

**Hanover Township Public Schools
Office of the Superintendent**

PTA Advisory Meeting Minutes

**October 3, 2018
MJS Media Center**

Attendance: M. Wasko, V. Wolsky, A. Wasserman, R. Camean, C. Bellino, D. Stark, G. Margolis, K. McSorley, R. Gold, K. Seifert, D. Brennan, C. Tognetti, C. Amoresano, S. Furda, M. Anderson, J. Toomey, A. Graepel, S. Hegarty

1. Welcome/Introductions

MJW

- Secretary/Meeting Minutes (BMS)
- Upcoming Meeting Dates:
 - ✓ December 5th, March 6th, June 5th (subject to change)

2. Recreation Updates

DB

- Thanks to BOE and BMS for summer camp use
- Basketball registration is open online; travel basketball registration ends 10/5
- Wrestling registration is open online; in person registration is 10/10
- Ski Club
- Masquerade at Malapardis will be 10/27; rain location will be MJS; each PTA has sponsored a house
- New program: Sports Buddies starts October 7th with WPHS students and children with special needs
- Papermill Playhouse trip on 12/6 - \$85 per person includes dinner, play and bus
- Broadway Play Trip to NYC potentially during Martin Luther King Jr weekend
- Future Coordination of “Trunk or Treat” Activities with PTA’s
- Ski Club information is also coming out soon

3. 2018-2019 Board of Education Goals and District Goals (Handout 1)

MJW

4. Opening of School

MJW

- District Enrollment/Class Size
 - As of September 6th, total district enrollment is 1,377 students which is 66 students less than the 1,443 who were enrolled this past June.
 - Memorial Junior School: 482 students
 - Bee Meadow School: 323 students
 - Mountview Road School will enroll 323 students
 - Salem Drive School: 249 students
 - Currently, all classes fall within the Board’s “desirable class size” range, i.e., K-3: 18-22 students per class; Grades 4-8: 21-25 students per class.
- New Staff
 - ✓ 7 new teachers (4 permanent “tenure track” and 3 temporary long term substitutes)
 - ✓ 4 Special Class III Hanover Township Police Officers (One per school) – student and parent reaction has been positive
- Notable Improvements and Initiatives for 2018-2019
 - ✓ Enhancements to district and building security including cameras, 3M film and more

- ✓ Updates to our District Crisis Intervention Manual
- ✓ The successful launch of the PowerSchool “InfoSnap” Portal, Pre-K through 8, allowing parents to complete all Back-to-School paperwork/packets online
- ✓ The introduction of Clever Login, a sign-in program providing all staff and students access to various district digital learning platforms via a “single” sign-in
- ✓ The completion of our “Cart to Classroom” Chromebook initiative, grades 3-8
- ✓ The district wide installation of 48 Epson interactive digital whiteboard projectors
- ✓ Facility upgrades including renovations to the Salem Drive School Library, a new paint job in Mountview Road School cafeteria, a new 54 passenger bus, and a new dump truck
- ✓ Curriculum updates in the content areas of English Language Arts, Reading, and Science

5. School and PTA Lunch

VW

- Free and Reduced Milk/Lunch Initiative
 - Stance on district lunch program has been the same for a long time and there is a need to recognize shifting population and needs of families in district
 - Mr. Wasko reached out to PTAs for information on individual lunch programs and will work to ensure a seamless transition so no one knows which families are participating in this program

6. School and PTA Updates:

- Special Education (GM)
 - Revitalized a group meeting for parents of children with special needs; first meeting is 10/24; electronic surveys being sent out to ask parents about the types of things they want to hear about
 - Crisis management plan – the district has adopted an options-based crisis response - ALICE. Not every situation is the same so it will be based on staff member comfort in keeping the kids safe. HTPD has two instructors on their force. Members of the district are certified ALICE instructors and Columbus Day will be used as a springboard to get staff thinking about it. Training will continue over the course of the year too. There is an age-appropriateness to this too but district uses same language throughout now. East Hanover going through the same transition now too.
- Salem Drive School (RC)
 - Week of Respect activities taking place this week including “Operation Friendship” assembly at all 3 schools; Reading of “The Judgmental Flower”; themes will continue throughout the year with 6 pillars of character
 - Red Ribbon Week later in late October with themed activities and spirit days
 - The SDS PTA has an entirely new board
- Memorial Junior School (MA)
 - Week of respect right now as well as color games; Dress up themes include dress for success day; being a friend is no sweat; put a lid on bullying hat day
 - Working on a charitable component as well every year; student with an illness in MJS will leverage funds for a Vego robot to help that student attend classes virtually via the Valerie fund
 - Kindness Tree – on the lookout for our kids doing great things
 - Substance Awareness Council presentation on stigma-free schools will honor MJS

- PTA updates
 - Students vs. Teachers basketball game on 11/16
 - In need of a treasurer – reach out with recommendations
- Bee Meadow School (DS)
 - Halloween activities coming up later this month
 - Field trips being scheduled - thanks PTA 😊
 - Making Science Make Sense from the Bayer Corporation at all schools will take place later this month – the kids love this program!
 - PTA updates
 - Trunk or Treat taking place on 10/26 – first time on a weekday
 - Tricky Tray – more information will be available at the next meeting but looking at mid-May date
- Mountview Road School (CB)
 - LEAD program – drug awareness program – Too good for drugs, too good for violence. Aligns with character ed; wants to also be involved in the 5th grade pool party; Mr. Wasko added great partnership with Chief Roddy
 - PTA updates
 - New VP Robin Gold joined
 - Switched to My Food Days for pizza and ice cream enrollment – but membership numbers are down
 - Trunk or Treat will take place on October 13th
 - Kindergarten author visit took place last week – Dino Mans
 - Curtains for the stage installed
 - This is Katy McSorley’s last year at MTV

7. Curriculum Updates

AW

- Thank you to the PTA
- Hanover Township “Educator Academy” Update
- ELA Grades 3-5, Reading, Character Education, Science Grades 6-8
- Staff Training Initiatives:
- Teacher Training on Journey’s, SuperKids, and RTI Resources
- Staff In-service Day:
 - Monday, October 8th
 - Mental Health/Wellness Training for Staff
 - School Security Training

8. District Notification Systems

MJW

- SwiftK12 Alerts & Mobil Communication App
 - “Emergency” Alerts go out on multiple platforms; highest success rate with texts; always call the 2400 number as voicemail is always updated; district does not subscribe to paid TV/radio school closing lists
 - General Information/Community Events (Flyers and General Announcements)

9. District Testing Updates (PARCC):

DS

- Individual Score Reports (Parent Letter)
- 2018-2019 Testing Schedule
 - Test results from last year have gone out
 - Elementary PARCC Testing will be May 9-15 with Grade 5 Science on the 16th and 17th
 - Memorial PARCC Testing will be May 1-8 with Grade 8 Science on May 20th and 21st
- District Testing Report, October 23rd BOE Meeting

10. Board of Education: Special Presentations

MJW

(visit our District Website)

- October:
 - Audit Report
 - District Testing Report, Spring 2018
- November:
 - EVVRS Report
- December:
 - Musical/Choral Group Performances

11. General Items of Interest

- Congratulations to Steve Furda, HT BOE President, for recently receiving the Certificated Board Member Award from the NJSBA
- Introduced Mr. Furda

12. “For the good of the Order”

Respectfully submitted by Katie Seifert, BMS PTA President