

MINUTES

New York Harbor School PTA Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2018, @ 6:00 pm | *Meeting called to order by* Lissa Wolfe

In Attendance

Board Members: Nan Richardson Co-President; Lissa Wolfe, Co-President; Theresa Jordan, Vice-President; Marge Richards, Recording Secretary; Nikita Huggins, Co- Fundraising Chair; Bill Seery, Marine Biology Parent; Penelope Clarke-May, Marine Biology Parent; Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore, Marine Policy Parent; Lisa Edstrom, MST; Susan Bailey, Ocean Engineering

Absent Board Members: Michele Lardou, Co-Treasurer; Georgia Stefanidis, Co-Fundraising Chairperson; Kelly Vilar, Aquaculture Parent; Susan Tobias, Aquaculture Parent; Raquel Morales, MST; Nancy Usiatynsk, Ocean Engineering Parent; Marjike Briggs, Professional Diving Parent; Liana Huth, Professional Diving Parent; Sabita Arjne, Vessel Operations; Sunita Woodcheke, Vessel Operations; Emma Acker, Freshman Parent; Kathleen Daniel, Freshman Parent; Pam Bailey, Senior Parent; Schanequa Knight, Senior Parent

Harbor Leadership: Aneal Helms, Assistant Principal, Diana Halluska, Assistant Principal, Jackye Stephenson, Assistant Principal

Absent Harbor Leadership Dr. Jeff Chetirko, Principal; Ronni Ettinger, Parent Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

Approval of November minutes tabled due to needed revisions.

Board

Lissa W. welcomed parents and introduced the Board and NYHS staff.

Guest Speakers

- Nan –trying the ALTERNATIVE menu for a month, starting Jan 10, so do encourage your children to eat it!
- Lissa – All of the food was enthusiastically eaten at the tasting so we hope they will receive this more plant-based menu just as enthusiastically]
- Franklin – Suggestion: have a contest to promote the menu with a prize from the PTA

Donald Jarvis from School Foods spoke about the pros and cons

- If the number of students eating lunch goes down, then school may lose newly appointed third cafeteria staff member
- If peanut butter and jelly consumption rises after implementing the alternative food menu, that shows that students are not eating the food. School will then go back to the regular menu.
- Suggests we download the school food app. Kids will be able to critique the food

Nan: We are trying to return to the use of real plates in the cafeteria. We were all set to do this starting in January and Jeff is on board for a rollout, class by class. But suddenly the boss of our supervisor, Michael Barr, just quashed it. He cited 5 obstacles and we responded to them:

- 1) The DOE declines to pay for the plates (RESPONSE: the PTA will buy them, after the Exec Board already voted to approve this expenditure (about \$804) and then general PTA approved (see below).
- 2) There is an issue with who pays for the soap, rinse agent and chemo sanitizer for the cold water (hence special) dishwasher (RESPONSE: THE PTA will do so if they refuse to-we have vendors)
- 3) There is a maintenance contract for the dishwasher that needs to be reactivated. (RESPONSE: We feel the DOE or school needs to take this cost on as on a practical and legal level it makes most sense as the appliance is theirs that needs maintaining.)
- 4) The DOE says there will be extra labor (hence cost) to put the plates in the washer, possibly requiring a 4th staffer. (RESPONSE: The kitchen was designed specifically for the use of plates and the restaurant manager parents on our advisory committee affirm that the kids can be trained to put the dirty dishes right into the racks through the pass-through window from the cafeteria (so no one enters the kitchen) and the filled racks can be placed directly into the dishwasher 2 feet away from the window --- a total of 3 minutes---- so **this is not remotely so time consuming and no way near a 4th person!**)
- 5) We are the only school doing this. They want uniformity. (RESPONSE: Well maybe so. But that is a poor excuse not to change especially as we learned from Earth Matter and others that the paper plates/ trays the D.O.E. are currently using and our kids are eating off are toxic due to off-gassing that leads to many illnesses, ADHD, obesity and far worse!!)
- 6) We are taking this higher and will let you know the outcome.

