practices now really emphasize learning the material.
 - h. Back To School Night - next Wed, Sept 20 at 7:00 pm at YHS. Starts with Advisory Class (Patriot Period). Introductory video in advisory period and then will meet with each teacher

for students' classes for 10 minutes. Drop in for counselors starting at 6:30 pm if interested in touching base to introduce yourself to counselors. Will have topics throughout the year to learn about other topics like course registration, AP classes, etc.

- i. Continuing our work around equity - new DEIA coordinator, Keisha Patrick. Coming to YHS from HB Woodlawn. If interested in joining equity team this year, can submit an application - meet third Monday of every month in person. Analyze data and look at practices around culture, curriculum, etc. and try to create a more inclusive, representative environment.
- j. Have exciting events coming up. Activities fair, which is student club fair, during all three lunches. Great way to meet other students. Have many students that start new clubs. Have had about 4-5 new clubs started over the past week. Encourage kids to get involved.
- k. Fall sports up and running.
- l. Winter sports start Nov. 6
- m. Spring sports start Feb 19
 - i. Need to have a physical on file. Must have it submitted before tryouts for green day activities. Can find more information on Yorktownsports.org. Also, we use Team App where you connect with specific teams.
- n. Back to School BBQ on Sept. 14. PTA and SGA supported event. At 6:00 pm out in front of main entrance. Kona ice truck and games will be there. Staff come as well - fun way to bring community together.
- o. Same night (9/14) W-L vs. YHS football game. There are specific regulations - students have to buy ticket in advance. Have to be student of W-L or YHS. Need to show studentvue or student ID to get in. No outside food/beverage. Have a little more security for those games because heavily attended.
- p. Senior activities - on the website. Quite a few specific dates coming up for seniors. School photos - Sept. 26 - 29. There are make-up opportunities. All info on website.
- q. Seniors can go off campus for lunch with parent permission. Form in newsletter and on website. ONLY seniors allowed to leave and only for lunch. They get pass to use throughout the year. No one is allowed to leave during Patriot Period.
- r. Have a few ways to stay informed. Main mode of communication is weekly newsletter which is now coming out via ParentSquare. Download the app and register. You will still receive information without the app but the app has additional features and ways that you can communicate with teachers and school. Can automatically switch to a preferred language. Also - PTA newsletter is a great source of information.
- s. Do communicate frequently with the community about things happening at the school, i.e. if there is a police presence, threat to safety, medical emergency. Many times it will be brief, e.g. the police came to school to speak to a student. Or first responders came for a student that fainted. They will always notify and provide as much information as they can but there are limits to what they can share. Cannot disclose private medical information. And don't want to jeopardize any investigations if the police are involved. If there is a disciplinary issue, the school is not permitted to share disciplinary information with external parties or the consequences faced by a student. Can share the framework of how consequences are determined for various infractions so parents can derive a sense of

what might have been done. But the school cannot report or confirm what the disciplinary action was. But trying to provide the most up to date information that they can.

- t. Dailies - student-led tv announcements program. Posted on website.
- u. BTSN - Sept/ 20
- v. Dr. Williamham talk for parents - Sept. 27
- w. Oct 3 - new strategic plan development process. Three community forums. YHS will be hosting an APS strategic planning forum on Oct. 3.
- x. Oct 11 - PSAT day for grades 10 and 11 - half day. Regular bus services. Afternoon buses at 3:00. Most kids end at 12:30. There is grab and go lunch for students. There are places for kids to stay and work if need to stay until 3:00.

Q: Chloe - sits on English Language Art Committee - what time is learning center available?

A: All day and staffed after school. Each of the departments will have offerings for support. Have had math labs and writing lab in the past. Some of those types of supports might occur outside of learning center. Lunches and after school are the additional supports that would not have been available last year. Now they have more opportunities, e.g. Can do retakes at the learning center. Or if you missed 2-3 days, the teacher might send you down to learning center with materials to catch up. There is a teacher there but they might not be an expert in all subjects. But purpose is to provide more time and options for kids to get done what they need to get done.

Q: My understanding is that there is a lot of focus on secondary reading support - how is that being addressed?

