



Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSA
Monday, November 13, 2017 • 6:30 PM
Nepperhan Community Center
MINUTES

Welcome: Sally Pinto, YCPTA President started the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Introduced special guests: Special Guest included: City Councilmen Michael Sabatino, and Christopher Johnson. Representative from Assembly Woman Shelly Meyer's office.

Guest Speaker, Reverend Steve Lopez, Board of Education, President

- Discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Education Council
- Emphasized that our community is a partnership among the parents, citizens, YPS staff and students in ensuring that our children receive a good education.
- Took questions from the audience:

Guest Speaker, Dr. Edwin Quezada, Superintendent of Schools

- Provided an update on the YPS.
- Discussed the new initiative to combine the high schools to create two sports teams and to have proper divisions of the teams: junior varsity, varsity, league A, etc. He stated that this would allow our students to play with students that are within their similar skill groups and allow for students to be able to learn and gain skills needed before advancing to the next level.
- Discussed the backlog and flow of work within the Special Education Department and how his team (Dr. Rodriguez and Carolyn Letendre) are working to clear the backlog and ensure that our special needs students receive the services that they need in a timely manner.
- Discussed how the YPS has shown significant improvements amongst the big five school districts with lower funding.
- Provided an update on the rebuild Yonkers Campaign, which is currently waiting on the appointment of a committee by Mayor Spano and the actual funding amount by Governor Cuomo. We must receive bids for the work, Yonkers will have to pay for a portion of the work and bill NYS for the balance.
- Discussed the after school program grant that was awarded to Yonkers and thanked Assembly Women Shelly Meyer for her hard work in ensuring that Yonkers was part of that grant. The programs are already in the schools; it was targeted for certain schools.
- He answered questions that were brought up at the meeting regarding special education and the sports teams (football).
 - o As of today's date the NYS budget has not been passed. There are talks to extend this year's budget to 5/31/17. This means that we will have to sue the same amount



of revenue that was allocated for the school year 2016-2017 which implies that we will experience significant budget cuts in our schools.

We must advocate for our students and our schools, as we are aware that the

Special guest speaker, Carol Blakney,

- Discussed the program “Gateway to a Healthy Yonkers” in which its goal is to create healthy schools and communities. It is a program that was awarded to the Nepprehan Community Center for a period of five years (10/1/2015 through 9/30/1010). The program provides healthy food choices, education of healthy eating and physical activities to the community.
- They work closely with the Yonkers Board of Education and other community services to ensure that through advocacy, training and hands-on activities the Yonkers Community is healthy.
- They also promote community partnerships through local vendors and schools/community programs to help our citizens be able to have access to healthy foods and daily activities.
- If anyone is interested in the program and what it can offer your particular school/community group they should contact Dr. Jim Bostic at (914) 965-0203 or via email at ncc_tess@yahoo.com
- Minutes for the September meeting was presented. Robin Brumfield made a motion to approve the minutes and Rafael Guerrero second the motion. Irma Pereira reported that the June minutes would be presented at our next meeting, as we had forgotten to distribute them due to technical difficulties during our September 2017 meeting.
- Treasurer’s report was not presented as our treasurer; Carlos Macias had a work commitment and was not able to attend this meeting.
- Sally Pinto reminded all present that they should have completed and submitted their taxes, Form A, and to review their by-laws, if needed. She reminded all present that the YCPTA Executive Board is available to guide all of the units.

Sally Pinto thanked all of our guest speakers and the NCC for hosting the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.