



PTA

Date of PTA Meeting: April 25, 2019

Location: Thoreau Middle School Eagle Hall

Attendees:

Stacey Leimbach, Amanda Dixon, Emily Korff, Debbie Gardner, Ravi Myneni, Leslie Norman, Urvi Desai, Andrea Kramer, Janet Samereie, Samantha Rayburn, Heba Singer, Irina Smirnoff, Principal Azimi, Rebecca Aguilar

Meeting Notes:

Emily called the meeting to order at 9:38am.

Deborah Gardner presented the minutes from the February 28, 2019, PTA meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes by Andrea Kramer. Leslie Norman seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

President's Report – Emily Korff

Everything is on track for this year and we are close to our May election to fill next year's board positions.

Nomination Committee – Missy Dixon and Karyn Patino

The nominating committee has slated Andrea Kramer for President and Irina Smirnoff as Vice President. We are still looking for a treasurer and secretary for next year's term. All committee chairs have been filled, however, more volunteers are always welcome and needed! Have an interest, please reach out!

Committee Reports

- **7th Grade Family Dinner** – Jen Bacon, Karyn Patino

The event was hosted in March – lovely evening, great turnout. The PTA would like to thank the committee for all of their work on the dinner, especially with the rescheduling due to an early snow in November.

- **Crosstown Hoops** – Karyn Patino and Mike Paruti

This event was a successful fundraiser and was held on Thursday, April 4th at Marshall HS at 7pm.

- **Dining for Dollars** – Missy Dixon

May 21 – Chipotle 5-9 pm (33% is donated to our PTA)

- **Hospitality**

Staff appreciation week is May 6-10. The theme is Recharge, Refresh and Reset. Please volunteer to supply gift cards

Principal Report – Principal Azimi

Mr. Azimi thanked the PTA for our generous support and his appreciation for the second round of teacher grants. He voiced that he can't thank the PTA enough for supporting our teachers. This extra funding allows him to focus his budget on furniture needs for our expanding school population and for growing and filling staff vacancies. Three truckloads of new furniture will be delivered today and we have hired nine positions already.

Student Services Report – Ms. Rebecca Aguilar

Ms. Aguilar echoed the thank you to PTA.

Special Presentation – Vaping and Juuling – Ms. Becklund

A special guest, Ms. Becklund, attended the meeting to educate our parent community about vaping and juuling. Although it is not a huge issue at middle school, it is a huge epidemic in high schools. This conversation is not trying to be alarmist, but to educate our community.

Some information that was shared:

- 1% is 12 students (10 kids caught vaping in school)
- Getting it from older siblings – which is why so important to discuss. Waters field is another location for distribution. It has been dealt with, consequence is successful – throw them away, collect them for presentations.
- Half of the parents knew their children were participating in this behavior. It was added to our students rights and responsibilities. One day in school suspension and a tobacco seminar. Proactively teaching in health and PE.
- 90% of Americans with a substance abuse disorder began using substances before the age of 18.
- By 2017, it has become a \$400 million industry
- Vaping vs Juling (Juling is a name brand – looks like a USB) Put it in their sleeve, in string of hoodie, most likely caught in a bathroom by security
- Risk factors – misconception that vaping is safe, nicotine addiction, peer pressure, perception of use as the norm, perception of low risk associated with it, insufficient social skills/anxiety, low self esteem, major transitions, community exposure, family history, chaotic home environment, undefined rules/expectations of use
- All about the flavors – tropical/mango, gummy bears, etc. Marketed to teens with flavored variations. Marketed to stop smoking. Add concentrated THC/hash oil, stronger high, no odor and dissipates so quickly
- Changes happening: Age will be 21 on 7/1/19 - Virginia Law – ALL tobacco products
- What does it look like? Vape devices are small and look like other items like a pencil, eraser, usb, etc.

Adjourn PTA Meeting

Emily adjourned the meeting at 10:55am.