



Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSA
Monday, March 19, 2018 • 6:30 PM
Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE)
MINUTES

Welcome: Sally Pinto, YCPTA President started the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Introduced special guests: Special Guest included: Dr. Andrea Coddett Deputy Superintendent.

Irma Pereira presented the minutes. Anna Wahelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Nydia Espiallat seconds that motion and all were in favor.

Sophia Wu presented the budget. As of January 31, 2018 the balance on hand is of \$6, 278.38.

Committee Reports:

- Nominating Committee: Nomination letter request is ready to be sent out to the schools in a timely manner.
- Health and Wellness Committee: There was a professional wellness seminar in which two people from every school was in attendance, 78% of the schools were represented. The WOW grant program is now at Gordon High School and at Roosevelt High School. They are targeting the students with medical diagnosis and those with frequent absences because the intention of the program is to reduce the risk of hospitalizations. Breakfast after the Bell Program, which is free for every student and they are hoping to implement it district wide.
- Scholarship Award Committee: The committee is moving along and that they are waiting on a couple more nominations. The committee made subcommittees to review the applicants and select three for each category. Once three applicants have been selected then the rest of the committee members will vote those on.

Sophia Wu presented on the Robin Dempsey Scholarship proposal. Ms. Dempsey was the Scholarship Committee Chair for a long time but passed away in December 2017. The YCPTA would like to honor her memory by creating a scholarship in her name. The scholarship would be awarded to a high school student. Ms. Dempsey's son would be the person to set-up the criteria for the award. YCPTA would set aside \$500 from their budget for this scholarship. Sophia Wu brought the motion to the floor. Irma Ashayagori favored the motion to approve the scholarship. Anna Birrittella seconds the motion. All present were in favor of the scholarship to be approved. Motion passed.

- Scholarship Dinner Committee: Emails regarding the need for raffle baskets were sent to all of the schools. The committee has begun to collect baskets and store them. Formal invitation have also ben sent out and we have begun to receive response cards.

- Advocacy Committee: The committee is trying to shift the focus on advocating for the formula aide to be corrected by NYS. We need to focus on the larger picture, which is that the Yonkers Schools are not being funded as the other four large cities. We cannot continue to compare our district to the surrounding smaller town/village districts, as we are not the same.
- Health and Safety Committee: An email was sent out that requires those who received it to answer and return their response to the committee.
- Shared Decision Committee: Every school should have had at least one shared decision meeting, which should have been attended by at least one parent.

Discussions regarding advocacy and budget issues pertaining to the Yonkers Public Schools:

- Misuse of transportation monies within the own YPS system.
- The possible need to return to community schools in order to decrease the large amount of monies being spent on transportation.
- Clarification of the Formula Aide was given by Sally Pinto and by Dr. Coddett. The aide is being calculated by the wealth index of Westchester County and not solely by Yonkers Wealth Index.
- Concerns that 70% of the YPS budget is geared for salaries and fringe benefits while only 30% is geared towards the needs of our students.
- Concern that Special Education services are also cutting into the 30% and that this program has a lot more needs and may need its own budget line and budget.
- There is a need to evaluate how systems can work more efficiently to decrease waste.
- The Special Education Program in high school needs to invest in teaching these students trade jobs so that they can become productive citizens. They need to improve the graduation results in this program to be at par with general education graduation rates.
- The Yonkers Basics program was discussed in detail including that it does not have funds for operation.

Guest Speaker, Sam Wallace from Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) provided an informative in-depth presentation on their program and how they collaborate with YPS. Included in the presentation were aspects of how the community can help the program, the need for mentors, the training involved in their mentorship program. The program is for high school students.

Sally discussed the upcoming events that are listed on the agenda.

Sally Pinto thanked all of our guest speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.