



## YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Meeting: 7:30pm

- I. **Welcome:** Katrina Brubaker, PTA President  
PTA won't meet in December. Will pick back up in January.
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** October 9, 2023 meeting minutes  
Motion to approve minutes. Approved.
- IV. **Introduction YHS staff member:**

- a. Juanice Jenkins, Yorktown High School Dean of Students

First year as Dean of Students - role is new to the county, and there are 6 total in the county. New role. Has been at YHS for past 7 years as school counselor. Primarily focused on behavior, discipline, attendance. Monitors absence and tardies. Oversees the attendance department. If there are students that have truancy issues, works with attendance specialist. In that capacity, working with at-risk students but also kids who get caught up in tardies. Helping to make sure that consequences are in place for low level infractions but also can be involved in larger issues as well. Working with admin team, teachers, counselors, and one-on-one with students. Works with whole school. In hallways a lot more this year. Helping students be the best they can be attendance wise. Also works very directly with security team. Parents are welcome to reach out if they have concerns. If concerns needs to channel to counselor or administrator, she can be the middle person.

Q: How are things going with new student pass system?

A: Have been much more diligent in making sure that students do have passes. Passes are color coded, different passes for classrooms and different floors. Setting tone and expectations for students so things have gotten better. Students are responsive to it. Are really reinforcing safety. Some students question the rationale and Ms. Jenkins is happy to have that conversation. But all about safety and making sure students are where they need to be and accounted for. Students have understood that reasoning well.

One of the biggest issues has been that virtual learning shifted their mindset that once they are done with their work, they can leave. So need to retrain their thinking.

County is looking into an electronic pass system. Gives a lot of features, e.g. determining how many students can be in the hallway at any given time. Limits that amount of time they are

in the hallway. Has a countdown timer on it. Has good incentive features as well - like how many Freshman participated in spirit week. But county is still trying to roll it out. But this system would take out a lot of the burden.

Q: Does the electronic system require students to have a smartphone and have it on them?

A: No, can use it on the computer - it is website based also. For anyone in the hallway, they can see who has passes assigned to them.

If have questions, can contact Ms. Jenkins at [juanice.jenkins@apsva.us](mailto:juanice.jenkins@apsva.us).

b. Laura Porter, Assistant Principal and Head of Safety and Security for Yorktown High School

Second year doing this role at YHS. Was at Swanson previously over building and security.

Assistant principal - oversees 11th grade students although they all work together. Was at YHS, went over to Swanson and then came back to YHS.

Work closely with SSEM to create emergency management plans, runs the drills in the building. Number one priority is to make sure that both students and staff feel safe in the building. Came in the year after the major lockdown at YHS. Have done an audit of YHS's plans to make sure that there was an appropriate reunification plan and that it was accessible to all. This year YHS has five SSEs but also have the lead which is housed at YHS. Ms. Porter is the liaison between the security officers and the admin team. Trevon Jolley is the lead and came to APSVA from DCPS. Just came about six weeks ago, and they have run several drills together, and he has identified things that need to be adjusted. Trevon and Ms. Porter attended the emergency management meeting and then looked at what changes they needed to implement at YHS. They were not propping doors open but had office door open - he recommended to change that and buzz people into the office. Working to improve security while making sure the kids are getting a great education.

Each of the high schools have a lead SSE, but Trevon provides some support to other schools.

Q: How is the communication to students following lock downs going?

A: Parents were very appreciative of the quick communication that went out earlier in the year when they secured the building and they were communicating with students as it was going on.

Arlington requires 4 fire drills in the first 4 weeks of school. And then one each month following that. They have another lock down drill in January. Dr. Clark would like that drill to happen during patriot period.

Q: Do students enter the building from multiple entrances every morning?

A: The students enter building at doors 1 and 8. If they are late, they come in the front door. All doors are locked after the start of school.

Q: Do students have privileges to leave during lunch?

A: Only seniors. They have a senior pass. But parent permission is required at the beginning of the school year.

Laura Porter's contact: [laura.porter@apsva.us](mailto:laura.porter@apsva.us)

### c. Reid Goldstein, School Board Member

School board member liaison. Please see [presentation](#) for full information and updates.

### **V. Principal's Update: Dr. Clark**

Thanks to Juanice and Laura for coming tonight - they are both doing a great job keeping our students safe. Always rely on students and families to let them know if there are any concerns.