The Garden, Sustainability and Wellness Committee –

- **Vending machines – Just as we were minutes from moving the dead machines and about to buy our own,** the D.O.E. vendor decided after 7 months to come out and to stock the vending machines! And- horrors--They included a water bottle machine in direct contravention of our pledge and the student council's ban on single use plastic bottles in the school. We want it OUT. We really want the machines with their unhealthy Doritos and cheese puffs OUT. When asked, Donald Jarvis promised to look into it.
- Parents approved the purchase of the dishes. There was one nay vote against the purchase.

Brendan Malone presented Work-Based Learning (WBL)

- ✚ CTE teachers
- ✚ Spectrum of experiences that move young people to discover careers available and develop skills in that career
- ✚ WBL is separate from regular classes and CTE classes
- ✚ WBL is an extension to class learning that is involved with a career
- ✚ Types of Activities
 - Industry representatives come to the school and talk to students about their experiences
 - Cite visit- students visit the site (field trip)
 - Job shadowing – Not a field trip. Parent has to consent for child to travel to a site. Teacher has vetted the site. Student or small group of students shadow people/person on the site to experience the job.
 - Internship – pinnacle experience – student goes to work site and participates as a worker
- Harbor School is recognized by NYS as having a reputable WBL program.
- CTE teachers work diligently to get fulfilling experiences for the WBL program

Pete Malinowski – Billion Oyster Project (B.O.P.) presented the BOP internship program

- B.O.P. hosts approximately 15-30 NYHS interns every year. B.O.P. grew out of the Aquaculture program. Oyster restoration project provides funding for the school. The program requires collaboration between the CTEs. B.O.P. provides industry professionals from each of the CTEs on site.
- B.O.P. has a middle school programs and shell collection programs

Lisa Edstrom – MST Parent

- Due to a discussion at November's PTA meeting, Lisa felt that some parents believed that students with special needs and IEPs should not be at Harbor School. Lisa wants to start a Committee on Inclusion. This was seconded by Lissa. Calling it Harbor for All, we will have a kick-off meeting in January

Treasurer's Report

Treasurers Report (read by Lissa Wolfe)

- So far there is \$8,331 from All Hands on Deck donations. This time last year there was \$10,200
- Made \$1916 in NY Harbor PTA merchandise sales. Spent a total of \$13,902 including the pump and 100 stress balls for the nurse
- \$1,340 needs to be reimbursed to PTA members.
- We have approximately \$23,000 in the Wells Fargo account. Moving bank account from Wells Fargo to Chase.
- Barbara **Behen** was nominated to be co-treasurer. Seconded by Theresa. Approved unanimously by the PTA!
- Executive Board voted to spend \$1000 more on merchandise. PTA approved \$1,000.
- Treasurer's report was approved.

SLT Committee Report

NONE as there was no SLT meeting held in November.

Committee Reports

Alumni Association –Franklin Okumu presented We need biographies and photographers in order to tell stories of alumni. Want to have the site up by next high school application season

Communications –Lissa presented working on meeting deadlines. Some CTEs need blogs to get information out. Ideally it should be the students uploading the content. Could be made to be a requirement for students to write content based on their experiences.

The School Expansion Committee –Theresa presented Sent a letter to Ms. Chin's office to get the Governors Island Trust to designate a place for the pool. Asked Jeff to ask TGI for permission to locate it as well. After this is obtained, we then have to contact School Construction Authority.

Grant Writing Committee – Nan presented Writing a grant for technology for Harbor School. 120 Laptops and carts to store them -- a major need Jeff identified. Frank suggests adding hotspot since they're available from the State for students in need. Elizabeth added that students with IEPs may be eligible for assisted technology.

Principal's Report

- Report cards and invitations to Regents were mailed. Students who got lower than 70 on Algebra and 75 on English should retake the exam to get a higher score so they do not have to take remedial classes in college.
- Marking period 3 ends January 18th
- Friday, December 21 is oyster trying day
- New Assistant Principals were introduced. Diana (instruction) and Jackie (Operations)

Parent Coordinator Report

Not in attendance.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Location: 81 New St. 5th-floor Cafeteria @ 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 pm and passed unanimously.