



## YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Meeting: 7:30pm

### Agenda Items:

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- III. Guest speakers
  - A. Ms. Danielle Dessaso, College and Career Counselor
    - New college and career counselor this year - 5th year at YHS. Here to assist with college application process. Rep for YHS - plans all the college visits. Sends out info for scholarships, summer jobs, etc. Beginning of year always hectic for seniors. A lot of schools have pushed back decision date because of FAFSA. If kids have questions about scholarships, can come see Ms. Dessaso. Cap and gown stuff - they should go to their own counselor. Final transcripts don't get sent out until end of June after all grades are finalized. For juniors, recently did a career exploration day during lunch blocks. For rising seniors, will be doing a session with college reps to ask questions about what they should be writing for their essays. They should be looking into whether the schools they are applying to require the SAT/ACT. Application for rising seniors open August 1st - common app essay questions. (listen to this). If have questions, should see Ms. Dessaso. Freshman - focus on getting to know Naviance. Sophomore - how to use Naviance for career exploration to think about what they want to do post graduation. For Juniors - panel on college application process and career fair. Can email her at [danielle.dessaso@apsva.us](mailto:danielle.dessaso@apsva.us), ext. 5383.
  - B. Jessica Reeve, Intervention Counselor
    - Role is new to county for school based mental health services. Position just started this year. Examples are curriculum for anxiety, executive functioning, etc. School counselors also use these programs but Ms. Reeve is focused on helping students that need a little bit more. She also has the benefit of not having a case load so can work with kids that need more consistency. Can dedicate more time to students that don't receive IEP or 504 services, which has been really helpful. Small group counseling is new for students and figuring out how it works. County also implemented more data driven meetings so have monthly school-based mental health meetings where they figure out which students to target a little bit more. Also consults on risk assessments for the students that are in crisis and staff for tiered interventions in the classroom. County has given flexibility for them to make it work the way they need to. Teachers and counselors will reach out about students that may need more attention. Parents can reach out. Students can also reach out. She will always loop in the counselor.
- IV. Dr. Clark's update



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- Thanks to
- Jessica and Danielle - the counseling team is doing a great job! Have hired several new counselors this summer. New services available - new Department of Health and Human Services counselor that works at YHS 3 days a week and plan is to go to 5 days a week next year. Can provide counseling services within the school setting. Her name is Ms. Smith - started about a month ago. Also have an online mental health service called Hazel Health. Typically a short term support for students who need additional services through telehealth. Parent can request this or student can request through counselor. Trying to be very systematic and keeping an eye on how things are going for students.
- Thanks to PTA for spring grants (\$10,000 in grants). Variety of resources, books, field trips, etc.
- Appreciative for continued support for work with Dr. Willingham (UVA) - came back to do a session in March. Teachers have taken away ways to engage students and practices that students and teachers can implement. Wrote Why Students don't Like School and Outsmart Your Brain.
- Upcoming speaker named Daryl Davis. Wrote a book about time he spent speaking with KKK members to get them to leave the Klan. Will speak with 11th grade students but open to others who want to come - focus is on how to have difficult discussions with people who don't agree with you.
- PTA collecting gift cards for teacher appreciation week. Always recommend a quick email of thanks to teachers who you appreciate. First full week of May.
- Shout out to musicians - recognized as blue ribbon music school - choir, band and orchestra all received superior ratings.
- Orchestra trip going to Nashville. Band going to Boston. Choir going to Orlando.
- Theater performance Les Mis was great.
- "Laugh more stress less" - opportunities for students to engage with healthy choices, healthy relationships, student led assembly on student harassment and assault. Organized a great panel. Project peace - focus on consent, sexual harassment, abuse - this is for 11th graders. 12th graders will do scenarios that were written by students and vetted by school staff. End of April.
- Cultural festival during the school day. Student groups and clubs will have tables and will do music in the courtyard - April 22.
- May 6 - AP testing. SOL May 22. And then final exams and off for the summer.
- Seniors - exams start April 17. Before the AP exams - once APs end, it is the last day for seniors. 80-90% of seniors do senior experience. June 12 - they come back and do a small group seminar to talk about what they have learned. If you do not do senior experience, have to attend school.
- May 31 - prom.
- Will collect computers before sr. experience and after.



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- For anybody who has a rising senior, planning to move student parking lot to front of building. And move staff parking to back of the building. Will put out a survey to student, staff, and parents. Proposal came out of staff advisory council and then talked to Principal's advisory board - they were supportive.
- V. Meredith Purple, former YHS parent, updated the group on an incident that happened last night. She is also a YHS neighbor. Wanted to let PTA know that her house backs up to YHS baseball field. There is county land there that is not part of the baseball field but not part of the park. Over the years have had repeated incidents of kids hanging out back there smoking and drinking. During pandemic, got out of control and worked with county and YHS staff to help mitigate it. County did some cutting of the underbrush that made it an attractive place to hide out. Yesterday there was an incident where a fire got started - was a serious brush fire - took fire department an hour to put it out. Was extremely serious. Going to be working with county and Dr. Clark - even though it is not school land. Asking for PTA support - know where your kids are. Remind them to be good neighbors to the neighbors who live around YHS. By the time the fire came to their attention, there was no one back there but do have pictures of kids who came back to the area afterwards.
- VI. Treasurer's update:
  - This report covers March 2024. As shown in the following table, the beginning account balance as of March 1, 2024 was \$40,499.75; the ending balance as of March 29, 2024 was \$37,884.79. Receipts totaled \$28.82. Disbursements totaled \$2,643.78 for teacher grants for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade book club and great classroom books! Year to date expenses remain on track or less with budget.
- VII. Committee Updates and Other PTA Items
  - A. Committee Chair Updates
    - Senior send off committee chair will speak to us in May.
    - For Teacher appreciation week - please provide \$25 gift cards! Anything that allows for online shopping is very helpful. 2 ways to drop them off - can drop at Katrina's house through mail slot or brown box or drop them off in a box at the main office. PTA doesn't do Venmo.
  - B. Vacant positions:
    1. President
    2. External VP
    3. Secretary
  - Already have someone for Internal VP.
  - Katrina rolling off of PTA board after 4 years - recruiting for new president if you know anyone who would like to do it - or can be a co-president.



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- Request for chairs to update the description of their positions. If the chair can truly describe what they have done, that would be good - some of the descriptions are a bit out of date. Committees don't have to be a committee of one - can always pair up.
- May will be the last PTA meeting for the year - June meeting doesn't work.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:20 pm