



# UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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## UAHS PTO General Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 26

I. Welcome & Minutes Approval - Heather Perry

Cathy Pultz motioned, Melissa Ford seconded the motion and all were in favor. October minutes were approved.

II. Superintendent Report- Paul Imhoff

**Strategic Plan:** Proud of new plan and focus. Say no to things that are not in the plan, takes discipline, but we will remain focused on priorities. Staff gathered to address student needs and well being (stress and anxiety). Can't teach a kid until the teachers are well. Kids don't learn from staff members they don't like or have a relationship with throughout their course. Staff members are more aware of those kids that they don't know or seek to help those who may be in need. Push back on government testing, by the district as a whole, and really address strategic plan. We need to worry about students rather than test scores. BOE is serious about work and dedicating resources.

**Student Life Review:** full scale process looking at curricular and co-curricular groups. District needs to give guidance and be able to monitor finances and youth involvement. Members of the community (about 40) sit on the committee and are guided by outside leadership. Structures (handbook), wellness (DEI included) and Finances. "How" to find a period during the summer where students have 2 full weeks off for family and wellness.

**America to Me:** First half of 10 parts regarding race and racism in public schools. Robin Comfort and Stacy Royer made sure it happened this series happened/focus of UA Schools. It's presented at Hastings - Feb. 3 the Superintendent of Oak Park, Chicago will be present for final viewing of series. Our focus is on inclusion "All Means All" - everyone is welcomed and loved.

**Facility Project:** On schedule and on budget. Many rumors (even on Facebook) and all not true. Dr. Paul Imhoff will be touring the new UAHS this morning - Golden Bear Boulevard is coming to life!

**State of the Schools:** Thanks to Karen Truett, Karla Crowell and Colleen Wright.

Announcement of operating levy for November 2020. Deal with inflation we must require a levy every 3 years - tax rate UA ranked 7 of 15 and after we passed the \$230 million bond levy we are still at #7. We do not have the highest taxes (Bexley).

**PTO DEI:** School is putting in place the framework (guidelines and processes) delineate the new work - for both PTO and school. Rough draft will be sent by district for PTO review.

**Legacy Campaign:** \$6.4 million raised of our \$7.5 million goal. It's not too late to donate!

III. Principal Report - Andrew Theado

**Wellness:** Committed to the design of thinking and strategy - needs of "customer," design and lead. Prior to making changes we need to understand culture (belonging and balance) - interview staff and students currently. See through the lens of the high school culture with over 2000 individuals. Instead of sweeping policies we want to align expectations, balance of belonging and clear to promote expectations. Students to have a sense of belonging with a teacher(s) and other students - do we have the time during the school day? Are "we" as adults/staff modeling behavior? What are the perceived expectations, language and current situation/relationships. Interviews - grades (come up a lot) complex issue, grades at high school level with 100 year history is about ranking and sorting kids. We are all accepting of this system because we have all been through it. Operating through a system that has never changed - align grades with learning and nothing else. Standard based grading system and investigate this process. Content, learning, skill learning profile, resilient - executive functioning. Allow students to fail, pick child up and make them successful without grade being reflective of just the fail part (of process). This inturn college acceptance and tuition (less scholarships for lower grades). Slow work to produce a good outcome that is right for our students and goal is to honor the culture we are trying to create.

Parent question: Tutoring and avoiding the expense of private tutoring outside of school. If a child is utilizing math lab daily, office hours and still getting a "C" grade. Response: no teacher should ever say "see a tutor" ever. Math lab is busy all day long, why are so many kids going to math lab? Grade is tied to learning only. Should focus on advancement (fail and then success without grade punishment) and teacher to allow more time and one on one. Should not be solely about grade on one test. This is back to wellness and culture and school district is trying to make change - this is a good example of changes to come.

IV. Cynthia Ballheim- AP and IB Program Coordinator - not present

Liz Hughes - Counselor Report:

**Freshman** going into all english class to explain grades - quarter grades do not matter - but recognize classes cause difficulty and important strategy to help self (math lab, office hours and staying in touch with the teacher). Budget calculator (after college) on what cost of life and career to support - career clusters.

**Sophomore** - next wednesday. GPA game lineup 4.0 to 2.5 with activities/characteristics and cover importance of things Naviance activities and college. SOS (signs of suicide) course in spring. All do a screener - have an adult you trust in the building.

**Junior** - meet in January with transcript to plan senior year and plan for courses. Kathy Moore planning nights and resource packet review. Names on 5 different schools - view only pictures and information to sample college choices (size, location rather than "name" of school).

**Senior** - ongoing meetings with deadlines approaching.

**Schedule Changes** for second semester is next week. February is scheduling month.

Ambassadors of Change - do you know other students? Focus is to spread kindness and make new friends. "Hashtag There For Me" - opportunity to leave a dry erase board message to say thanks and leave a message. Tag UA school counseling - over 40 pics from yesterday and more today.

"UAHS COUNSELORS" Instagram Counseling Page: started last week because students don't check emails and they want them to be updated and have an easy resource.

V. Laura Moore- Research and Design Lab Instructional Leader

Thank you! Start off with appreciation for PTO and support. Works in the R&D Lab - UA Idea Hunt - staff initiative that started last year. 3 ideas going to workshop - during winter - all three ideas are in pulse with well being discussions. This year expand from teacher only to student approach/involvement - student innovation team meets during lunch twice a month. Collecting all the empathy to use and brainstorm where changes need made and make prototypes that will be shared with all (spring time it will be launched). Make strategic connections. Increased 69.6% to 82% teacher participation from last year. UA Idea Day - student wrote an email to the president of Ohio University and now cabinet of deans will conduct a mocktail networking hour - during Idea Day during lunch periods for all students. Red carpet, music, lighting - teach them how to be a paparazzi. Opportunity for UA kids to interact with colleges, deans, professors and college students. Some students will travel to Ohio University for Idea Day - OU paying for busing costs. Reflective of "collision of disciplines" - very exciting!

Changes from UA Idea Day: student feedback from last year was NO SPEAKER - all sessions hands on, interactive and large scale opportunity. Students on UA Idea Day Committee will have executive planning, meeting with district administrators and learn how hands on experience. UA Idea day will be held on Friday, April 3, 2020. PTO offered parent volunteers and Laura welcomed idea. Laura shared that if any PTO member knows of any individuals (with an expertise) to come in and share with students, please let her know [Immoore@uaschools.org](mailto:Immoore@uaschools.org)

VI. PTO Business:

-Treasurer Report - Melissa Ford reported we hit \$10k for membership, other donations are coming in for matching gifts.

-Membership- Cathy Pultz nothing to report other than membership hit goal!

-Thank you's & To Do's! - Cookie Exchange - look for signup next week to make cookies!

Important Dates:

December 17th- Staff Appreciation Cookie Assembly Date

Tuesday, 2/4 and 4/7 - PTO Membership Meetings, 8:30 AM at Market District

Sunday, March 1st - PTO Annual fundraiser - CeleBEARity Wait Night

Sunday, March 1st- National Honors Society Induction

*Don't forget to visit our PTO website ~ [uahspto.org](http://uahspto.org)*

*Thank you for spending your morning with us!*