

PTG Meeting March 3, 2020

Meeting held in the Junior High library at 9:44 am

In Attendance: See sheet attached

BOE Members in attendance: Amy Brogan, Ingrid Wright

PTG Executive Board members in attendance: Lynette Simmons, Tara Vaccaro, Carol Kessler

Feb 4, 2020 minutes reviewed and approved by: Liz Squicciarini and Tara Vaccaro

Lynette Simmons, PTG President

President's report:

The nominating committee has been formed and is actively seeking volunteers. Please consider volunteering. Nomination forms are on the back table.

We have Yeti mugs for sale for \$30. Sale is open to PTG members only.

Parent Announcements:

Monica Stingi, Literary Lunch

Volunteers will be needed on the day of the Literary Lunch for about a half an hour commitment. Raffle sales are from 11am to noon. The last meeting is on Monday at 10:30 in the conference center. Filling the raffle baskets will be done on March 24. Wine donations are via cash this year, not accepting bottles.

SEPTO and Focus

Laura Gallagher will be speaking on Resiliency at 7pm on March 18th at the administration room at Goosehill School.

Vaping Presentation, Mr. Homer

Vaping has taken off in popularity. The good news is smoking has gone way down. Only 14% of American adults smoke, but people who vape are more likely to use cigarettes. Tobacco companies are purchasing vaping companies so they are beginning to dominate the industry. They market to different segments of society, like teens and children. Sugar is added for a more pleasing taste. 37% of U.S. teens say that they've vaped within the past year. Vaping devices are hard to spot and made so that they are difficult to see. Must be 18 or older to purchase vaping material. One Juul pod equals approximately the nicotine in 20 cigarettes. A box of three pods is approximately \$15. Many times it is advertised as being nicotine free but really is not. The F.D.A. is in charge of quality control. Sometimes the batteries in these devices can explode. As of January 2020, there have been 54 deaths linked to vaping.

E-cigarettes and vaping devices produce a vapor. Using them is called vaping. E-cigarettes and vaping devices use cartridges filled with a liquid that often contains nicotine, flavorings, and/or THC (the main psychoactive substance found in marijuana). Most e-cigarettes do not look like cigarettes at all. Many look like pens, highlighters, small flashlights or USB ports. These devices and liquids that are sold are currently unregulated by any government health or safety agency. We are finding that students seem to regard this as a "harmless" behavior. Liquid vapors and e-cigarette paraphernalia are sold in local tobacco shops and are readily available on line. The liquid that is "vaped" does not necessarily have an odor and therefore may not be easily recognized for the substance it may contain. Research shows that teens who have conversations with their parents and learn the risks of using drugs are 50% less likely to use them.

Set clear expectations and review the school disciplinary policy listed below with your child. Discuss rules and enforce reasonable consequences. Advise your children that these are illegal to possess under the age of 21 in New York. Be vigilant! Vaping is discreet and allows for more covert use.

To continue the discussion at home, Mr. Homer provided these links:

- www.drugabuse.gov
- www.cdc.gov
- www.safekidsamerica.org

Mr. Homer gave our postcards to be filed out in aid of Save the Children.

The next PTG meeting will be held on 5/25, which will be the last meeting of the year.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:25.