



**Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSA**  
Monday, April 9, 2018 • 6:30 PM  
Roosevelt High School  
MINUTES

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

**Introduced special guests:** Special Guest included: Dr. Edwin Quezada-Superintendent of YPS, Dr. Andrea Coddett, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Corey Reynolds-Assistant Superintendent, Shelley Mayer's Office, City Council Members: Mike Khader-Yonkers City Council President, Michael Sabatino-Majority Leader, and City Council Member Mr. John Rubbo.

Irma Pereira presented the minutes. Ann Marie Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Carmen Goldstein seconded the motion and all members present were in favor.

Sophia Wu presented the budget. As of March 31, 2018 the balance on hand is of \$6, 108.38. Ann Marie Smith motioned to approve the submitted report, Irma Pereira second the motion and all were in favor.

Sally Pinto reminded everyone of the Scholarship Dinner that will be held next week.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Quezada presented on the state of the YPS.

- Informed of the changes that NYS has done to the ELA and Math Standards. He informed that the Department Chairs would be presenting on these changes at the Instructional Affairs meeting, which will be held on Thursday at 5:00 PM and will also be televised.
- The ELA state assessment will be given to students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and the students will be taking this test on computers since it is an online test. Students have been preparing to take online assessments during the school year. Every school has received new technology equipment to assist the students with these skills and to be able to accommodate every student.
- Thanked the YCPTA on the experience they gave the students in attending the March Against Violence in Washington DC. He stated that this was a big community effort since the Mayor's office and the YFT paid for the buses, YCPTA provided breakfast, YFT provided lunch and dinner was provided by the Mayor Mike Spano, Dr. Quezada and by an anonymous donor. Verizon FIOS was also on the buses documenting the trip.
- The students would like to participate in the April 20 walk out but the Administration of YPS prefers that they seek other venues or means to show their solidarity against gun violence instead of another walk out.

- He cannot present on the budget for 2018-2019 because he has not yet officially presented it to the Mayor and to City Council. He did state that the need for advocacy is greater this year than in prior years.

Guest Mike Khader, City Council President

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 Foundation Aide was given by Sally Pinto and by Dr. Coddett. The aid 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.

The City Council members all were given an opportunity to address the YCPTA members and they vowed to work together to help the students of YPS.

Guest Speaker, Alex Servello- Chair of the Science Department of the YPS.

He highlighted the various science programs and science events that are currently happening in Yonkers. He also discussed the summer science programs that will be available to all of the students in the City of Yonkers, including science research, STEAM Academy, etc. He discussed the new Science Standards that are currently being targeted by NYS, which include Pre-K students. In the years 2021-2024 there will be new assessments that look at science readiness skills in our students. He also provided a variety of programs that can be accessed online to help students with science.

Sally discussed the upcoming events that are listed on the agenda and thanked all of our guest speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.