A: Looking at literacy data and rolling out some additional supports for reading. Individual plan for students depending on what they need. Have new tools this year - have a reader screener (the NWEA MAP assessment) and other diagnostic screeners. Had great gains in math last year. But now need to focus on reading and writing to see more gains. APS and YHS are elevating focus on literacy. Not just focused on English Language Learners but all students. Have assisted technology for kids with disabilities through special education office. Have speech-to-text and dictation tools. Working with their teachers, find best tools to address a student's specific needs.

Q: I have a junior who is taking 4 AP classes - for new policy or procedure if they don't do well, does reassessment opportunity apply for kids taking AP classes?

A: Yes, it does. Did some professional learning on retakes. Had teachers share what they did over last couple years. AP physics teacher shared that he saw fewer kids with 1's and more kids with 5's. We know from a lot of brain research that having more opportunities over time to review and test knowledge is a great way to learn. Each teacher at all levels has to have an explanation in their syllabus of how they are applying the grading policy.

Q: Hearing that the C lunch period is extraordinarily crowded.

A: Have about 300 students that go to the career center. Have to put these kids in C lunch to get them on the bus. Seniors have been stuck at the school but now most of them have lunch passes now. So they will likely start to go off campus. That is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of kids in C lunch.

Q: What is difference between taking the PSAT or Mock SAT.

A: PSAT is administered by the school and it is a national merit qualifying exam.

Mock is great opportunity to get additional practice. Tip: If your child qualifies for additional time on the PSAT, need to get accommodations for extended time *before* take PSAT. Otherwise it can impact ability to get extended time on SAT if student did well enough on PSAT.

Q: Do people need to pre-register for Dr. Willingham's presentation?

A: No need to register. Will be about an hour and 15 min.

PTA Updates:

- IV. Upcoming pre-game BBQ this Thursday
 - a. Helping the SGA with the BBQ. Looking for a couple more lawn games. Croquet and corn hole popular.
- V. Plans to add a student to PTA and transition to PTSA
 - a. Has seen a shift that some of the local PTAs are switching to PTSA. Working to figure out how we can do this. Probably won't happen until middle of the year. Need to determine how we can recruit students and get their ideas.
- VI. Looking for Graduation Event Planning Group to determine senior preferences
 - a. Past couple years, not seeing excitement for the things we have done for the grad parties. Work with students to see what they would like us to do for them.
 - b. Will send out a reminder for webinar for Roadmap to college. - Ann Dolin - Sept. 13.
 - c. BTSN - usually a dinner for the teachers from 5 - 6 pm. Looking for help setting up dinner for them. When gets info from Sabrina at the school, can put that out to see if anyone is willing to help.
 - d. Discussion about grad night. The senior parties the past two years were not as successful as had been expected. The attendance was very low. When there was a boat party, the cost was an issue and the county will no longer provide transportation. Wanted to keep it more local and more cost effective. Tia Alfred expressed willingness to volunteer for Senior Graduation Event Planning committee.
- VII. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Budget presented: Beginning balance of funding from prior years is \$33,000. Every year we carry over funding. About the same we have had in prior years. In terms of income, there are a few sources like PTA membership dues. Close to \$4000 (400 memberships). Fundraiser - around \$17,000/year. Grocery card at Harris Teeter and Safeway gives us about \$6000. Generally have revenues of \$36,000/year. Chose to reformat the budget this year into 4 categories - 1) student/Club support - senior events and other student events, science fair, spirit wear, etc. About half the budget; 2) teacher/staff support - \$20,000 - teacher and staff appreciation, teacher grant program, allocations for training and professional development; 3) community/family support - \$3000 - as discussed, this funds the presentation by Dr. Willingham, as well as when we have requests for donations to community; 4) PTA Admin expenses - overhead for PTA is about \$5000. Includes PTA dues, website, technology, PTA board discretionary funding to respond to requests that come up during the year. Total expense budget \$56,000 which means we will be drawing

down our reserves. Still leaves an ending balance of \$14,000. Expectation is that we will likely have more to carry over because this budget is conservative.

- b. Motion to adopt the budget. Budget approved.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.