

Fairfield Ludlowe High School

PTA Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Attendance: Steve Baker, Amy Cooke, Kathy Russell, Christine Magliocco, Greg Hatzis, Linda Raymond, Elizabeth Dillabough, Janice Mayeran, Debbie Keeley, Missy Savard, Josh Litman

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Steve Baker at 6:07pm
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Kathy Russell motioned to accept the September 2018 PTA minutes; Missy Savard seconded. Motion passed.
- 3) **Reports of Officers**
 - **Headmaster's Report: Greg Hatzis**
 - NEASC accreditation process underway; NEASC will visit FLHS and meet with a panel of parents
 - PSATs were held this month; there was a glitch in the communication system so some Freshman parents did not receive the email regarding the test
 - Freshman had an assembly with the Anti-Defamation League - "No Place for Hate"; 4th year in a row for this assembly
 - **President's Report: Steve Baker**
 - Steve introduced guest speaker Josh Litman of AlphaPrep. The PTA and AlphaPrep have partnered to bring a full-service test prep service at negotiated rates to allow all students the benefits of an internationally recognized test prep program. Highlights of Mr. Litman's talk included:
 - Mr. Litman has taught SAT/ACT prep 6 hours a day 4-7 days a week since 1999; he teaches SAT prep overseas; has a decade old relationship with Ludlowe/Warde
 - Small class size – 12 to 15
 - Average student goes up 200 points after taking prep class
 - AlphaPrep was voted best SAT/ACT tutoring by Fairfield Magazine
 - AlphaPrep is a small company, they take their time and care about doing the job right
 - **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Russell**
 - Business as usual
 - All membership money was transferred into the account, about \$43k
 - **VP Volunteers: Christine Magliocco**
 - Freshman forum not being held in November, shooting for February
 - Katie Holmberg is chairing Alumni Day, the day before Thanksgiving
 - Junior parent coffee is next week; volunteer coordinators will attend to review volunteer opportunities

- **VP Programs: Courtney Bradley**
 - Courtney was not able to attend the meeting
 - Steve Baker mentioned he and Courtney met to review the Falcon Footprint expectations

4) Reports of Committees

- **Teaching and Learning Grants: Carrie Rullo**
 - Report submitted and on file; Carrie was not able to attend the meeting
 - Janice Mayeran and Carrie are still working on finalizing the streamlined application
 - The committee awarded a \$750 grant to Dave Nulf of the English Department to bring Tiokasin Ghosthorse (2016 Nobel Peace Prize nominee) to speak on 10/2 at FLHS. Both Warde and FLHS were invited.
- **Membership: Alison Jones Allen**
 - Report submitted and on file; Alison was not able to attend the meeting
 - 666 memberships have been purchased
 - Membership income = \$47,600
 - ~\$7,000 of this goes to the CT PTA and PayPal will take their portion for services rendered
 - The budget has been met for the 2018/19 calendar year
- **PTAC: Suzee Meehan**
 - Suzee was not able to attend the meeting this evening; her report was submitted and read by Steve:
 - Superintendent Toni Jones shared that the Turf Field is in the process of being installed. The weather has presented some obvious challenges. She also talked about the elementary STEAM program and Innovative learning.
 - The evening's major presentation focused on the FPS Mental Health initiatives, especially as it relates to substance abuse and e-cigs/JUUL.
 - Representatives from the FPS shared the resources and initiatives including staff increases (2 1/2 Psychologists, 9 counselors and 2 social workers). Newer programs include the Impact Program and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. While these programs are provided to a more limited group of students right now, the group discussed integrating some of the techniques into a more mainstream mindfulness program to help students better manage stress and anxiety.
 - Another school climate survey will be executed this year to assess where we are and what we need to be working on.
 - Fairfield CARES presented their program to the group. Fairfield CARES focuses on preventing underage drinking and substance abuse, increasing awareness of the risks of addiction, promoting healthy choices and behaviors to increase personal wellness, and strengthening community well-being and resilience. 55% of Fairfield seniors reported

that they drank alcohol in the last 30 days. 95% of students say that a parent's voice is the biggest deterrent.

- Fairfield CARES meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:30am at the Bigelow Senior Center at 100 Mona Terrace. Volunteers young and old are welcomed! Fairfield CARES is happy to present to PTAs.
 - PTAC presented letters to retailers who had been caught selling vaping supplies to minors. PTAC is looking at submitting the letter to the town newspapers, with the Fairfield PTAs signing. PTAs need to vote on this.
 - Town Strategic Planning Committee is meeting this fall to put together recommendations for all of the town bodies. Parents should be aware of this and look up on the town website. PTAC is looking at having a meeting with the committee.
- **Reflections: Missy Savard**
 - The contest for the future Reflections theme (2 years from now) is being launched in the Falcon Flash and on the Ludlowe Facebook page
 - In November the current Reflections theme contest "Heros Around Us" will be kicked off with entries due in January

5) **Announcements**

- Review of upcoming "Save the Dates" as outlined on the Agenda. Next meeting is November 8th at 6pm, with the Veterans Day concert following at 7pm.
- Junior coffee with the Headmaster will be held on 11/18
- November 6, Election Day

6) **Adjournment:** Steve Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.

Report respectfully submitted by Amy Cooke