

December 6, 2010  
Mamaroneck High School

## PT Council Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Melany Gray at 9:20am.

- I. Mamaroneck High School Presentation (Dr. Goetz – Interim Principal)
  - a. Dr. Goetz' background: 20 years as a high school principal, other positions include district superintendent, coach, and athletic director (most of his career has been spent in Connecticut). He will be at Mamaroneck High School through June. He feels stability is very important especially when other transitions are occurring and there will certainly be more transitions next year.
  - b. Dr. Goetz is very impressed with Mamaroneck High School. His thoughts about the school are as follows:
    - i. Excellent staff and programs including approximately 130 available classes, 40 athletic programs and 80 clubs
    - ii. Very strong Guidance Department
    - iii. There are at least 15 AP classes available in a variety of Departments
    - iv. Students love it, the open campus runs smoothly and the kids are respectful and responsible
    - v. The informal, relaxed atmosphere seems to better prepare the students for college life
    - vi. 22 credits are needed to graduate but most kids graduate with many more than that
    - vii. It's a drop schedule with 8 periods and 6 classes per day
    - viii. There will be substantial turnover this year with 3 department heads leaving – Art, PACE, Guidance – creating significant transition.
    - ix. The biggest issue right now is parking due to the work on the new turf field (which is very impressive and multi-purpose)
    - x. Like any high school in a suburban environment such as ours, it can be a pressure cooker and kids really need to keep a sense of balance
    - xi. His recommendation to students is to get involved, do your work and put life in perspective.
  - c. There is a constant monitoring of teachers and classes. Administrators frequently go in and observe classes (15-20 minutes

per class) – then meet together and discuss what they've observed. The critical decisions this year will revolve around hiring and tenure.

- d. In the future, given the economy and budget (which is unlikely to increase), the key will be to do more with less – need to get creative and figure out how to have continued success.

## II. Senior Experimental Learning/Race to Nowhere (Sherri Rozansky)

- a. This internship/exploration program is an attempt to keep interested seniors engaged and interested in the spring semester of senior year and helps the surrounding community as well. Last year one of the Assistant Principals helped place 12 students in internships. While there has to be internal administrative support at the high school, the PTSA wants to be involved and help the school find placement for interested students. A committee has been formed to try to get a more formal program in place – maybe a “Shadowing Day” which would match a senior with someone in an area of interest. We need to get the word out to the community to find placement for these students (expecting to work with approximately 15 students).
- b. Race to Nowhere: Follow up meeting is 12/13 at 7:00pm at the High School. Bob Sweeney would like to remind everyone to RSVP.

## III. Minutes Approved 11/15/10

## IV. School Board Report (Robin Nichinsky)

- a. The new turf field is almost completed
- b. Collective bargaining and the budget will be the big topics of the next few meetings
- c. The next Citizen Budget Advisory Committee is 12/13 at 7:30pm. It is a public meeting and the summary of the meeting will be on the website. The CBAC has 23 members and will be used to both help inform the public as well as get help from community members who have experience in financial planning, collective bargaining, etc. They will be an excellent sounding board and will act in an advisory capacity.
- d. The 12/14 School Board Meeting will be on the Collective Bargaining process. This is part of the effort to start working with the units on what we're facing and educate the community since there is a lot of misinformation out there.

- e. The Board is now working on ideas on how to approach the budget process with the community.
- f. Contract negotiations begin officially in February. The Board is currently looking at numbers and figuring out our position. If we don't have a contract in June, the Triboro Amendment provides that the current contract will remain in effect. However, there will be no cost of living increases.

V. New Business

- a. School Board Appreciation Dinner is January 4<sup>th</sup>: circulate list of items to bring to the dinner by PT Council members
- b. Amend by-laws: Melany will be sending the language for the individual PTAs so these changes can get voted on in January/February:
  - i. Change in dues amount
  - ii. Change model to Co-Presidents
  - iii. Remove sentence that states that the Secretary sends an official notice if a member doesn't come to more than 2 meetings
- c. Mailing Procedures: PTAs share postage permit. If mailing something through Print Craft, must bring a check for the postage.
- d. PTA Website: If there are any problems, let Laurie Lee know. There is interest in organizing a hands-on tech meeting in the spring to share information (i.e., how to use Google Calendar, etc.).
- e. Murray is having a parent program on Bullying which is open to all elementary schools. They will send out a blurb so the other schools can advertise the program which will be on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am.
- f. Concern voiced by Rina that there may be too many programs causing calendar overload.

Meeting adjourned 11:30

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Herbsman

In Attendance:

PTC: Melany Gray, Co-President, Jennifer Malherbe, Co-President; Past President:  
Cindy Habig; Lori Herbsman, Secretary; Celeste Sharpe, Legislation; Diversity:  
Debbie Trepanier; Technology, Laurie Lee  
Central: Pam Buchmueller, Barbara Lambert, Co-Presidents  
Chatsworth: Laura Livaccari, Lisa Samson, Co-Presidents  
Murray Avenue: Ann LoBue, Liz Paras, Co-Presidents  
Hommocks: Rina Beder, Rachel Goldman, Co-Presidents  
Mamaroneck High School: Sherri Rozansky, Amy Rothman, Co-Presidents  
SEPTA: Cecilia Absher, Co-President  
District: Debbie Manetta, Director of Communications  
Board Liaison: Robin Nichinsky  
Special Guest: Dr. John Goetz