

PTG Meeting March 9, 2021

In Attendance:

PTG: Lynette Simmons, Dianne Breitstone, Carol Kessler, Tami Stark, Tara Vaccaro

Administration: Dr. Bolen, Mr. Fenter, Miss Libertini

Board of Education:

Minutes approved by Tami Stark, seconded by Edina Bobelian. Link to the minutes was placed in the chat.

Meeting commenced 9:34 AM

Presidents announcements:

Welcome Anne Steels to the board. She is replacing Genevieve Cimino as treasurer for the duration of the school year.

We have approximately ten mugs left for sale, please email Lynette if interested.

Parent groups:

Suzanne Adelhart, President SEPTO and Program Coordinator FOCUS
FOCUS Community Event Building on Tuesday March 16 at 10am is Create a Living Centerpiece with Mandy Dallal. Material list provided upon sign up.

Make a Bracelet Event the following week.

Both SEPTO and FOCUS are doing another event with Lauren Gallagher April 15th at 7:30. She is a child psychologist. Her talk will focus on "Building Confidence and a Resilient Mindset."

Dianne Breitstone, Seahawks Booster Club

Registration is open for summer camps. They begin the week of June 28 and end the week of August 23, grades 2 to 12. Discount available if signing up for multiple sports.

Mr. Fenter welcomes all participants, advises he is here to listen in.

Dr. Bolen:

The state education department put in a request with the federal Department of Education for a waiver to not hold the Regents or 338 exams. They were denied the request for the 338 exams. In April the ELA exam will be held, and early May is math. This pertains to the junior high students. The decision as to whether or not all the Regents exams will be canceled is pending.

We may have to hold four Regents exams. They are: Living Environment, Algebra I, Biology and English. This impacts the 8th, 9th and 11th grades. The week of March 15 the Board of Regents is meeting to discuss further, and the district is awaiting final word as to whether or not these four exams will be held. All other Regents exams, aside from these four, will be canceled, and no Regents exams in August will be administered. New York State has an agreement with the federal government to administer these four Regents exams as a way of measuring student progress, so at this point we're obligated to hold those four tests. There will most likely be a new Regents schedule issued if only those four Regents exams are held. If no Regents exams are held, there will be additional classroom learning. The district is in a holding pattern until they hear from the state as to what the federal government has mandated.

How the Regents scores are used is a local decision by each individual school district. Traditionally, in our district, they have counted as a fifth quarter. If no Regents exam is held the letter "E" will show up on a student's transcript, much the same way it did last year. "E" stands for exempt. The federal government may want these four Regents exams to be held for accountability purposes.

What if a child is quarantined during the test date? There is no make up as no August exams are being given. They would receive an "E". He is awaiting detailed instructions from the state which he anticipates receiving later in the spring.

The College Board has opened an additional testing window for our AP students, which will run from May 18 to May 27. June 8th is AP Human Geography. This provides more study time, and there will be a mix of virtual and paper-based testing. In early April teachers will be able to review with their students the digital testing platform.

Kim Libertini, STEM Director

She will discuss summer programs in STEM and what students can apply for. Ms. Libertini shared her screen with the meeting's participants. Science research programs are available, and it is not necessary for your child to be enrolled in the high school summer research program to qualify for this experience. The application process is very detailed and rigorous. Many apply and it is difficult to secure a spot.

Lynette Simmons posted the hyperlink document in the chat so all parents may click on the links to view deadlines, qualifications and requirements of the offerings Miss Libertini has outlined.

There is a new course being offered at CSHHS entitled Physics Regents Honors beginning in the fall. If a student passes this class they can skip AP Physics I and directly enroll in AP Physics II. This fall a Molecular Genomic Biology Honors class will also be offered. This leads to instruction in molecular biology at the Cold Spring Harbor lab. Additionally in grades 7 and 8 a new STEAM class will be offered in the fall. Students are now able to enroll in Engineering and Design Technology for a second time in order to tell if more deeply into 3D printing.

Lynette Simons:

No meeting next month, as the Literary Luncheon is usually held in April. May 11th via zoom is the next and last meeting of the year. The new board will be introduced at that time. Please send me any information for the Weekly Notes.

The question was asked about the dates of the intramurals. Dr. Bolen responded that, due to soggy fields, constant calendar and schedule changes, Mr. Bongino is reluctant to post intramural dates. Dr. Bolen will reach out to Mr. Bongino to clarify.

The STEAM suite will be open next spring, will not be 100% finished but usable.

Edina Bobelian announced a golf and tennis outing for the Education Foundation, which is on May 24. All additional information can be found on their webpage. Tennis is already sold out.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19