

Hampton High School PTO Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2019

Guest Speakers: Dr. Michael Loughead, Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina, Officer Aaron Zola, Mr. Steven Sciullo

PTO Board Attendees: Sandi Andrews, Diana DiMaria, Monica Hoehler, Maureen Perkins, Gail Scott, Diane Staggers, Sharon Vay

General Attendance: Several current HHS and 8th grade parents were also in attendance

Because this was not a PTO business meeting, it was not called to order. It began at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Topics of Discussion:

School Safety, Security, & Wellness

- Dr. Imbarlina provided feedback regarding the High School's recent lock down drill and gave a brief overview of what information and procedure is given to the students. Information was also given about recent safety and security inspections conducted by Township first responders and outside agencies.
- All presenters contributed to the discussion on the District's new Safe2Say Something program, including the background of the program and how it assists HTSD administration and staff in identifying at-risk students and situations.
- During the conversation, the presenters also shared information about outside resources and agencies utilized by the district to supplement school counseling services
- Mr. Steven Sciullo, HHS's Safety & Security Specialist, was introduced to the attendees and provided an overview of his new position and his role and responsibilities and gave examples of his interactions with the students.

Transition from Middle School to High School

Several parents raised questions about the current transition process between middle school and high school. They commented on how the transition between elementary and high school includes several opportunities for the upcoming students to visit the middle school prior to the first day of school and asked why there were not more opportunities for upcoming students to visit and tour the HS. Parents feel it would be helpful to be able to tour the whole building, not just walk through those classrooms specific to their child's schedule. Dr. Imbarlina agreed to speak with Dr. Silbaugh to brainstorm other options to get upcoming students more comfortable with the transition.

High School Renovation Project

- Dr. Loughead provided a brief overview of the status of the project. The current priority is looking into funding options to determine what elements of the proposed designs are feasible and what are required renovations versus desired renovations
- Because of the complex funding process followed by the extensive design process, Dr. Loughead stated the District does not plan to break ground on the project for several years, possibly as far as 3 or 4 years down the road.
- The project will be rolled out in phases to allow for the least amount of disruption to the students' academic experience and may take another 2-3 years to complete. Dr. Loughead stressed that the District's priority is the students educational experience, and that the quality of the students' academic program comes first before all other considerations.

School Start Times

- Dr. Loughead stated that the committee of over 25 members continues to meet to discuss the possibility of changing school start times. The committee consists of administrators, parents, teachers, and other representatives with a vested interest in the proposed changes
- Though there is extensive research supporting a later start time in high school students, Dr. Loughead there are several factors to take into consideration before deciding. Some of these considerations include busing schedules, union considerations, and parent input
- It is most likely that a final decision will not be made in time to put any necessary changes in place before the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

PTO Overview

The meeting ended with a brief overview of the role of the PTO at the high school as well as some recent changes to the HHS PTO's policies and procedures. Current 8th grade parents were encouraged to get involved in the PTO next year and were given information about the PTO's website and communication with parents.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Vay
HHS PTO Co-President