



UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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UAHS PTO Membership Tuesday, September 24th at 8:30 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Heather Perry, Megan Potts, Ana Ly, Aimee White, Kris Ferraro, Melissa Ford, Marta Bergese, Kim Kinatader, Marti Underwood, Beth Devine, Denise Rush, Kathy Jenney, Andrew Theado, Anne DeVoe, Lori Trent, Deb Larry, Meghan Harder

I. Welcome & Minutes Approval - Heather Perry

Melissa Ford motioned to approve minutes and Beth Devine second motion - all were in favor and previous month's minutes passed.

II. PTO Business:

-Treasurer Report Beth Devine

All items on budget are the same except for the addition of line items DEI and Legacy Campaign. Generating income are Grocery Certificates; Other Donations - Nationwide Cyber Grants are most of income; and Membership which has 240 families joined - we are on target. Expenses: \$10k was paid out to the district for R&D that funds UA Idea Day, Ambassadors of Change and Idea Hunt; and Staff Appreciation expenses. Operational expenses are for Money Minder and PayPal.

-Membership Cathy Pultz - not present but membership is on target

-Thank you's & To Do's:

Thank you to New Student Lunch Chair Kim Kinatader and volunteers Amy Schweisthal and Carmen Hartranft and Back To School Days Chairs Stacey Zelina and Kate Low who worked every shift.

To Do: Need a Chair for Cum Laude Banquet - please send suggestions to Heather Perry.

III. Principal Report - Andrew Theado

Student Involvement - administrators are reviewing student life - not just sports but school sponsored clubs, student run clubs, co-curriculars (that include boosters or parent run associations). Really want kids to be affiliated with groups/clubs that support all their interests - ie. 3 football players are in band (play during halftime). This process will be a take-a-look and provide clarity for how everything is run and operating - how kids can get find groups/clubs and get involved. Student Club Fair was held this week during both lunch periods in the gym - theme is kids trying to find connections with other kids. Examples of school sponsored clubs- Robotics, In-The-Know, Mock Trial, Bear Den - to name a few. Co-curriculars would be band, music,

orchestra, sports etc. Spencer Smith - is the Assistant AD and oversees UA Clubs - he can provide information for kids wanting to get involved. Per Kathy Jenney, differences are extra-co-curriculars have paid advisors (usually teachers) compared to student led group may have adult guidance but no advisor.

Construction - Construction is not affecting students and staff for the most part - one hiccup was Mt. Holyoke being closed (during parent open house) for one week. Projects are on time and on budget.

Parking - most kids are staying in for lunch to prevent giving up parking spot. Officer Rice is communicating with administrators and students regarding safety - reminders to use cross walks, stay on sidewalks and abide by speed limit.

Attendance - specifically, signing kids out during the lunch period for doctor appointments. Andrew said the closed lunch policy is adaptable and improvements are made every year. Betterment has been made and communication is going out with new procedure regarding lunch period and doctor appointment. All students can leave during the lunch period with an excuse form for a doctor appointment without the parent coming into the building to personally sign them out. Procedure remains in place that all students should continue and or start bringing doctors notes (same day or next day) to enter school. A doctors note is necessary to make these hours approved and excused absence. Without a note, these hours are approved but will be deducted from the state mandated hours in school. To call your child out of school - emails are no longer acceptable - use online form (on district app) or call into attendance line.

Start From Hello - started from Sandy Hook. Every student (1900 students) and staff all wore nametags yesterday and addressed each other by name. Chemistry teacher had his class share meaning of their name. At the end of class and student shared with the teacher the impact it made on her and how happy she was for the opportunity to connect her to other students.

District Report - Kathy Jenney

New Strategic Plan looks at "Whole Learning" and "Student and Staff Well Being". Learning goal is focusing on "whole" child and staff. DEI training - unified front as a district.

Apology for technology and issues - working on plan for this year and next. Addressing it and very much trying to make it better.

Student Life Review - kick off this evening for a new 30 member committee comprised of UA Staff and Community members. Focuses on structures and safety; well-being; and community support regarding student life (everything regarding student life including co-curriculars, clubs). It's like an abbreviated strategic plan. External facilitator Dan Ross (diverse expertise) will guide process and group - a 2-year work group. Benchmark looking and comparing throughout nation. Will address items such as: Transparency with clubs and sports and cost associated with them, communication and DEI - comprehensive plan. Student focus groups will be formed to work with committees.

IV. Student Clubs - Spencer Smith not present but Andrew Theado's report covered

V. Cultural & Diversity Committee - Heather Perry

Co-Chairs: Ana Ly, wiseriseclouds@gmail.com and Parag Pathak, parag_pathak@yahoo.com

Had a parent meeting and are currently working on a mission statement. Want to start round tables and parent engagement - look at diversity in schools. Next meeting will be Oct.22nd 6:30-8:30pm in High School Cafeteria - all candidates for Board of Education can be present. PTO grant money will be used for presentations (ie. muslim community - not faith based) and events. Goal is to bring and raise awareness for cultural diversity. District is sponsoring "America To Me" - held at Hastings Middle School and is 10 part series (5 fall and 5 spring) trailer is on STARS and is a series for high school students and parents. Intense messages and moderated conversations during each meeting.

Important Dates:

Tuesday, 10/22, 11/26, 2/4 and 4/7 - PTO Membership Meetings 8:30am at Market District

Sunday, March 1st - PTO Annual Fundraiser - CeleBEARty Wait Night

Sunday, March 1st - National Honors

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25am