



YORKTOWN PTSA MEETING NOTES

Monday, October 21, 2024

Meeting: 7:30pm

Attendance: Maurine Fanguy, Rena Cutlip-Mason, Julie Pandya, Bethany Zecher Sutton, Terri S., Kevin Clark, Jill Gaspar, Angela Cocker, Josh MacFarland, Peduzzi, TJ, Cristina Marcus, Eileen Topp, Melissa, Stephanie Smarr, Cloe Chin, Shari Davenport, Shana Rothman, Tanya, Hermon B, Jonathan Ladewig, Irena Sullivan, Sonalee Singh, S Lee, Tulsi Desai, Heather Hescheles, Barbara, Heather, Dawn, Evie, Scott Marcus, Tony C, Christin Purka, Danielle

Call to order at 7:34

1. Welcome by PTSA President, Maurine Fanguy
2. Approval of the minutes
 - a. Tanya motioned for approval and Josh MacFarland seconded
 - b. Minutes approved
3. Introduction of Board members
4. Principal update - Dr. Kevin Clark
 - a. Thank you to parents who volunteered at Homecoming.
 - b. Parents can check on ParentVue for updates on current student academic development.
 - c. If you did not complete your beginning of the year packet then you won't have access to ParentVue until it is completed.
 - d. ParentSquare is the best way to communicate with teachers and the school.
 - e. Crucible starts on Thursday, 10/24/24.
 - f. Upcoming Music Concerts: 11/6 Band concert and 10/30 orchestra concert
 - g. Fall athletics coming to the end. Last home football game is 11/2 at 5pm.
 - h. Winter sports begin on 11/11. The best place to get info is Team App and the Yorktown sports website. Physicals are required and submitted online.
 - i. APS is evaluating emergency announcements and when schools will provide notices. When there is further information the District will announce the new policy.
 - j. The program, Silence No More, will be coming to YHS on November 14 to speak to the students.
 - k. Questions
 - i. Students are having trouble fundraising due to new rules that were put in place recently by APS. Dr. Clark will take it back to the activities office to provide further guidance to the students.
5. Guest Speaker - Bethany Sutton, School Board Vice Chair & YHS Liaison

- a. Silence No More program is fantastic!
- b. There has been confusion around the new financial procedures. There were two audits, P-card and student funds. The school board is looking to put together more guidance to the schools on the new parameters of the guidance.
- c. Contact information: bethany.zechersutton@apsva.us
- d. APS has a new internal auditor for APS. She has been in her position for a year. In that time, the school board has requested 4 audits, which included the 2 financial audits.
- e. School Board priorities:
 - i. Align across the system with new strategic plan
 - 1. Reimagining SB Advisory Groups
 - 2. Looking at the Superintendent's evaluation to individual school actions plans
 - ii. Carry out work outlined in the 2025 - 2034 Capital Improvement Plan
 - 1. Evaluating major renovations
 - 2. Considering infrastructure improvements
 - 3. Exploring ways to improving employee morale
 - iii. Work Sessions and monitoring reports on
 - 1. Program capacity study - This study looks to consider the capacity of the class rather than the seats.
 - 2. Boundary and option programs, including a new boundary policy that is being finalized for the board to vote on.
 - iv. FY26 Budget
 - 1. There will a significant budget deficit to reduce the deficit. Will engage with the community to work through options and advocate with State for more resources.
- f. Personal Electronic Device Policy & PIP
 - i. School Board considering two fundamental questions on the approach to the PED policy:
 - 1. Do they approve a policy that prohibits the use of PED "bell to bell" at all levels, or
 - 2. do they approve a policy that allows for a different approach at the high school level
 - ii. What implementation procedures will be most effective in our schools? Please note the board does not approve PIPs, rather the overarching policy. The superintendent approves PIPs and they can be amended more easily and more often.
 - iii. The interim policy was passed by the school board at the request of the principals who wanted to start the year with some type of guidance.
 - iv. If VDOE guidance is not binding, why is there a need to change the policy?
 - 1. When there is legislation, APS must follow.
 - 2. It is more of a gray area when it is an Executive Order. There are examples where districts have chosen not to follow the guidance. There is some precedence.
 - v. Concerns were posed to Ms. Sutton about how the input on the proposed policy is being gathered. It was raised that the APS survey is being posted

on other school district distribution lists. Ms. Sutton pointed out that APS does not send out surveys on their policies. To access the questionnaire you need to follow a link from the policy to the questionnaire.

- vi. The data that is received through public comment is just one data point that is considered when making a decision. The school board will take into account the public data, talk with administrators, and talk with the advisory boards.
- vii. Pouch pilot
 - 1. It is a pilot in 3 middle schools and 1 high school.
 - 2. Given the investment that would need to go into the pouches, the school board wants to ensure it will be effective before making the investment.
 - 3. If pouches are used, it would be a change to the PIP, not the policy.
- viii. A question was raised regarding whether staff will be asked to monitor the use of phones at lunch and in the halls, if the new policy passes? Ms. Sutton explained that the school board will look at the middle schools to see how it works since they already have the policy of “bell to bell”.
- ix. A question was raised regarding students with disabilities and medical needs. Ms. Sutton explained that the school board and the Superintendent are very aware of the needs and are monitoring how the interim policy is working.

6. Internal VP Update - Jill Gaspar

- a. Thank you to the volunteers for Homecoming.
- b. Starting to plan Spring Fling, and we will need volunteers.
- c. Volunteer Needs
 - i. Movie night
 - ii. Extra help with social committee, which will also help with Spring Fling planning

7. External VP - Josh MacFarland

- a. ACTL Report, including Cell Phone Policy
 - i. In the last meeting, discussed social studies. There is discussion of adding more US history to the 5th grade.
 - ii. There is a pilot concerning SEL and how to make an effective curriculum.
 - iii. Regarding the cell phone policy, the data was really limited from the ACTL survey. Also, the advisory board discussed the pouch pilot with the Wakefield HS rep.
- b. Report on YHS Cell Phone Survey results
 - i. Review of [YHS Survey Results](#) on APS Draft Cell Phone Policy
 - ii. Comments will be provided to the Superintendent and the school board.
 - iii. No objections from participants to continuing to provide the feedback to the District with the PTSA not taking a position.

8. Treasurer’s Report - Julie Pandya

- a. We applied and were approved for tax exempt status for the next 5 years.
- b. Completed 2 financial audits and are fully approved by the CCPTA.
- c. Current 2024-25 budget is \$34,000, and we have raised a little more than 31,000 to date.

- d. Some funding was cut, but if we are able to continue fundraising then we will be able to increase the teacher grant program.
 - e. For more information you can reach out to treasurer@yhsptsa.org
9. Open Q&A and discussion
- a. Can the PTSA provide funding for club travel and other expenses? Currently, YHS PTSA does not have the funding to support. However, the PTSA will do some further research, and possibly conduct a survey to better understand the issue.
 - i. Cloe Chin volunteered to lead the effort.
 - b. There will not be a November PTSA meeting.
 - c. In December the topic of the PTSA will be regarding what it means when your child turns 18 years old.
 - d. There were 11 students who volunteered to sit on the Teacher Grant Committee, which met today to discuss fall teacher grants.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm
- a. Motion from Jill and second from Julie. Motion passed.