

PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Open and Welcome Remarks

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 PM

Christina Walsh opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and turned over the meeting to Mrs. Dano to explain the new report card structure

Principal's Report

Mrs. Dano presentation

There are handouts on the side to review new grading structure and info for each grade level

Mrs. Dano mentioned that there were presentations by the district last week on new report cards for K-2 and 3-5

We were all part of the conversations on restructuring including myself, Mrs. Crimarco, Mrs. Landman and Mrs. Gerhard

Why did they change the report card structure?

- The report cards have not been changed for 14 years. Obviously, over the last 14 years, teaching and curriculum standards have changed
- In the younger grades it has been "checks" in proficiency vs. letter grades. Starting in 3rd grade, we used letter grades and actual number grades.
- The new report cards will provide a lot more information

Mrs. Landman has been on the committee since the beginning

There is a curriculum association for each area - ELA, Math, Science, SS, etc., then it went to the building admins for input. Wanted to make sure also math support and reading support also provided on same report cards vs. separate report cards.

In K-5 instead of getting a check mark, now looking at a range. Grades 3-5 will get actual number scores as well as the 1-4 number score

- 4 - means your child is excelling in the standards, compared to their peers, and based on what is needed to be taught
- 3 - your child is proficient
- 2 - they are getting there, starting to understand
- 1 - means they are not understanding the concepts being taught

In each number area there is a large range in overall score

New report cards will breakdown areas in each subject to show what children are understanding vs. areas that need improvement

You will also get their reading level on the scale of A-Z, and will be able to access if they are progressing

For example a reading level "C" in Kindergarten is a "4"

Also will access social skills, homework habits, organizational skills

For those students in band, orchestra or chorus their grades will also be included on this report card

The comments will be included on the report card and you will be able to see the comments from throughout the full year

ELA area going to get an overall performance and then more specific information - Independent reading , foundational reading, anchor standards simplified for K and expanded throughout grades

Children assessed three times a year, which has been going on for a long time, but now the information is being shared with parents. A "D" reading level means a child can pick up a book and read on their own. The teacher will work with them to continue to move them up

Each marking period will show if there is growth and if the student is meeting grade level expectation
It will also assess if additional support is needed, if not meeting proficiency

Christina Walsh pointed out that it will be easier to see once we experience the first marking period report cards and asked Mrs. Dano if she will address questions at the next meeting. Teachers will also be able to answer questions at the parent teacher conferences

Science

There is a new science program per NY State. Each grade has specific items that should be taught in each grade and students will be measured on how well they understand these concepts. Also used in grading is how children answer questions in class, participation, etc.

Math

Still an overall grade and the specify understanding levels broken down by each level. Areas that have not been taught yet are greyed out

Specials

Physical Education, Art, Music, and Library all will provide more information

In addition, social learning info will be provided - are they independent workers, do they listen, do they participate in class

All information is on the parent portal

Where are teachers getting their information from?

They can pull info from homework, class work, projects, in addition to tests and quizzes to evaluate overall understanding

A student may have done well on a HW assignment or project, but did not do well on a test, teacher will evaluate overall understanding

Mrs. Landman commented - Students given multiple opportunities to show if they are understanding the concepts being taught

Mrs. Crimarco - I can use the work the students do on the chromebooks and the answers are recorded. Can also look at the work they are doing in groups to see if they are understanding. I can respond back to children live on their chromebooks with comments. This helps with quiet activity time and also helps to incorporate technology with instruction

The main goal is are they learning, not just from a written formal test.

There are teacher created tests and then district created tests, district working on assessment for entire district
This is how the district will be able to assess how Massapequa is doing overall

Sheila Grauling asked why if the number range such a large gap, i.e. a "4"?

Mrs. Dano pointed out that we just need to assess their overall understanding and this new system allows you to look at subcategories as well

Ilisa Polansky pointed out that grades between 85-100 is such a large range, and it doesn't seem like 65-70 should be average. She pointed out that depending on your child an 85 may not be a good grade for your child and how is that a 4. She also mentioned that I hope they never get rid of the number grades to go along with the 1-4 scale.