Thanks to PTA for fall grants. We reviewed them with the grants committee. Support projects that directly assist students and staff with needed resources.

Last week wrapped up Q1. Things are going well - students and staff working really hard.

New grading PIP - do see a lot of kids working hard to learn things that they haven't learned and doing retakes. But also realize that adds to the workloads of teachers. But generally excited to see kids chasing those opportunities. But now in a process of refining it to make sure it isn't overly impacting staff. So far have seen some positive impacts.

Tomorrow have VA Youth Survey. Surveys students on various behaviors, including risk behaviors. Almost  $\frac{2}{3}$  of students will take it tomorrow. Will have a longer patriot period for the 45 minute survey.

Teacher, staff, Asst. Principal of the year nominations window is open. Encourage you to nominate. Great opportunity to recognize those staff and teachers that have made an impact. Nominations have to be done by Nov. 20. Will review with "teacher of the year committee" PTA rep. Then get to submit one YHS teacher of the year and one YHS staff of the year. If there is an Assistant Principal of the year can submit that as well. Those are then considered for the overall staff and teacher of the year awards.

This week - The Play that Goes Wrong - Thurs, Fri, Sat. Tickets on sale during the week.

Upcoming music concerts with band, orchestra and choir.

Athletics and activities - shout out to State Champion field hockey team. Winning back to back overtime games to win the state championship. Girls cross country took first region championship ever for YHS and placed 5th in the state.

Football team won in first round of the football tournament on Friday. Going to Westfields this Friday.

Winter sports have started. Basketball, swim, wrestling, indoor track. Track, cheer started today. Crew winter conditioning starts on 11/16.

See Team App for more information.

Physicals need to be submitted online.

Feb. 19 - spring sports tryouts.

Newsletter via ParentSquare. Try to keep everyone informed of things going on at YHS.

There will be some feedback opportunities for strategic plan and calendar. Encourage people to submit feedback.

Dec. 5 is high school information night in auditorium. Share info about programs, including AP capstone program. Will talk about what it is like to be a 9th grader at YHS.

Q: Do any of these performances happen for the school to observe during the day? E.g. dress rehearsal for Play That Goes Wrong, orchestra, band?

A: Don't have school day showings. Want to get kids to come out and see the full shows at night or Saturday.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report:** Michelle Cowan

Everything is on track with budget. Beginning balance for Oct. \$45,000. \$3000 in receipts - largely related to PTA memberships, merchandise sales.

Disbursements have been limited to \$2600, part of which paid for Dr. Willingham presentation from last month and things from last year.

## **VII. Committee Reports and other PTA items**

Karin O'Leary - hasn't heard any issues with committee members but invite folks to speak up. Katrina: mentioned back in the spring, want to add students to the PTA. This would be helpful to get more input from students about activities that PTA is supporting for them. Has been doing some research and talking and meeting with people. Reached out to VA PTA to get their input. One way to do this is advertise out to community that we want to make a name change and leave that out there for 30 days before a vote on that. So making a formal proposal now and then will put it in the newsletter with the plan to vote on it in January. Will need an adult, parent, or

teacher to meet with the students to get their inputs and then bring those back to the PTA. Or we may have suggestions that we would like to present to the students and then have them gather information from other students to provide to us. Or we can present some ideas to students for them to get the word out and more information for us.

Q: Hi all, I heard community groups have reached out to CCPTA to organize to address overdoses in Arlington high schools -they are talking about offering more regular inclusive after school activities with no barriers to attend. Is there an on-going YHS group effort to address the substance use of our kids (besides offering SA treatment referrals)

A: This is something we have talked about. Had the panel last year but need to continue these discussions.

The county is saying that they have about \$500,000 to put towards this. Also, want to get information out to parents that maybe don't have access to technology.

A: Dr. Clark - Do a lot of work through 9th and 10th grade health classes. Last year had several whole school activities that were pretty impactful. Focused on opioid and drug prevention. But also want to focus on alcohol use.

Q: On a related question - does YHS have a position or policy on drug / alcohol testing, especially at sports events like football games? Having a simple breath analyzer available could be preventive

A couple weeks ago there was a student taken away in an ambulance. If students knew that they could be tested, that may be a deterrent.

A: Dr. Clark - they are not permitted to use breathalyzers - have to have parent permission. But often times it can be obvious when a student is under the influence. Want to approach this as a community issue.

VIII. **Adjournment** - Thank you for attending  
Motion to adjourn. Adjourned - 8:44 PM