

## Fairfield Ludlowe High School

### PTA Meeting

#### Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2019

**Attendance:** Steve Baker, Janice Mayeran, Christine Magliocco, Greg Hatzis, Courtney Bradley, Jessica Gerber, Elizabeth Dillabough, Lori Scala, Jen Hinkle, Meredith McCormack, Amy Cooke, Marcia Tenreiro, Stephanie Mastino, Maria Bagatikova, Carrie Rullo, Kara Walewski, Laura Silence, Dorene Herron

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Steve Baker at 6:04pm
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Steve Baker motioned to accept the December 2018 PTA minutes; Marcia Tenreiro seconded. Motion passed.
- 3) **Guest Speaker:** Jeff Peterson, BOE member – Q&A session about upcoming budget season
  - Mr. Peterson introduced himself to the group, he is a lifelong resident of Fairfield, a Warde High School Alumnus and the liaison to Board of Finance
  - There is a 5% increase proposed to the BoE budget; mostly to accommodate staff salary increases
  - The budget will go before the town bodies in a different way this year; the BoF and BoS will have separate budget meetings. No one from the BoF has reached out yet to Mr. Peterson. In a session last April, it was decided that it is incumbent on the BoF to justify any increases given the current economic climate. Mr. Peterson is prepared to get a lot of questions. The BoE is honing their arguments going forward to the other town bodies.
  - Question asked by Mr. Baker: What would we advocate for generally?
    - Mr. Peterson said the big thing last budget season was the Chrome book roll out. It generated a lot of questions and the BoE was better informed than the BoF. Going forward, anything more parent facing and culture changing they would want to be better prepared for when talking to the BoF.
  - Question asked by Mr. Hatzis: Biggest surprise for you being on BOE?
    - Mr. Peterson said he enjoys the work, the contact with the parent community and it has allowed him to tap into other school communities. The parent community is much more involved these days and he is prepared to receive a lot of intelligent questions. He loves the parent involvement and it is nice how the town has evolved and he want to preserve this for our kids. Another thing Mr. Peterson has learned is are a lot of meetings.
- 4) **Reports of Officers**
  - **Headmaster's Report: Greg Hatzis**
    - Thank you to PTA Compassion Committee for the cash/gift card collection over the holidays
    - The Bella Boutique (student run) raised \$400; a portion of the funds were donated to the Capron Family Fund
    - The Candlelight Ceremony was held in December; always a great performance
    - During the December Pep Rally our faculty did a surprise flash mob. The kids enjoyed it and it can be found on the school website.
  - **Course Naming/GPA Proposal: Greg Hatzis**
    - Mr. Hatzis overviewed for the PTA the course naming/GPA change proposal which had been presented to the BOE on 1/8/19. Highlights included:
      - Most of the changes wouldn't happen for a year; the proposal would have everything kick in a year later; there are benefits for the kids on how the new GPA would be weighted
      - Proposed scale has 3 levels instead of 4; new scale does not have a Level 0

- Proposed scale increment between levels is .5 instead of .33
- College Prep level remains on 4.00 scale
- Proposal came about because of confusion with course names; individual departments were making decisions and then started making their own rules; things were all over the place; needed to reboot across the board and have consistency
- Level 0 weighting originally came about as an incentive for kids
- There weren't as many electives originally when this system was developed; there have been too many problems associated with level 0, main decision for letting it go
- Unweighted GPA is based on a 4.0 scale
- Initial thoughts are non-core electives will automatically be assigned to college prep; but feedback is some non-core classes where the rigor is high enough should be considered honors. It will take a year to figure it all out; will be putting guidelines together, having conversation with parents, etc...
- Ranking will be on weighted scale – even though we don't rank "officially" - we give out awards on 4.0 and above; Headmaster list uses GPA and that will change as well on proposal.
- Roll out plan will apply all new course names right away; juniors now will have no impact. Current sophomores will be impacted in Senior year.
- Discussion ensued about waiting to change the GPA until new freshman enter and leave the current students the same
- BOE policy is to have weighted grades
- Goal is to have students take classes they are passionate about; not based on GPA
- **President's Report: Steve Baker**
  - Steve requested members of the PTA to follow along on the proposed Budget that has been released; there is a substantial increase compared to the past few years. He would also like to call a vote at the next meeting to see if the FLHS PTA will support the proposed budget as a whole.
- **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Russell**
  - Report provided
- **VP Programs: Courtney Bradley**
  - The joint Ludlowe/Warde luncheon at the Senior Center will be held February 12. A small quartet will participate and adult volunteers will be needed. Christine Magliocco will reach out for volunteers in the Falcon Flash.

## 5) Reports of Committees

- **Project Runway – Jen Hinkle**
  - Project Runway will need to be rescheduled, initially planned for March 10, but Greg will not be available for MC'ing that day
  - Discussion ensued, and a new date is proposed for Sunday, March 24
- **Freshman Forum – Stephanie Mastino**
  - There will be a name change to the event this year; exact name is TBD
  - Event will be held Thursday, March 7
  - Timing is still up in the air; it has been proposed to push it back to 6:30 (instead of 6:00) because of a PTA meeting the same night/time
- **Learning Grants – Carrie Rullo**
  - A couple of applications came in right before the holiday break. One has been approved and one needed more information before it can be approved.

- **Compassion Committee: Julie Smith**
  - Everyone rallied and the committee raised over \$2,200 in cash and gift cards; a little less than last year, but less families in need as well
- **Staff Luncheon: Elizabeth Dillabough**
  - Staff enjoyed the luncheon; it went smoothly without any issues and Garden Catering was great.

6) **Adjournment:** Steve Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm.

Report respectfully submitted by Amy Cooke