Mrs. Crimarco pointed out that it also depends on what the standards are in your household and depends on your child. The benefit of this system is the very specific information you will get for each child.

Ms. Landman - If your child is in Kindergarten , we will need to compare what they need to know and how they are learning. This is the range and you will know where your student should be on an A-Z scale, and address where/if they are struggling

Katie Andreski asked how the grades are measured, looking holistically?

Tests - 45%

Quizzes and alternative assessments (classwork, experiments, etc) -40%

Participation - 10%

Homework - 5%

It is at the teacher's discretion what counts as an alternative assessment

A teacher can take a grade away if it was unlike the student. They will assess if it was because the student didn't understand the concept or if it there was an underlying factor - tired, not feeling well, etc. Teacher has the final say

Katie Andreski asked how does my child need extra support and then it says he is fine and he is a "3"

Mrs. Dano responded and said we also assess the children a few times a year and we go through each child in the class reviewing NWEA scores, participation, tests, and use a lot of measures)

When the year started we use info from last year. Use AIMSWeb in younger grades

Lisa Brzezinski asked if it is across the board that a student loses 5 points for leaving out a heading, name, etc?

Mrs. Dano - no, please talk to your teacher. A child should not lose point if they spell something wrong on a math test, forgot to put their name on the test. Please send to my attention and I will try to rectify

Mrs. Crimarco pointed out there are separate grades for writing., personal narrative, grammar, where they may lose points on tests that are assessing these skills

If name not on the test should be in behavioral/organizational scores, not deducted from test

Marie Festa asked if Special Education self contained classrooms receiving same structure report cards

Mrs. Dano - yes, same expectations, repeated differently

Sheila Grauling asked when a test comes home is it common practice to correct the answers or should parents just sign?

Mrs. Dano - each teacher has their own practice and need to discuss with individual teacher

Ilisa Polansky asked if there is a way to modify the settings on the parent portal so that you do not get so many emails notification?

Yes, there is a way to modify

Ilisa Polansky also asked, is there a program to teach typing? I know they use chromebooks, but basic typing skills? Mrs. Dano replied - Yes, there is typing pal and we are trying to break habits already formed in Kindergarten. ChiefNet has a program also.

Mrs. Dano summarized by saying that we hope the new grading system will give a better picture of "Is your child learning what we are teaching?" There are district presentations online that you can reference and I will be happy to also answer questions at the next meeting, once everyone has gone through the first marking period.

Christina Walsh thanked Mrs. Dano and then made a motion to accept the October minutes. Motion to approve Lisa Brzezinski and motion seconded by Sue Foran

Teacher's Report

Mrs. Landman and Mrs. Crimarco

Thank you for the circus. It was awesome
Thank you to Nalini Hayes and Sheila Grauling

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Romano

Opening Balance as of 10/1/17 - \$20,362.12
Ending Balance as of 10/31/17 - \$22,700.40

Sue Foran reviewed the bank reconciliation

Q: Marie Festa asked about the returned checks and fees?

A: Kathleen answered it was a family account that was shut down due to fraud. We got the money back and deposited back to the account.

Treasurer's report approved by Dawn Mollica and seconded by Stephanie O'Hara

Corresponding Secretary

Ilisa Polansky

Correspondence read from the custodians at Berner - a thank you to all that assisted with cleaning up after the Halloween Dance

President's Report

Sheila Grauling

- Membership currently at 384
- Cirque du Jour brought us a great performance by the 5th grade class, thanks to Nalini Hayes, Kelly Rowland and Christina Walsh. It was the 3rd year we have done the circus and it is a really fun experience
- Halloween Dance was a huge success thanks to Courtney Mullin and Kristen Malik and the amazing volunteers. We had over 400 ppl attend.
- Red Ribbon week was a great success thanks to Kim Mueller and Laura Lucchi.
- Student directory is being compiled and should go home in the next couple of weeks
- Reflections due on 11/13. Ilene Hellman mentioned that children report to their classrooms and then bring info to the auditorium

- Jeans for Troops fundraiser coming up
- Krisch's fundraiser on 11/16 and there is another one in December

BOE Report

Marie Festa

- John Piropato, District Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, gave a report on the proposal for the Aquatic Center at Berner Middle School (see report on the website)
- The report focused on the work the committee did. Parents, administrators, coaches, teachers met from May to August -- as well as the architect from H2M and the bond project manager
- Alan Adcock stated that MSD needs 90 days notice for note on pool due to environmental impact.
- Proposed pool scheduled and article on pool project attached

SEPTA

Marie Festa

11/15 - 7PM

Sensory Processing Meeting at McKenna

Plans of Work

Mad Science

Arts in Ed - Nalini Hayes

Maureen Romano motion to approve and Sue Foran seconded the motion

Book Fair

Karalynne Esposito and Julia Santiago

Running a successful book fair ensuring everyone goes home with a book

Motion to approve Katie Andreski and motion seconded by Maureen Pogan

Book fair set-up date is January 23

Dates January 23-26

United Skates Party

Julia Santiago

Date TBD

Fundraiser to raise money for the PTA

Katie Andreski motion to approve and seconded by Sue Foran

Blood Drive

Ilene Hellman

Date: 2/8/18

Need to contact class parents to reach out class and recruit donors

Little Doctors as an extension of Blood Drive and health related

Kristi Gerhard

Educate 5th Graders and help solicit people for the blood drive

Motion to approve Lisa Brzezinski and motion seconded by Lori Dorsi

Craft Night

Traci Lorenz and Kelly Rowland

Scheduled for last Thursday in January, for a 7/7:30 pm start

Plan to do pasta bowls or pallets

Mrs. Crimarco asked if they had a person they were using. Kelly mentioned that she had spoken to a few, but will take the name.

Motion to approve Katie Andreski and seconded by Dawn Mollica

NY Jets

Tara Tarasi

8 year old Massapequa Mustangs playing at Halftime vs. Plainedge

Motion to approve Sue Foran and seconded by Dawn Mollica

Krisch's

Kelly Rowland

Coordinate with Krisch's for a % of sales

Dates - November 16 and December 12

Motion to approve Ilene Hellman and seconded by Sue Foran

Mixed Bags

Christina Walsh and Gina Vitale

Coordinate mixed bags fundraiser

Motion to approve Dawn Mollica and seconded by Lori Dorsi

Notes:

Christina Walsh pointed out that it would be great if after events/fundraisers that the committee chairs fill out an action report to give notes on successes and what did not work and any additional notes, vendors, etc.

New Business

Christina Walsh

As a PTA, our terms are up after 2 years, so that being said, as of next year myself, Sheila Grauling and Tatum Salembier positions will need to be filled. President and Recording Secretary

The Nominating Committee to responsible for vetting candidates. So we are looking for a nominating Committee

Dawn Mollica said she would volunteer, but does not want to chair. Ilene Hellman, Dawn Mollica, Stephanie O'Hara, Lisa Brzezinski and Sue Foran

- Ilene Hellman- Exec.
- Dawn Mollica - Exec.
- Stephanie O'Hara - General
- Sue Foran - General
- Lisa Brzezinski - General
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There are skill sets to each position. The job of the nominating committee is to explain what roles and jobs are for open positions

Need to know people's strengths and weaknesses

Sheila and Christina will provide guidance

Curriculum Committee is meeting soon and Traci Lorenz will take questions to take to the committee

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Meeting Attendees

Sue Foran, Kristen Busby, Kristy Ferrante, Donna McGoey Scheuer, Jennifer Klein, Lori Dorsi, Maureen Romano, Kelly Rowland, Agnieszka Sulawa, Lisa Brzezinski, Dawn Mollica, Kim Gonzalez, Marie Festa, Kristy Ferrante, Diana Easteadt, Katie Andreski, Jennifer Devlin, Traci Lorenz, Stephanie O'Hara, Ilene Hellman, Joseph Yova, Dawn Mollica, Ilisa Polansky, Sheila Grauling, Christina Walsh, , Kathleen Romano, Kelly Rowland, Tatum Salembier, Mrs. Landman, Mrs. Crimarco, Mrs. Gerhard and Mrs. Dano